

# Celebrating Life's Stories®

A NEWSLETTER FOR OUR FRIENDS

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## Bucket Lists and the Bottom of the 9th

**Those who know Deborah Oyer will tell you that she is a ball of energy.** Anything she does in life is done with gusto. She dives in head first!

So, it's no surprise that when her grandson Henry started to take an interest in the Cincinnati Reds two years ago, Deborah did too. She always enjoyed sports, but it was a special bond with Henry that turned her into the Reds No. 1 fan. Going to see a Reds game with her grandsons was high on her bucket list.

A social worker on Deborah's care team, along with the help of a generous donor to Ohio's Hospice of Dayton, made sure her bucket list item became a reality. On June 19, Deborah, her daughter, Jeanette Stidham, and Jeannette's two sons, Henry, 8, and Will, 7, took in a game at Great American Ball Park where the Reds defeated the Astros in the bottom of the 9th inning.

While Will was most excited about the all-you-can-eat ice cream in the Club Level Lounge, Henry and Deborah's eyes were glued on the field, sharing player stats, discussing the manager's tactics and savoring the moment together on a sunny summer afternoon.

Deborah turned to care from Ohio's Hospice of Dayton after deciding to stop chemotherapy treatments, though she hasn't lost any of her fight. The doctors and support staff see that spark in Deborah and have worked with her to adjust her medications, giving her more energy and peace of mind.

The change in her has been noticeable to her loved ones, especially her daughter Jeanette. "Prior to Ohio's Hospice of Dayton, Mom would have never been able to make it out to see a

Reds game," she said. "She wants to get out there and enjoy herself. Now she's asking to go to Kings Island with the kids!"

If that's on her list, it is the pleasure of the staff of Ohio's Hospice of Dayton to try to make it happen. It is because of donors like you that our staff is able to go above and beyond and check items off of our patients' bucket lists.

We had no part in making the Reds win that special day, but we did help take Deborah out to the ball game!



Deborah Oyer, her daughter, Jeanette, and her two sons, Henry and Will, enjoy a Reds game at Great American Ball Park.

# Pathways To Excellence



Mary Murphy, MS, RN, CNS, AOCN, ACHPN,  
Chief Nursing Officer, Ohio's Hospice  
President, Ohio's Hospice of Dayton

## At Ohio's Hospice of Dayton, we are celebrating a second Pathway to Excellence® designation from the American Nurses Credentialing Center.

When we began this journey in 2016, Ohio's Hospice of Dayton was the first and only Pathway to Excellence designated hospice in the nation — and we remain the only Pathway to Excellence designated hospice today!

I am proud of our nursing staff for showing the nation how the work nurses do and the environment at Ohio's Hospice of Dayton matters. Organizations that achieve Pathway to Excellence designation are among the best places for nurses to work and demonstrate a positive work culture, high nurse satisfaction and strong retention. Research shows that healthy work environments not only improve nurse satisfaction, but patient satisfaction and quality of care as well.

I want to extend a special thank you to Jena Langford, Yvonne Turner, the Pathway of Excellence committee and Pathway Partners for the hard work in showing the Ohio's Hospice of Dayton way.

Each day I see the care and pride in serving our mission shown by the team making a difference for our patients and families, and I am honored to work alongside this team. Our achievement with this designation reflects Ohio's Hospice of Dayton's national leadership in end-of-life and hospice care.



## In Good Hands



Lori Poelking-Igel, CFRE, Executive Director,  
Hospice of Dayton Foundation

**Fall always makes me reminisce about the start of the school year when my children were young.** I sharpened their pencils, zipped up their book bags and packed their lunches. I nervously got them on the bus, knowing that in spite of all the preparation I had done, I was still sending them off into an unknown. I was putting my faith in their teachers, counselors and principal to give my children the tools they needed to succeed.

Walking the halls of Ohio's Hospice of Dayton, I can't help but see a parallel as family members put their loved ones in the hands of our doctors, nurses and support staff. We understand it can be daunting to put your faith in others, but at Ohio's Hospice of Dayton, we pride ourselves on providing our patients and families with answers and guidance they need to live out their final days with peace and dignity.

The staff of Ohio's Hospice of Dayton guides families through every step of the way. Board-certified doctors, nurses and personal care specialists provide tender and comprehensive care. Healthcare professionals assist with the difficult conversations about Advance Directives, ensuring that your loved one's wishes are known. For the families who have lost a loved one, we offer bereavement counselors who provide the tools to cope with their grief, and I am always here to discuss ways to honor the legacy of your loved one. It is our promise to keep you and your family in good hands. For more information or questions, please reach out to me at 937.258.5537.



# Board Q&A — Jan Culver — Friend of Hospice



Jan Culver, CPA with Brixey & Meyer, has been a long-time board member and now serves as the chair of the Ohio's Hospice of Dayton Foundation Board of Directors. Here's what she has to say about her time spent working with Ohio's Hospice of Dayton:

## **Q. What drew you to the mission of Ohio's Hospice of Dayton?**

A. Years ago, I was acquainted with Betty Schmoll, the founder of Ohio's Hospice of Dayton. I knew that it was an extraordinary service to the community. The work that Betty was doing made me feel so proud to live in a community that introduced one of the very first hospice services in the nation. It is another example of a

Dayton innovation. We are looked upon as the premier case study of how to operate hospice, palliative care and chronic care services.

## **Q. What do you think makes Ohio's Hospice of Dayton stand out from other organizations?**

A. When people ask me about Ohio's Hospice of Dayton, I always say that I'm humbled to be involved with a group so clear about our mission to celebrate the lives of those we have the privilege of serving by providing superior care and services to each patient and family. I've interacted with a lot of staff and volunteers. Everyone from the facilities staff to the CEO talk about having a role in providing superior care. Each and every employee or volunteer considers it their mission to serve and demonstrates that dedication daily.

## **Q. Do any particular memories stick out for you in your years of service?**

A. When I first joined the board, the William & Dorothy Yeck Family Grief Counseling Art Center, the beautiful house on the corner of Wilmington and Irving Avenue, was renovated with tremendous support from fellow board member Bob Yeck. The house is part of the Pathways of Hope bereavement services offered by Ohio's Hospice of Dayton and allows children to use art as an expression of their grief. I got to know some of the counselors and art therapists personally. It impressed me what talented and dedicated individuals work there.



## **Q. What would you say to anyone interested in supporting Ohio's Hospice of Dayton through donations or volunteerism?**

A. A good example is my friend Charlie Hardwick. He is a volunteer and for many years volunteered in the accounting office using his financial skills. One day, Charlie learned of another way to support our mission. He now also helps drive patients to doctor's appointments or run errands. Charlie, like so many, has a lot of great skill sets and Ohio's Hospice of Dayton welcomes anyone who wants to help. No matter your talent, there are opportunities to support the mission in so many ways.

For more information on how you can get involved with Ohio's Hospice of Dayton, please call 937.258.5537.

# Camp Pathways Empowers Grieving Children and Teens

**Pathways of Hope at Ohio's Hospice of Dayton hosted its 27th annual Camp Pathways, June 21-23, at Camp Joy Outdoor Education Center in Clarksville, Ohio.** Camp Pathways is a bereavement camp for youth, ages 7-17, who have experienced the death of a parent, sibling or significant loved one. The camp experience is designed to encourage campers to express their feelings of grief in a safe and fun environment.

For the weekend, campers were surrounded by a caring community that gave them the opportunity to interact with other children and teens who are grieving the loss of a loved one. Each camper was paired with an adult buddy who supported them through their grief while at camp.

In addition to activities to help them better understand their grief, the children and teens swam, fished, canoed and participated in a high ropes course, field games, climbing wall and challenge hike. This year, campers also decorated wooden frames in remembrance of their loved ones.

Their grief work culminated with the wish ceremony on Saturday night where campers were invited to write messages to their loved ones that were read aloud by the adult buddies then placed into the fire to symbolize the message being released to their loved ones. The ceremony served as a time



for reflection, comfort and support with the goal of inspiring hope and healing in campers.

“Campers discover they are not alone in their grief experiences, and the adult buddies offer hope that grief is survivable and life can be good again. This is what makes Camp Pathways so special,” said Lisa Conn, camp director and bereavement counseling professional at Pathways of Hope. “Camp Pathways exists due to the generous support from our community, including 55 volunteers who served as buddies and group leaders for the weekend.”

To learn more about supporting Camp Pathways or any of our programs, please call 937.258.5537 or visit [www.HospiceofDayton.org/CampPathways](http://www.HospiceofDayton.org/CampPathways).



## 3k/5k Remembrance Walk

**Saturday, October 26, 2019**

8:30 am — Registration Begins  
10:00 am — Walk Begins  
Ohio's Hospice of Dayton Campus  
324 Wilmington Ave.  
Dayton, OH 45420

Walk in honor or in memory of a loved one at our annual 3k/5k Remembrance Walk. Net proceeds benefit Ohio's Hospice of Dayton patient care and services.

Register online at [www.HospiceofDayton.org/Walk2019](http://www.HospiceofDayton.org/Walk2019) or call 937.222.WALK.

*Celebrating Life's Stories* is published quarterly for patients, families, staff members and friends of Ohio's Hospice of Dayton, Inc.

Kent Anderson, President & CEO, Ohio's Hospice  
Lori Poelking-Igel, Executive Director, Hospice of Dayton Foundation

Ohio's Hospice of Dayton has served the community since 1978. If you would like to be removed from our mailing list, please call us at 937.258.5537.

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