



VOLUNTEER VISION

Volume 7, Issue 4, Fall, 2013

Miriam Morrison to Retire as Director of Volunteer Services December 31

After seven years as Director of Volunteer Services, Miriam Morrison announced her retirement, effective December 31. She began her tenure here on January 15, 2007, with two full-time and two part-time staff members and 263 volunteers.

Working with Hospice of Dayton colleagues, Miriam and her staff:

- Reduced the training from 18 hours over six days, once or twice a year, to 5 hours, available one to two times a month, including a Saturday option.
- Increased positions to serve patient needs, now offering 32 positions.
- Helped design a custom Access volunteer database.
- Increased volunteer hours from 37,000 at the end of 2006 to an estimated 69,000 in 2013.
- Began the Veteran Pinning program and assisted with the American Pride program in achieving Level 4 for We Honor Veterans.
- Helped save Hospice of Dayton \$8.7 million since 2007 in support and care of patients and families.
- Began a volunteer password-accessible intranet to help volunteers with information.

“We have seen expedient growth in the number of volunteers; the depth of our volunteer service offerings to patients and families; and the quality of recruitment, selection, training and retention of our volunteers,” said Brenda Humfleet, Chief Development Officer and Miriam’s supervisor.

“Miriam’s position will be replaced but Miriam’s spirit of adventure; tenacity and courage to follow her convictions; organizational skills and commitment to our Mission are irreplaceable. Miriam is certainly a fine example of someone who is living a purpose-driven life. It has been my privilege and honor to serve as her supervisor.”

Miriam’s career has included both teaching and volunteer management. She taught English, journalism, and biology in high schools in Ohio and North Carolina and taught courses at Ohio State University and Wright State University. In volunteer management she served as Director of Volunteer Services at the Girl Scouts of Buckeye Trails Council before coming to HOD.

Miriam and Jay, will be moving to York, SC, where they will have the titles of “Grammie and Grampie” and volunteer at hospice and their new church.



Volunteer Intranet Site to Add All Volunteer Positions

During fourth quarter, Volunteer Services and Information Technology will be adding all volunteer positions to the volunteer intranet.

In July the site was launched to help volunteers with their service. The pilot group included ambassadors and receptionists.

Currently, 47 ambassadors, 32 receptionists, and 27 visitors/caregivers are using the password-accessible site to receive the latest information on their positions, monthly schedules, announcements, news, and continuing education through articles.

In September, direct patient care volunteers, visitors and caregivers, and Heirlooms and Heartfelt Gift volunteers were invited to register for the site.

By the end of the year, all volunteers will have access the site when the sections are completed for musicians, animal-assisted therapy teams, office assistants, hospice house assistants,

celebrating life story assistants, QOL assistants, veteran pinning assistants, drivers, chaplains, fundraising, and Gifts from Loving Hands.

Volunteers will receive an invitation to register as their section is launched.

In This Issue

Directors Discussion, Above and Beyond Awards, 3rd Quarter.....	2
Fall and Holiday Events-Schwalbe, 5K Walk, Deck the Halls, Alzheimer’s Forum, Holiday Luncheon.....	3
Spotlight-Siehls, Halsey, Volunteer Opportunities.....	4



Director's Discussion

Miriam Morrison, Director of Volunteer Services

Lights of Love, Caring Compassion Touch Lives

As we approach the holidays, there will be dazzling lights that highlight the Hospice Houses. Lights will adorn trees, and candles will be in windows and on Advent wreaths.

When I spent a summer working in Boston, I saw several candle-making shops. When I saw a hand-dipped candle being made, I realized that a candle is made of ordinary items of a bit of string and hot wax. It is dipped and dipped in hot wax with a patient hand. It gathers wax upon the strand until completed and then lighted to give a glowing light.

Life is much like that bit of string. Day by day, year by year, we work with hands and hearts on life's strand. Like the candle gathering wax on a strand, our lives gather joy, making our dark days bright and giving us a glowing warmth to endure the "coldness" that comes at times.

I've been reminiscing about the past seven years as your Director of Volunteer Services. You have brought me much joy with your service. I am amazed that by the end of 2013, we will be at almost 900 volunteers. Volunteers have lit their small candles and shed much light on lives, making the difference between a dark day and one that glows with caring, compassion.

Our hospice family has been so special to me. You've rejoiced with me on the births of our five grandchildren in York, SC, and Chicago and comforted me in the deaths of my parents. You've said "yes" many times to fill requests and made me so proud to work with you. Like a family, we've broken bread together at recognition banquets, Oktoberfest, picnics, 5K Walk lunches at our home, and holiday luncheons. You've sent me many cards and e-mails of appreciation over the years that made me feel special. Within several minutes after announcing my retirement, scores of e-mails appeared with your kind words on how I touched your lives.

You've touched my life in so many ways with your service. You've taken care of some of my dear friends during their end of life journey. Many poignant moments stand out for me. A blanket covered a friend of 30 years in her casket. The little card was still attached, "Knitted with love by Judi." At the funeral home, a veteran pinning assistant pinned a veteran in his casket, and the Hospice Veteran Partnership Pin was buried with him. Tears of pride streamed down the faces of the family members. Tears welled up in my eyes, not just for the family, but for that wonderful volunteer who honored him.

I leave you with this special blessing:

May your volunteering bring healing, light, and renewal to those you serve.

May you be present in what you do.

May the dawn of each day find you awake and alert, approaching your new day with dreams, possibilities, and promises.

May evening find you fulfilled.

May your soul calm, console, and renew you.

May you live one day at a time and make it a masterpiece.

In German, we do not say "goodbye." Instead, we say "auf wiedersehen," until we meet again. You've left footprints on my heart, and I take a little of each of you with



Three Volunteers Receive Above and Beyond Award

Volunteer Services honors volunteers for going beyond their position description. Each month staff members nominate volunteers for the Above and Beyond Award and draw names for this recognition in collaboration with First Watch, donor of a \$20 gift card. Volunteer Services honored three volunteers second quarter, July-September.

Winner of the July drawing was Nan West for coming in to cover her ambassador shift when her husband had just been admitted into our hospice care. Others nominated in July were Rose Marie Brown, Sharon Carpenter, Bob Cohen, Dave Harber, Tina Hayes, John Jessup, Kate Lagedrost, Jay Morrison, Joe Radin, Jim Sauerbrey, and Pat Wourms.



Winner of the August drawing was Joan Wagner for taking a one time caregiver relief at the last minute and also rushing off to do a life celebration in the



afternoon of the same day. Other August nominees were Ann Cannon, Charles Douglas, Jill Newman, Sue Rutherford, Valerie Schaefer, and Susan Sundermeyer.

Winner of the September drawing was Irene Linton for helping with a special request on Tuesday nights, even though it is late at night and a far drive. Others nominated were Martha Blair, Shirley Coey, Wavey Erhard, Ben Hamilton, Dave Hughes, Merica Hughes, Jo LeSaint, Patty Stricker, and Tom Ullum



Thank You to



Volunteer Services Invites Volunteers to Fall, Holiday Events

Author Will Schwalbe Speaks at Victoria

Volunteers are invited to hear best-selling author Will Schwalbe on Monday, October 28, at 7 p.m. at the Victoria Theater. The presentation is free as a gift to the community from Hospice of Dayton in appreciation for their support of local hospice services.

Schwalbe is the author of *The End of Your Life Book Club*, based on the experience he shared with his mother during her treatment for cancer. Mary Anne Schwalbe and her son spent many hours sitting in waiting rooms together. To pass the time, they would talk about the books they were reading. Once, by chance, they read the same book at the same time—and an informal book club of two was born.



Through their wide-ranging reading, Will and Mary Anne—and those who join their journey by reading the book—are reminded how books can be comforting, astonishing, and illuminating, changing the way that we feel about and interact with the world around us.

A profoundly moving memoir of caregiving, mourning, and love—*The End of Your Life Book Club* is also about the joy of reading, and the ways that joy is multiplied when we share it with others.

Will Schwalbe has worked in publishing, most recently as senior vice-president and editor-in-chief of Hyperion Books; news media, as founder of Cookstr.com; and as a journalist. He serves on the board of the Kingsborough Community College Foundation. He is the author with David Shipley of *Send: Why People Email So Badly and How to Do It Better*. His most recent book, *The End of Your Life Book Club*, spent twelve weeks on the *New York Times* bestseller list in hardcover and paperback. It was named an *Entertainment Weekly* Best Book of the Year, was one of Amazon's top four best books of the year, won an Indie Choice Honor Award, and was awarded the Books for A Better Life Award for Best Inspirational Memoir. It has been translated into ten languages.

Tickets are available, first come with limited seating, through the Hospice of Dayton website www.hospiceofdayton.org/schwalbe or by calling 256-8140.



Morrison's Sponsor Volunteer Services 5K Walk Diamond Team, November 2

Don your walking shoes and join the *Volunteer Movers and Shakers* Diamond Team and walk in memory or in honor of someone at the 5K Remembrance Walk on Saturday, November 2, at 10 a.m. Cost is \$25 per volunteer, which will pay for the t-shirt and be a donation.

Walkers are encouraged to get donations from friends. Please make checks payable to Hospice of Dayton Foundation and mail to Miriam Morrison, Hospice of Dayton, 324 Wilmington Ave., Dayton, OH 45420.



As a thank you to volunteers who join the team and make a donation, Miriam will provide a brunch in the Community Room following the Walk at 11:30 a.m.

**RSVP to Miriam by Thursday, October 24,
 by calling 256-9507 x1160 with your
 donation, t-shirt size, and brunch reservation.**



Alzheimer's Association Sponsors Community Forum Dinner, Speaker

The Alzheimer's Association invites volunteers to their Community Forum—a resource fair, dinner and speaker—on Thursday, November 21, at Ponitz Center, Sinclair Community College. The Resource Fair is 4:30-5:30 p.m. with dinner and a speaker 5:30-7:00 p.m.

The featured speaker and author of *The Myth of Alzheimer's*, Peter Whitehouse, will speak on *Dimensions of Dementia*. As a neurologist, researcher, and educator, Dr. Whitehouse has learned that a meaningful life for those with dementia does not need to end with the occurrence of worsening symptoms. He will show how purpose and meaning can be a part of life at all stages of dementia.

Cost of \$10 per volunteer will be paid by Volunteer Services. Deadline to RSVP is November 13 by calling Miriam Morrison, 256-9507 x1160, or e-mailing mmorrison@hospiceofdayton.org.



Spotlight on Volunteers

Each quarter, volunteers and their special services are highlighted.

HOSPICE OF DAYTON

John and Jenny Siehl, Father/Daughter Team Serve at Camp Pathways Each Summer

When John Siehl's wife passed away under Hospice of Dayton care in 1992, he and his family experienced hospice care. When he heard of the bereavement camp for children, he and his daughter Jenny immediately signed up and have volunteered for 20 years. John has also served as a Community Ambassador with the Speaker's Bureau.



"Camp Pathways gives me the opportunity to share many of life's lessons with the kids. I feel like I can offer them access to internal tools that they can pack away and use as they need, or progress through the grieving process," said John. "For the Speaker's Bureau, I bring a

real life experience to the opportunity to educate about Hospice and the incredible organization that it is."

Jenny is a fourth grade teacher with Northmont schools and said, "As a school teacher, I am well aware of the needs of kids and the basic desire to learn and understand. I think I have the first hand experience, after the death of Mom, to help the kids at Camp Pathways understand and grow through their grief. I am so happy to be able to 'give back', and will continue as long as I can."

Both John and Jenny reside in Englewood.

HOSPICE OF BUTLER & WARREN COUNTIES

Marcia Halsey Serves as Visitor, Caregiver, Quality of Life Care Team Assistant

Since she experienced hospice care with the death of her mother in 2002, Marcia Halsey knew she wanted to be a hospice volunteer to touch lives as her family had been touched.

As a retired recovery room nurse with a 44-year career at Middletown Regional Hospital, now the Atrium, Marcia was drawn to volunteering in healthcare. She has served as a visitor and caregiver to patients in the Butler County area.



When Lorelei's Place opened in 2008, she also began serving as a Quality of Life Care Team Assistant, representing Volunteer Services at the Butler-Warren Coming Home team every two weeks.

"When Mother was dying of cancer, the hospice staff and volunteers were wonderful. I didn't know about hospice care before this," said Marcia. "The patients are so appreciative of my visits. One of my first patients was sleeping one time and woke up and told me 'I felt better because I knew you were here.' That made me feel so good."

Marcia lives in Trenton and enjoys her two sons, five grandchildren, and three great grandchildren.

Volunteer Opportunities

NEW

Pathways Coffee Host/Hostess

Volunteers are invited to be a host/hostess for the new coffees sponsored by Pathways of Hope for loved ones to be held on scheduled Fridays each month in the Dining Room, 8:30-9:30 a.m., at the Dayton Hospice House, beginning November 15.

NEW

Receptionists at HOD Foundation

Receptionists are needed to help the Hospice of Dayton Foundation at the Kettering Tower offices beginning November 25 for two shifts each day—9:00-11:30 and 1:30-4:00. Monday, Wednesday and Friday shifts are open.

Ambassadors

Visit patients at the Dayton Hospice House and fill one of the shifts on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, or Friday.

Guest Escorts

Consider driving the outside golf cart for the 3-7 p.m. shift any day of the week and 11 a.m.-3 p.m. Thursday, Friday, or Saturday.

If interested in these positions, please call Linda Corey Simpson, 256-9507 x1163 or Betsy Bown x1162.