

Comfort Care

Passion for excellence. Compassion for people.

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

Fall 2017

Join Us in Caring for Others in Need of Hospice Care

Be part of an important interior renovation of the Hospice House

The Aspirus Hospice House was created 20 years ago and has become a vital resource for area families thanks to generous community support, compassionate caregivers and caring volunteers. After years of serving the community, the house is in need of interior updates. You are invited to be a part of this important project.

If you know someone whose loved one lived at Hospice House, you've probably heard stories that touched your heart like the following testimonials.

Here, it feels like home. It's so beautiful. Dad loved it! He was always excited to pull up the shades in the morning so he could watch for the deer and turkeys. Thank you all for the loving care you gave our Dad.

I want to reiterate how lucky we are to have found this wonderful environment in which my mom will complete her life. It is clear to me that Hospice House has some sort of bubble of sacred energy around it. So, again, thank you for the care you are giving her and the support you've provided to me and my family.

My aunt didn't have insurance, and her three-week stay was made possible by a program that supports patients with identified financial need to help cover room and board costs. All the nurses were amazing. At Hospice House we were surrounded by sincerity and love. It made our walk easier and enriched our lives beyond what we ever expected.

Linda Grilley and Karen Sislo lead the creation of Aspirus Hospice House two decades ago and recently paid a visit to review the renovation plans. They fondly recalled the deliberate

planning of every detail to ensure quality care and a home-like environment to provide the best end-of-life experience possible for both patients and their families. The grandfather clock in the entryway still brings a smile to Karen's face, as it was a gift she donated to Hospice House to help create the feeling of home and bring comfort and beauty to many people for years to come.

Tasha Stencil, manager of Hospice House and Volunteers, has been involved in the planning for the current interior renovation project and she knows how important details like that grandfather clock are to the facility.



Linda Grilley and Karen Sislo enjoy the beautiful gardens at Hospice House.

(Continued on page 2)

Run for Hospice Bids Farewell...

Ferris Family Thankful for Community Support!

Thirteen years ago, Kathleen Gaynor Ferris completed her end-of-life journey and battle with leukemia. Marty Ferris, Kathleen's son, and his family were grateful for the care their mother received from Aspirus Comfort Care and Hospice Services.

As a way to help his family grieve, heal, and celebrate their mother's life, Marty and his family and friends created a community fundraising event in 2006 called the "Arts Alive Kathleen Gaynor Ferris Memorial Art Auction." This event transitioned into the "Run for Hospice 5K & 10K Run/Walk."

The final Run for Hospice was held on May 13, 2017, at Fabiano Brothers in Weston. Over 585 walkers and runners participated and helped raise \$33,033 to help support the interior renovation of Aspirus Hospice House, as well as quality of life initiatives for hospice patients and families.

At a celebration held in June to thank the committee members and volunteers who helped make the event possible over the past decade, Marty stated,

"Together, we have raised nearly \$300,000 and have helped countless people right here in our community during their end-of-life journeys. To every sponsor, volunteer, and participant, we thank you for being part of a great event for a great cause!"

"I'm especially proud to have established the Kathleen Gaynor Ferris Endowment Fund with the Aspirus Health Foundation. The endowment will continue to make a difference for many years to come. We have a lot to smile about and have been blessed by this event. As they say, 'Don't cry that it's over, smile that it happened.'"

Kalynn Pempek, executive director of the Aspirus Health Foundation remarked, "We are grateful to Marty and his family, and the Arts Alive and Run for Hospice Committee members, volunteers, sponsors, and event participants for their support over the past 12 years. Marty and his wife, Jen, daughter, Riley, and friend, Patti Briquet, displayed an amazing level of passion, energy, and dedication to making a difference and helping people locally. We will miss the Run for Hospice, but as Marty stated...we'll smile that it happened."



The Ferris Family (L to R) Erik Riste, Jessica Hermes, Jen Ferris, Angie Hermes, Baby Charlie Hermes, Marty Ferris, Patti Briquet, Karen Hermes and Russ Hermes.

Join Us in Caring for Others in Need of Hospice Care

(Continued from page 1)

"The grandfather clock adds a special warmth to Hospice House that makes it feel like a home," she said. "It was a constant reminder to us in our planning for this interior renovation of the need to maintain a warm, home-like environment. We see first-hand what a difference this special atmosphere makes in the lives of people in our community."

Please consider making a gift to Aspirus Hospice House and join us in making a difference for people in need of hospice care in our community.

To make a gift, please visit aspirus.org/help hospice house or use the envelope enclosed and write "Hospice House Renovation".

Festival of Trees

21st Annual Event

November 21-26

Stoney Creek Hotel & Conference Center



Friends, Madi and Zoey, have fun at the 2016 Teddy Bear Breakfast.

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. See Santa schedule on the website.

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

FESTIVAL OF TREES SPECIAL EVENTS

Butterfly Luncheon

Thursday, November 16

Jefferson Street Inn
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 a heartfelt speaker, fabulous raffles, delightful lunch and a special gift.

Opening Night Gala

Tuesday, November 21

6:00 – 9:00 pm

*\$50 per person prior to
November 18.
\$60 starting on November 18.*

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

Senior Stroll

Wednesday, November 22

9:00 am – Noon

*\$4 per person.
Tickets available at the door.*

This special 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.

Teddy Bear Breakfast

Saturday, November 25

9:00 – 10:30 am, or

Sunday, November 26
9:00 – 10:30 am

*Ages 12 & Under - \$10
Ages Under 2 - \$3
Ages 13 & Over - \$15*

*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 up to 12 years old including Teddy Bear health checks.

VIEWING HOURS

Wednesday, November 22

Noon to 5:00 pm

Thanksgiving Day

1:00 pm to 5:00 pm

Friday, November 24

9:00 am to 5:00 pm

Live Reindeer: 1:00 pm to 4:00 pm

Saturday, November 25

Noon to 5:00 pm

Sunday, November 26

Noon to 2:00 pm

Tickets Available
at the door.

*Ages 13 & Over: \$5
Ages 12 & Under: \$3
2 & Under: Free*

See Santa schedule online.

SPONSORS

Presenting

Hosting



Wisdom - Young at Heart

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



There is much to be learned in life. In youth we have wonderful innate wisdom – which we somehow forget. I am reading a book entitled “Secrets Kids Know That Adults Oughta Learn” by Allen Klein. Some noted ‘secrets’ are: be creative, be forgiving, seek fun, take naps, be playful and be present. There is a beautiful rhythm in youth that begs us

to play, seek and be in the present moment.

As we grieve there is opportunity to re-discover this wisdom. When our world is shaken by the death of a beloved person it gives opportunity for us to call on innate wisdom. It stops us in our tracks and begs us to be in the pain. The only way to heal is to walk through it.

- **Be creative with your ritual of mourning.** It can be through ceremony, song, story, food, or art.
- **Be forgiving of yourself, others and/or the deceased.** We are all human and make mistakes. Holding grudges hurts your loving heart.

- **Sometimes we feel guilt** when we seek fun or have laughter by being playful for the first time without our loved one who has died. Experiencing joy and fun is a gift and part of our healing. Knowing we carry their love in our heart brings them along in each joy.
- **Grief is exhausting work.** It is okay to take naps. Rest your body and mind.
- **Be fully present** to the enormity of the loss when the wave of emotion comes. It can help us to know grief will ebb and flow like waves of water on a beach. Take comfort and know this moment will pass, but first we must look at it and experience it fully for healing to begin.

Grief touches every aspect of our being which yearns to be acknowledged, touched, expressed and dosed. Children have a primal ability to express protest in tantrum, joy through belly laughs and resilience in the moment – and that is inside us if we allow this inner wisdom to guide us through our grief and on the path to healing our tremendous hurt.

I wish you all innate wisdom. Have any questions? Maybe spend some time with a child and explore, seek, play and ‘be.’

Wishing you healing.

When the Holidays Hurt...

Two opportunities for helping you through the holidays

Then Sings My Soul—Living River Concert

Saturday, December 2, 2017

4:00—6:00 pm

Holiday Inn & Suites, 201 N. 17th Ave, Wausau

Holiday gaiety fills the air, but for some this creates complex emotions about relationships and people in our lives who have died. Our program gives you permission to remember your loved one through the beauty of music. The Living River Christian Quartet offers joy with a blended combination of spiritual songs, feel-good music and traditional Christmas music.

What’s Under Your Tree? Healing Gifts or Pandora’s Box?

Thursday, December 7, 2017

6:00—7:30 pm

Aspirus Wausau Hospital, Medallion Room

Holiday grief may be wrapped up in a variety of boxes this year. Some come with healing gifts and some with unexpected surprises and obstacles. Learn how to deal with the emotions of each box that may be under your tree, and turn painful reminders and those wrapped with possibilities into inspiration and hope!

*Facilitated by Nan & Gary Zastrow,
Wings – A Grief Education Ministry*

For information call Nan Zastrow at 715.845.4159
or Amy Kitsembel at 715.847.2703.

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, 2017 to August 31, 2017. 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.

Life (\$5,000-\$9,999)

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Colleen Stillwell shared her time and talents with the Eagles Club Auxiliary #251 to raise funds to support the community bedrooms at Aspirus Hospice House. She presented a check of \$796 to Aspirus Hospice House. (L to R) Tasha Stencil, Kate Radtke, Colleen Stillwell and Cindy Schilling.

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Thank you to the Edgewood Archers for holding their 22nd Annual Memorial Bow Shoot in honor and memory of their friend, Bill Schuster. They raised \$1,000 to help support end-of-life care for patients of Aspirus Comfort Care and Hospice Services.

Event and in-kind donors

Thank you to the many individuals and businesses that have provided important support for hospice through special events from February 1, 2017 to August 31, 2017.

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 Best Buy
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 Channeled Resources Group - MaraTech
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Tree of Love Engraving Information (Continued on back)

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:

G	E	O	R	G	E				
---	---	---	---	---	---	--	--	--	--

Sample:

S	M	I	T	H					
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Mail to Aspirus Health Foundation, 425 Pine Ridge Blvd., Wausau, WI 54401. For orders greater than 5, copy this form and enclose with your payment.



COMFORT CARE AND HOSPICE SERVICES

333 Pine Ridge Blvd.
Wausau, WI 54401

Non-Profit Organization
U.S. Postage
P A I D
Wausau, WI
Permit #615

Holiday Keepsake

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

715.847.2470 - ahf@aspirus.org

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



Tree of Love Tribute Order Form - Comfort Care and Hospice Services

Your Name _____ Phone Number (_____) _____

Mailing Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

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 \$12 (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 _____ State _____ Zip _____

Credit Card Number: _____ Exp. Date: _____ CSC code: _____

Signature: _____

Orders must be received by December 1, 2017 to ensure receipt prior to December 24, 2017.

(Engraving form continued on back)

