

The Ferris Family Thanks You... Run for Hospice Bids a Final Farewell!

Where were you on May 13, 2017?

Better yet, where were you on Mother's Day weekend for the past 12 years? You probably have to stop and think about it for a minute.

Marty Ferris, Chair of the Run for Hospice, knows exactly where he and his family were on Mother's Day weekend for the past 12 years. You see, Marty's mother, Kathleen Gaynor Ferris died on September 2, 2004. 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 eventually transitioned into the "Run for Hospice 5K & 10K Run/Walk."

The Run for Hospice held on May 13, 2017, at Fabiano Brothers in Weston, Wisconsin, was the final event. Over 585 walkers and runners participated and helped raise \$33,033 to support an interior renovation of the 19-year-old Aspirus Hospice House, as well as quality of life initiatives for hospice patients and families.

To every sponsor, volunteer, and participant, we thank you for being part of a great event for a great cause!

At a celebration held to thank the committee members and volunteers who have helped make the event possible over the past decade, Marty shared that, "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, which 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."



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

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 Briquetelet 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."

