




Camp Pathways...“It was awesome!”

By Jonathan Haag, LISW-S, ATR-BC

One of the pleasant experiences I have as Camp Pathways Director is reading the camper feedback surveys each child completes on the last day of camp. By far, the overwhelming majority of comments are positive and let us know that we have met the essential goal of aiding in the healing process. These are some of their comments:

“IT IS OK TO CRY. . . I LEARNED THAT NOBODY HAS THE SAME TYPE OF GRIEF, BUT WE KINDA FEEL WHAT THEY FEEL. . . I LEARNED THAT IT IS GOOD TO SHOW YOUR EMOTIONS, AND OTHER PEOPLE FEEL THE SAME AS YOU DO. . . I’VE LEARNED THAT I HAVE OTHER PEOPLE TO HELP ME THROUGH MY GRIEF. . . I’VE LEARNED THAT I’M STRONGER THAN I THOUGHT. . . THIS WAS A NEW EXPERIENCE AND I CANNOT WAIT TO COME AGAIN NEXT YEAR. . . LET ME LIVE HERE!”

Camp Pathways 2014 marked the twenty-first year that Hospice of Dayton has provided this unique experience to children ages 7-17. This overnight, 3-day camp experience held at the beautiful Joy Outdoor Education Center, provides grieving children with supervised outdoor activities such as swimming, fishing, canoeing, a climbing wall and rope courses. Interspersed with the outdoor activities are grief support activities, campfire programs, art and music groups, along with a memorial service for campers and families. Over sixty adult staff and volunteers coordinated this grief camp experience for fifty three children and teens. As one camper stated, “It was awesome!” 




“The world hates change, yet it is the only thing that has brought progress.” - Charles Kettering

By Kent Anderson, President/CEO



Kent Anderson, President/CEO

It seems appropriate to cite Charles Kettering at this point in time when all of healthcare is changing so rapidly. Hospice care, like every other form of healthcare, is experiencing dynamic changes. Our patients are experiencing shorter length of stay, meaning our services must be concentrated within a short timeframe to meet the urgent needs of our patients and their families. Our patients also now arrive to hospice care with very complex clinical symptoms requiring immediate control to assure comfort and improved quality of life. We are adjusting our operations to meet these new challenges. With our unchanging mission of providing superior care and superior services, we remain committed to staying ahead of the winds of change and are continuing to meet the needs of the patients and families we have the privilege to serve.

We are forging new partnerships, encouraging education and advanced clinical expertise among our staff, and assuming a proactive approach to changes that will strengthen us as hospice care evolves. We welcome the progress that will result from the transformation now underway. 

Memories are made of this . . .

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




Brenda Humfleet, President, Hospice of Dayton Foundation

When all is said and done, what helps sustain us and add meaning to our life are the loving memories of our friends and loved ones. Although my husband passed away nearly three years ago, not a day goes by that something doesn't generate a memory of the years we shared.

Watching the sun set while on vacation at the beach; driving by our favorite root beer stand where we used to dine on foot-long hot dogs and root beer; sitting under the shade tree we planted to celebrate Father's Day – the list goes on. The common theme is that whether we shared the disappointment of a job unexpectedly lost; the exhilaration of purchasing our first home together; or the graduation of our sons from their respective colleges, we did it together. When my husband became ill and as we faced the reality that his days on earth were short, we dealt with it together.

At Hospice of Dayton, we strive to help ensure quality of life for everyone who needs end of life care. We understand the significance of helping each family make the most of their time together. We provide the highest caliber hospice and palliative care-trained nurses and physicians, trained and compassionate personal care specialists, and master-prepared grief support counselors. Our patient and family satisfaction scores are near perfect and yet we continue to strive to further improve our care and service offerings. We want every person and every family to be able to build good memories of the days of their life – even the last ones.

Most of the expenses associated with our care are reimbursed through the Medicare Hospice Benefit; however, there are expenses that are *not* covered by Medicare, Medicaid, or private insurance. Last year, through the generosity of people like you, we were able to provide more than \$4,000,000 in extra services.

Help us continue to create positive memories for future patients and families. Please consider making a financial commitment in the form of a gift to help make it possible for others to benefit from the same level of comprehensive, compassionate and personalized care. 

Golf Classic celebrates a milestone \$1,000,000

By Marsha Bernard, Special Events Manager

Mother Nature did it again...A perfect day for the 9th Annual Golf Classic! On June 9, 2014, Sycamore Creek Country Club known as 'the quiet gem of Miami Valley Country Clubs,' hosted Hospice of Dayton's 9th Annual Golf Classic to 120 golfers. This year's event marked a milestone by raising a cumulative total of \$1,000,000 for our patients and their families and the programs and services we provide. Thank you!


Thank you, Merrill Lynch – The Schade Team for being our lead sponsor! We appreciate all the volunteers and committee members who support our mission. You truly made a difference! Mark your calendars for next year, Monday, June 8, 2015 at Sycamore Country Club.

Sponsored by: *Merrill-Lynch – The Schade Team*

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You only turn 100 once in your lifetime!

By Maureen Swartz, Volunteer Manager

A birthday is a special day to celebrate the gift of 'YOU', so why not honor YOU with what YOU like best? Recently, a Hospice of Dayton social worker requested a 100th birthday celebration for one of our patients, the volunteer services staff and volunteers were ready to help. The social worker said that this special lady preferred chocolate candy instead of a birthday cake and wondered if we could provide her with 100 pieces of candy. What a wonderful idea! One of our volunteer services staff expanded on this thought and suggested we combine the two and make a "candy cake" out of 100 pieces of chocolate candy. When volunteers, Sandy Porter, Mary DeNaples and Pat Engelbrecht were asked to help with this special task, they were more than happy to assist. On the patient's 100th birthday, our volunteer driver, Charles Douglas, delivered the candy cake along with a balloon bouquet and stuffed animal. We are sure the surprise and candy was enjoyed by all! 




Left to right: Sherry McComas, Dennis Hughes, Amy Cook, Jamie Schade, Eric Fogarty and Dick Blessing

“Be the Rainbow in Someone’s Cloudy Day.” - Maya Angelou

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

Homelessness, drug and alcohol abuse, hunger, suicide prevention, end-of-life challenges – the list of things that have the potential to create cloudy days for ourselves and others is seemingly endless. Sometimes the magnitude of life’s challenges appears greater than our ability to make a positive difference. However, regardless of storms faced by ourselves and others, we do have the opportunity to be the rainbow in someone else’s cloudy day. We can volunteer our time and we can financially support worthwhile organizations who know how to positively impact the myriad of problems faced by men, women and children in our community.

Our local United Way annual community-wide campaign launches every year at this time. A gift made during this campaign makes a positive difference in the lives of thousands of local people. As a partner agency of United Way of Greater Dayton Area, we strongly encourage you to support this worthwhile grassroots effort. Your gift can be undesignated or ear-marked for the non-profit charity or cause of your choice. Workplace campaigns offer payroll deduction and your gift may be tax-deductible. 



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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.

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Matt & Barbi Shomper



Dr. Chirag Patel

SPECIAL 2014 EVENTS



Save the date for these 2014 Hospice of Dayton special events!



HAIRSHOW & LUNCHEON
September 19
The Ponitz Center
Sinclair Community College
11 am-1 pm



BOWL FOR HOSPICE
October 5
Poelking-Woodman Lanes
(Kettering)
1-3 pm



3K/5K REMEMBRANCE WALK
November 1
Hospice of Dayton
Campus, 324 Wilmington Ave.
10-Noon

Outstanding Accomplishments

By Vicky Forrest, Director of Mission & Public Information

Matt continues to be a champion for Hospice of Dayton! Over the past six years, he has run the Flying Pig in Cincinnati and has generated over \$26,500 in sponsorships for patient and family services, in memory of his father, Richard Shomper. Thank you Matt for your dedication and commitment!

Hospice of Dayton is actively engaged in prepping the next generation of medical professionals to address the needs of patients at the end-of-life. Dr. Chirag Patel was honored by the Ohio University Heritage College of Osteopathic Medicine Research and Education program with the Specialist Medicine Outstanding Faculty award for outstanding clinical teaching. Dr. Patel was singled out for mentoring the students in hospice and palliative care. 