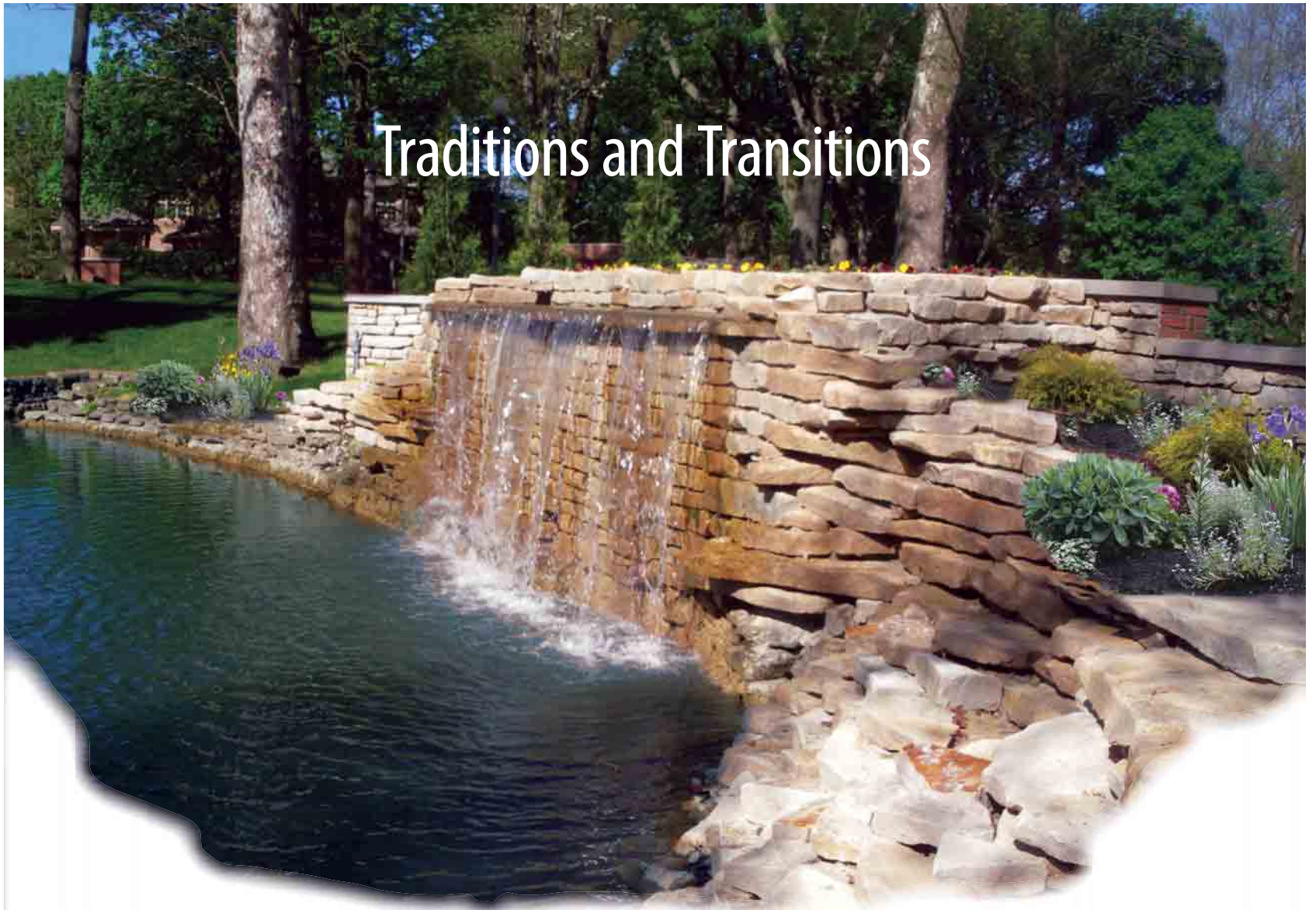


# Traditions and Transitions



## Solace and Strength

*Able to coax life from bare earth, his wisdom is rooted in things I will never understand...because, you see, there is more than science at work here.*

*– Rick Bragg, My Brother's Garden*

No parent wants to outlive their child. Children are the bounty and blessing bestowed on couples who raise them steeped in the traditions of their heritage. When the time comes for them to go and make their way in the world, parents are supposed to be able to sit back and enjoy the “fruits of their labor”. In our mind’s eye, that is the way we envision our senior years; however, for some parents, that dream is interrupted by the unlikely and untimely illness and subsequent death of their beloved adult child.



Suki and Jim met during the Vietnam War. People from their two cultures weren’t likely to meet – much less fall in love and marry, but that’s just what Suki and Jim did. They were blessed with a son. Jim, Jr. (or “JJ”, as he was called by his friends and family) who graduated from college with a 3.9 G.P.A. He was recruited by a national company and within five years, “JJ” had risen through the ranks to a Junior Vice President position. Suki and Jim were so proud of him. Then the unthinkable happened – he was diagnosed with terminal kidney cancer. While visiting their son at Hospice of Dayton’s patient care center on Wilmington Avenue, Suki and Jim also spent time strolling along the garden paths on the campus. Solace and strength are often found in nature – surrounded by trees, water, sky and lush plantings.



## Peace & Tranquility

Through the years, we have witnessed the peace and tranquility that is experienced by stressed and bereft spouses, friends, siblings, and parents when they stroll through the grounds, listen to the strains of a familiar song being played on one of our baby grand pianos, or sit quietly and meditate or pray in our indoor chapel or at one of our outdoor garden chapels. As part of our continuing commitment to the patients, families and guests who search for solace in the organic strength of nature, we have made a commitment to enhance our campus using the landscape architectural expertise of some of the area's most talented landscape engineers: Berns Landscaping and DeVore's Land & Water Gardens. Working with Brown & Bills Architects, these expert gardeners have designed an exterior environment that coordinates seamlessly with our new building re-fresh. All this is being done to enhance the patient and family experience.

## New Garden & Event Opportunities

Twenty-three new garden, event, memorial and gathering spaces have been designed. They will be built in stages as community support becomes available. As in the past, there will be memorial opportunities where organizations, families, and individuals can secure naming rights and signage by funding a dedicated space. As part of this major landscaping project, some of the existing memorial signage will either be re-located on the grounds, or changed from its original format.

That way, patients have the benefit of "nature's therapy" whenever they look out their window. Every decision we make at Hospice of Dayton is based on enhancing the patient experience.



Some of the current horizontal memorial bricks will be transitioned to our newly designed vertical memorial options. This is being done at no additional cost to those who purchased the original brick memorial. When completed, we envision our campus as a spiritually healing space where patients and their loved ones will feel the peace and inner strength that comes from connecting with nature.

If you have specific questions about your loved ones memorial brick, or are interested in purchasing one of our outdoor garden landscape options, please contact the Hospice of Dayton Foundation at 937-258-5537. We look forward to talking to you. We, like you, understand that there is more than science at work at Hospice of Dayton—our care is holistic. Its components include, but are not limited to, physical care—with a strong spiritual and psychosocial component.