



JOURNEY

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A Healing Partnership

By Vickie Kapnas, Hospice of Dayton Volunteer

She enters a room quietly, gently, feeling no need to announce her presence. While she takes her new job very seriously, she seems happily unaware of the level of comfort and encouragement she brings just by being there. Her name is Bindi and she's a new pet therapy dog for Hospice of Dayton. A mix of Black Lab and Border Collie, Bindi's journey to this new calling is one that she shares with her owner, Lori Sturgill.

Last November, Sturgill's mother, Jean Shock, was admitted to Hospice of Dayton after a lengthy illness. For the next week and a half, Sturgill stayed at Hospice of Dayton and rarely left her mother's side. Neither did Bindi. Through those difficult days, Bindi's steadfast presence bolstered Sturgill's spirits and helped her cope. "I really appreciated the fact that I could bring Bindi," Sturgill said. "The nurses made her a bed and it became home. It was such a comfort to have her there. Bindi loved it so much. We would walk the halls and everybody would spoil her rotten."


Bindi became a friendly fixture at Hospice of Dayton, enjoying perks such as free cafeteria food and plenty of attention. It wasn't long before nurses asked if Bindi could visit other patients. One gentleman in particular stood out for Sturgill. "He would say, 'Oh, I just miss my pets so much.'" I guess maybe it made him feel like he had a piece of home to have an animal come and just sit with him. It's just amazing," said Sturgill.

About four days into their stay, Sturgill's husband offered to take Bindi home for a break. When Lee Sturgill put on his coat to leave, Bindi, who had been lying calmly in the corner, would have none of it. "She ran to my mother's bed, jumped up and put her feet on the bed and would not leave," Sturgill explained. "I couldn't believe it."

A second attempt to take Bindi home the next day produced similar results.

"This time, instead of putting her feet on the bed, she jumped all the way in the bed and wouldn't leave. It's like she knew she had to be there." Though it was a difficult time, Sturgill is very grateful for the comfort and support that Hospice of Dayton provided to her mother, to Sturgill's father, Richard, and to the entire family.

"The whole experience at Hospice gave me so much. I feel like I could volunteer the rest of my life and not give back the comfort that they gave my mother." Sturgill and Bindi remained at Hospice of Dayton until Jean Shock passed away. According to Sturgill, Bindi instinctively understood what had happened. "When Mom passed, Bindi knew," Sturgill explained. "We packed up our stuff and she pranced out with a pep in her step. After that, I knew that I had to do therapy with her."

The pair began work as a Hospice of Dayton pet therapy team this past February, and have brought many smiles to patients during their visits. 




“If there is no struggle, there is no progress” Frederick Douglass

By Kent Anderson, President/CEO



Kent Anderson, President/CEO

The changing landscape of healthcare is having an impact on every healthcare provider, and Hospice of Dayton is no exception. Some days it is difficult to appreciate that the struggles of today will produce progress down the road. I sincerely believe that the changes we are currently experiencing in healthcare will result, in the long term, in an improved healthcare system. I also believe hospice care will play a more valued and significant role, and we will be at the forefront of providing more patients and families with the superior care and superior services that are the benchmark of Hospice of Dayton.

Thanks to the support of this community and the commitment of our staff, we will continue to rise to any challenge to maintain our mission of extraordinary end-of-life care for patients and families in the Miami Valley. Thank you for your support for our mission. 

What Advice Would You Give Your 30-Year-Old Self?

By Brenda C. Humfleet, President, Hospice of Dayton Foundation




Brenda Humfleet, President, Hospice of Dayton Foundation

Those words sprang out at me this past week when I was flipping through my latest issue of *Bloomberg Businessweek* magazine. The informal survey asked that question and I in turn asked several staff members the same question. Their responses: worry less; happiness is a choice; find joy in helping others; love the ones you're with; never miss an opportunity to make a positive difference in the lives of others.

Interestingly, none of the respondents in my impromptu survey mentioned anything about working more or amassing material wealth. Each of them, including me, advised our “30-year-old selves” to pay more attention to basic human principles surrounding our desire for joyful moments and our need to nurture and love others.

As Hospice of Dayton staff, it may have been a coincidence that our responses were linked to finding joy in life while nurturing and caring about others, however, since our organization's mission is to celebrate the lives of those we have the privilege of serving by providing superior care and services to each patient and family...I don't think it was a coincidence.

If you, too, would like to make a positive difference in the lives of others, you can accomplish that by volunteering your time to bring joy to our patients. You can find joy in the companionship of others who support our mission by joining our Hope Society to help fund patient services and grief support programs for the families of those who are left to grieve the loss of someone they love. Or, you could include Hospice of Dayton in your estate planning.

Make a difference while you can, and do it as early in life as possible. Someone once told me, “Never wait until tomorrow to do something positive for someone today.” 




You are cordially invited...9th Annual Golf Classic!

By Marsha Bernard, Special Events Manager

Save the Date! Hospice of Dayton Foundation and Merrill Lynch's Schade Team proudly presents the 9th Annual Golf Classic on Monday, June 9, 2014 at Sycamore Creek Country Club in Springboro, Ohio.

Join us for a fun-filled, 18-hole scramble at this top-tier golf outing. The event begins at 11:00 am with registration and lunch, followed by a Shotgun start at 12:30 pm. Back in the clubhouse, continue the day with cocktails, hors d'oeuvres, a silent auction and a sit-down awards banquet beginning at 6:00 pm. The cost of \$350 per golfer includes registration, lunch, dinner and a commemorative gift. Everyone ends up a winner at this event with challenges and prizes at every hole.



The 2014 Golf Classic is limited to a maximum of 124 players, so hurry and register. All proceeds for this event support Hospice of Dayton's extraordinary care and services that we provide to our patients and families each and every day of the year. For more information or to register, please contact Marsha Bernard at 937-258-5537, ext. 2895 or email mbernard@hospiceofdayton.org or visit our website at www.hospiceofdayton.org. For information on how your company can support this event, please contact Lori Poelking-Igel at 937-258-5537, ext. 2891 or email her at ligel@hospiceofdayton.org. 




Angels Run Among Us

By Marsha Bernard, Special Events Manager

What is your definition of an angel? Some will define it as a spiritual guide, a divine creature to help us do good, a person with a warm heart and a kind smile, the one that holds a door open for someone else, a medical staff that saves a child's life, a person that stays with a sick individual until their very last breath. I would also like to define an angel as a person that gives of themselves, makes sacrifices to benefit someone else. There is very little complaining, for the person knows that the end result will be worth the price. I know of a group of angels that quietly run among us.

A team of 12 runners from the Heights Running Group participated in The Bourbon Chase on October 18th and 19th, 2013. The Bourbon Chase is a 200 mile relay along the Kentucky Bourbon Trail. It is made up of 300 teams with 12 runners per team. The Heights Running Group pledged to raise \$6,000 for hospice with 50% going to the National Hospice Foundation and 50% to Hospice of Dayton and they did it. They trained for at least 9 months, running in snow, running in heat, running at night, giving of time, effort and sweat to raise money through donations to support the quality of life for those that are coming to the end of their journey.

So, when you see a runner along the side of the road or crossing in front of your car, please remember that you may have just spotted an angel. The wings may be hard to see, because they look like dirty, well worn, running shoes but they can definitely make a person fly. For more information about how you can make a difference, please contact the Foundation Office at 937-258-5537. 

What is AmazonSmile?

By Marsha Bernard, Special Events Manager

Amazon Smile is a simple and automatic way for you to support Hospice of Dayton every time you shop, at no cost to you. When you shop at smile.amazon.com, you'll find the exact same low prices, vast selection and convenient shopping experience as Amazon.com, with the added bonus that Amazon will donate a portion of the purchase price to Hospice of Dayton.



Can I use my existing Amazon.com account on AmazonSmile?

Yes, you use the same account on Amazon.com and AmazonSmile. Your shopping cart, Wish List, wedding or baby registry, and other account settings are also the same.

How do I select a charitable organization to support when shopping on AmazonSmile?

On your first visit to AmazonSmile, you need to select Hospice of Dayton to receive donations from your eligible purchases before you begin shopping. Every eligible purchase you make on AmazonSmile will result in a donation.

How much of my purchase does Amazon donate?

The AmazonSmile Foundation will donate 0.5% of the purchase price from your eligible AmazonSmile purchases. The purchase price is the amount paid for the item minus any rebates and excluding shipping & handling, gift-wrapping fees, taxes, or service charges. 🌱



Also don't forget Kroger and Dorothy Lane Market both have Community Reward Programs to benefit Hospice of Dayton. Please contact the Foundation office at 937-258-5537 with any questions on how to get started!



Hospice of Dayton Journey is published quarterly for patients, families, staff members and friends of Hospice of Dayton, Inc.

Kent Anderson, President/CEO
Brenda Humfleet, President Hospice of Dayton Foundation

Founded in 1978, Hospice of Dayton had served more than 109,000 families. Send suggestions and comments to Lori Poelking-Igel, Director, Leadership Giving. If you would like to be removed from our mailing list, please call us at 937-258-5537 or visit www.hospiceofdayton.org and choose the newsletter link and follow instructions for removal.



Hospice of Dayton meets the Better Business Bureau of Dayton/Miami Valley Charity Standards.

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