# Comfort Care Passion for excellence. Compassion for people.

A newsletter for family and friends of Aspirus Comfort Care and Hospice Services

Fall 2015

# Aspirus Volunteers recognized by state organizations



Suzie Lang was one of three Wisconsin hospice volunteers presented a Volunteer of the Year Award on October 15 by The Hospice Organization and Palliative Experts of Wisconsin. An Aspirus hospice volunteer for the past 13 years, Suzie was nominated by Tasha Stencil, Volunteer Coordinator.

"Suzie becomes a focus of a patient's week," said Tasha. "They look forward to her visits. She may take them for a walk, give a manicure or hand massage, play games, or fix their hair. She treats every one of her patients with dignity and respect as they become like family to her."

Suzie feels that being a hospice volunteer is a privilege and takes it very seriously. "I know that for some people, I may be the only bright spot in their week," Suzie said. "I want them to feel like they are the most important person I know and that what they are going through is important to me. If I can make them feel better and put a smile on their face, if only for an hour, then it is well worth my time."

For information on volunteering at Aspirus, go to Aspirus.org/volunteers or call 715.847.2705.

Bob Linaberry-Charis, Volunteer and Tasha Stencil, Hospice House & Volunteer Supervisor accepted the **Wisconsin Award for Volunteer Excellence (WAVE)** on October 6 in Madison as part of the Partners of Wisconsin Hospital Association annual convention.



The Aspirus Volunteers program was selected for the WAVE Award for the role volunteers serve in the We Honor Veterans Program embraced by Aspirus Comfort Care and Hospice Services. A national partner of We Honor Veterans,

Aspirus Comfort Care and Hospice Services has achieved Partner Level Four Star status – the highest that can be achieved.

Volunteers who are veterans are matched with hospice patients with military experience. In addition, staff members and volunteers plan veterans' programs, conduct pinning ceremonies, award certificates of appreciation and write cards of acknowledgement.





Kate Sewall, Teddy Bear Breakfast volunteer-in-training, combs Santa's beard at the Teddy Bear Clinic station.

# Festival of Trees

# 19th Annual Holiday Event

November 23 - 29 • Stoney Creek Inn

For information, to volunteer, and purchase tickets by credit card visit **wausaufestivaloftrees.org** or call the Aspirus Health Foundation at 715-847-2470.

Experience the magic of Festival of Trees! Stroll through a glittering forest of over one hundred holiday trees, wreaths, mantels and specialty items decorated and donated by community members for raffle and silent auction. Visit with Santa, enjoy a complimentary cookie and beverage and be entertained by local musicians – all with your ticket purchase. Proceeds benefit Aspirus Comfort Care and Hospice Services.

#### **Butterfly Luncheon**

Thursday, November 19

Wausau Country Club\* 11:00 am – 1:30 pm

\$40 per person or \$320 for a table of 8.

Reservations are required.

A very special pre-festival ladies luncheon with gourmet dining, fabulous raffles, valet parking and an exclusive gift.

#### **Opening Night Gala**

Monday, November 23

6:00 – 9:00 pm \$50 per person in advance \$60 after Nov. 20

Sample signature cuisine from Wausau's finest restaurants and caterers. Live music, Gala-only jewelry lock box and bicycle package raffle, silent auction, complimentary beer, champagne and exclusive viewing of Festival of Trees.



#### Teddy Bear Breakfast

**Saturday, November 28** 9:00 – 10:30 am, or

**Sunday, November 29** 10:00 – 11:30 am

Ages 12 & Under - \$10 Ages Under 2 - \$3 Ages 13 & Over - \$13

Advance tickets are required for all attending to ensure adequate seating.

A magical event for children and their favorite teddy bear. Visit with Santa and Mrs. Claus and enjoy a variety of holiday activities geared toward children infant to 12 years including Teddy Bear health checks.

# 2015 Daily Hours

Tuesday, November 24 Noon to 5:00 p.m.

Wednesday, November 25 Noon to 5:00 p.m.

**Thanksgiving Day** 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.

**Friday, November 27** 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

**Saturday, November 28** Noon to 5:00 p.m.

**Sunday, November 29** Noon to 3:00 p.m.

# Tickets Available at the door

Ages 13 & Over: \$5 Ages 12 & Under: \$3

Attendees will receive a complimentary cookie and beverage with their admission and enjoy entertainment by local musicians.

# **Hosting Sponsor Stoney Creek Inn**

Rothschild (by Cedar Creek)

#### Senior Stroll

Wednesday, November 25

9:00 am - Noon \$4 per person

Tickets available at the door.

#### A Special Time!

This event allows senior citizens to get a sneak peek of the Festival's wondrous array of holiday items. It is a time especially designed for people with walkers or wheelchairs.

# Redefining our Hope

by Amy L Kitsembel, M.Ed., CSW, CT Bereavement Coordinator

As we live our life, there are events which shape our view, attitude and knowledge. In our culture, one thing that seems far from our consciousness is death. We will experience death with neighbors, brothers, sisters, parents, spouses, children, pets, family and friends who are distant and near.

One of the factors that significantly impacts our experience of loss is where WE are at with our own sense of our mortality. We seem to have either a spoken or silent sense of how long of a life is "long enough".

Reading through obituaries we have an internal and sometimes external reaction to the ages of the deceased. As we see the diseases and accidents which end a life, we often self-assess our health and habits, as we are again reminded through death that we are mortal. We have a finite number of days on earth. Being human is a terminal condition. We make choices every day that impact the quality of our days, and our experiences of life.

We often use the word "hope". What does "hope" mean? I looked it up and found the following definitions:

noun - the feeling that what is wanted can be had or that events will turn out for the best.

verb- to believe, desire or trust.

Often times people equate hospice with the concept of "giving up hope" or "there is no more hope". These perceptions are unfortunately far from the truth.

You see, the lived experience of hospice is of HOPE.

Hope... for a death that is

peaceful, free of pain, relationships as healed as our human experience can allow, and a death in the manner to which an individual's preference for place may be honored.

Hope to celebrate '56' years of marriage.

Hope to see the first grandchild born.

Hope to enjoy one more weekend at the cabin.

When we choose hospice for end-of-life care, we are choosing to be cared for by people who specialize in a life experience that we will all share – death. It is in accepting our mortality that we can sharpen our appreciation for life. We have a fuller life as we know our time is limited.

My hope is that you live your best life, and continue to HOPE.

# Run For Hospice Celebrates Life

The 10th Anniversary Run for Hospice held on Saturday, May 9 at Fabiano Brothers in Weston was a record-setting event for participation and raising funds. Together with 650 runners and walkers, donors, businesses, and volunteers, the Run for Hospice raised \$32,000 in support of hospice care.

Proceeds from the event are being used for community bedrooms at Aspirus Hospice House to help people in financial need. In addition, a portion of proceeds are directed to the Kathleen Gaynor Ferris Endowment in support of future quality of life initiatives for hospice patients and families.



Front (L to R): Patti Briquelet, Tricia Maier, Riley Ferris, Margaret Donnelly – Aspirus VP Post-Acute Care. Back (L to R): Jon Havel, Jean Winter, Ruth Risley-Gray – Aspirus Senior VP & Chief Nursing Officer, Flora Jerde, Darrell Lentz – President, Aspirus Wausau Hospital, Laura Pearson, Jen Ferris, Marty Ferris.

Aspirus thanks the Run for Hospice Committee for their tireless passion, energy, and dedication in giving back to help support others. Visit the Run for Hospice website at www.runforhopsice.net to view photos and details, as well as the Aspirus Health Foundation's Facebook page.

# Thank you for your generous community support

Your donations are used to support our work beyond the reimbursement provided by insurance and other sources. This important funding is critical to meeting the needs of patients suffering from life-limiting and terminal illness and providing comfort for their families and friends.

Thank you! We are grateful to the many individuals, organizations, and corporations that help us fulfill our mission to provide compassionate hospice, palliative, and grief care for people in north central Wisconsin.

#### Partners in Health donors

We are grateful to you and the following individuals who have chosen to celebrate the life of another through a memorial or an annual gift. This list represents gifts from February 1, 2015 to August 30, 2015. All attempts are made to accurately recognize donors.

If you notice a misspelling, error, or omission, please contact the Aspirus Health Foundation at 715-847-2470.

Health (\$2,500 - \$4,999)

Give With Liberty **Employee Donations** 

Hope (\$1,000-\$2,499)

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Thank you to the management team at WPS Health Insurance in both Wausau and Madison for creating hand-crafted rice heating pads to help comfort patients at Aspirus Hospice House, Tasha Stencil, Hospice House & Volunteer Supervisor accepted this special gift from Kim Tomaszewski and Linda Frese of WPS Health Insurance.

#### Partners in Health donors (continued)



In August the Edgewood Archers hosted their 21st Annual Memorial Bow Shoot in honor and memory of their friend, Bill Schuster. Thank you for your generosity to help support those served by Aspirus Comfort Care and Hospice Services! Front (L to R): Jennica Jahnke, Miranda Jahnke, Todd Wendt, Margaret Donnelly - Aspirus VP Post-Acute Care, Dee Dee Jahnke, Scott Jahnke, Bob Jahnke. Back (L to R): Dave Wendt, Craig Jahnke, Courtney Schreiner, Vince Vanrixel, Coleton Bloch, Zach Jahnke, Trevor Jahnke, Jason Vanrixel

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Our heartfelt thanks to the Trinity Lutheran Church Quilters in Wausau for creating and donating three wonderful quilts.

#### Event and in-kind donors

Thank you to the many individuals and businesses that have provided important support for hospice through special events.

J&D Tube Benders Inc



Thank you to St. John's Episcopal Church, Wausau for providing Hospice House with 15 blankets! Libby Thompson and Ana Sewall were members of the team.

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Through the Aspirus Hero program, people recognize a team or individual who made a difference during their loved one's health care journey by making a charitable gift of any amount in their honor. This summer members of the hospice team were recognized as Aspirus Heroes by Roger for the compassionate care they provided to him and his wife while she received hospice care. L to R: Rachel White, Lisa Rae Eisenman, Amy Kurth, Flora Jerde, Norma Szygelski and Laura Pearson.

YES, I would like to make a donation and name my Aspirus Hero.	☐ Enclosed is my tax-deductible gift of \$(Checks are made payable to Aspirus Health Foundation)	
My Aspirus Hero:  Department:	Please charge my: ☐ MasterCard ☐ Visa ☐ Discover  Card Number:	
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Address:State:ZIP:	☐ Please remove my name from the Aspirus Health Foundation mailing list.  ON   425 PINE RIDGE BLVD, WAUSAU, WI 54401	

# Holiday Keepsake

The holidays are a special time to celebrate the lives of people we love—people who are living and those who have died.

You are invited to celebrate the loved ones in your life by participating in the *Tree of Love* tribute program. To honor your loved one, you may purchase and personalize a two-inch polished brass holiday ornament that will be mailed to you the third week of December.

The *Tree of Love* tribute program is a service of the bereavement program and is not a fundraising activity. For more information contact Amy Kitsembel, Bereavement Coordinator at 715-847-2703.

Heartwarming memories of those we hold dear are gifts to cherish each day of the year... the *Tree of Love* holiday tradition is sponsored by Aspirus Comfort Care and Hospice Services' Bereavement Program.

Use the order form below or order online at www.aspirus.org/treeoflove.

Schlagel

Tree of Love Tribute Order Form - Comfort Car	re and Hospice Services	
Your Name Phot	ne Number ()	
Mailing Address City	StateZip	
In addition to my ornament order, I would like to make a donation to the Grief Center of \$		
Total Payment Enclosed: \$ Total Number of Ornaments:		
Payment Options: Please enclose payment of \$10 (tax included) for each Tree of Love ornament.		
☐ Check (Payable to: ACCHS FUNDS) ☐ Credit Card (Circle one): Visa MasterCard Discover		
Name as it appears on Credit Card:		
Credit Card Mailing Address:City	StateZip	
Credit Card Number: Exp. Date	:CSC code:	
Signature:		
Orders must be received by December 1, 2015 to ensure receipt prior to December 24, 2015.  ASPIRUS  Passion for excellence. Compassion for people.		
Engraving Information	n	
Each ornament will have two lines of engraving with 10 characters per line. Complete each box with one letter.  Blank spaces between words are equal to one letter.  Sample: GEORGE		
Please honor the following: Sample: SMITH		
Ornament 1: (line 1)		
Ornament 2: (line 1)		
Ornament 3: (line 1)		
Ornament 4: (line 1)		
Ornament 5: (line 1)		
Ornament 6: (line 1)		

Mail to Aspirus Health Foundation, 425 Pine Ridge Blvd., Wausau, WI 54401. For orders greater than 6, copy this form and enclose with your payment.



#### **COMFORT CARE AND HOSPICE SERVICES**

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# One is Silver and the Other Gold Creating sensible holiday traditions

### A Community Program for Grieving Families

Family gatherings and seasonal events can be a painful reminder of the absence of a loved one. Grief sometimes requires new rules and new ways of doing things. Traditions that worked before may not be suitable this year. Learn how to customize your holiday plans and recapture your sense of comfort and joy.

Join us for our free community program. Light a memorial candle and leave with a takehome idea to enrich your holiday celebrations this year.

#### **Tuesday, December 1**

6:00 - 7:30 p.m.

**Howard Johnson Conference Center - Rib Mountain** 

2101 North Mountain Road, Wausau, WI

Public is welcome • Free admission • Registration not required

For more information call Nan Zastrow at 715-845-4159 or Amy Kitsembel at 715-847-2703



Please notify us if you change your address, or if you prefer not to receive *Comfort Care*.

715.847.2470 ahf@aspirus.org