

Reaching Out

Hospice of the Calumet Area

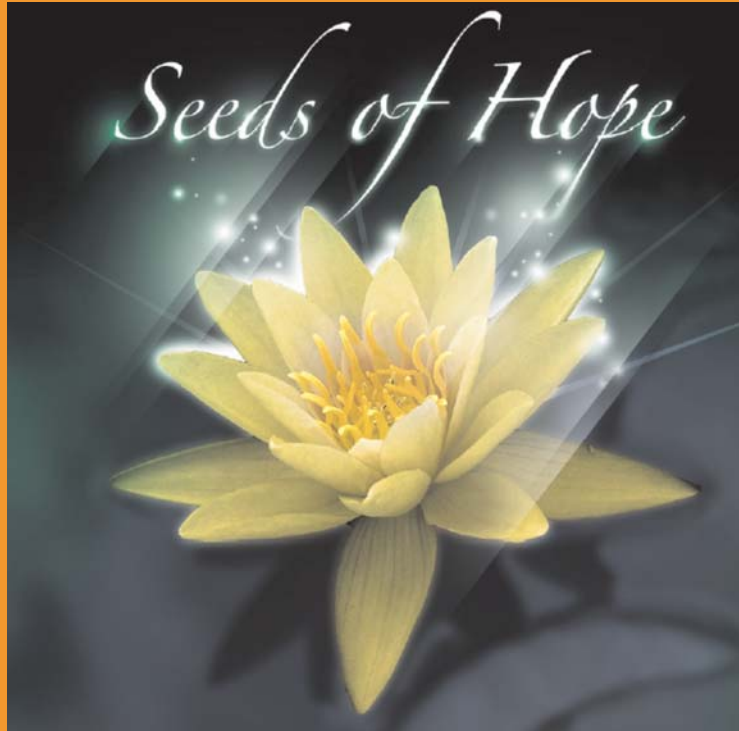


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Spring 2008

Hospice of the Calumet Area, Inc., 600 Superior Ave., Munster, IN 46321



A Benefit for Hospice of the Calumet Area

WEDNESDAY

The Twenty-First of May

2008

AVALON MANOR, MERRILLVILLE, INDIANA
5:30 PM: COCKTAILS AND SILENT AUCTION
7:30 PM: DINNER

Reservations \$75 / RSVP by May 7, 2008

FRIENDS OF HOSPICE

IS CELEBRATING ITS 26TH YEAR AS THE
AUXILIARY FUNDRAISING GROUP FOR
HOSPICE OF THE CALUMET AREA.

Call Chris Dow at 219.922.2732
to reserve your tickets.



Monsignor Joseph Semancik, a founding board member of Hospice of the Calumet Area, reflects at the 10 year anniversary celebration.

Hospice House Celebrates Tenth Anniversary

In 1997, Hospice of the Calumet Area opened the William J. Riley Memorial Residence to offer a warm, home-like atmosphere for patients who had no caregiver or could not stay in their own homes safely. It was the first freestanding hospice house in the state of Indiana.

Ten years later, more than 100 volunteers, patient families, donors, Board members and staff marked this milestone at a November reception. Monsignor Joseph Semancik, a founding member of Hospice of the Calumet Area and its Board of Directors, vividly described his first experience visiting a hospice in India in the 1960s. He outlined the need that led to the establishment of HCA in 1981 and our Riley Residence 16 years later.

Executive Director Adrienne May paid tribute to the numerous individuals, businesses, organizations and groups who made contributions for the construction of the Residence and its operation as well as its two-bedroom addition in 2004.

See Tenth Anniversary, page 3

Message from the Executive Director...

NATIONAL HEALTHCARE DECISIONS DAY 2008

★ your decisions matter ★



None of us are immune to loss, be it the death of a loved one, friend, or family pet. Yet, as a society, most Americans avoid discussing end of life issues and the emotions that accompany them. And when we do want to share our feelings and wishes, there is often no one comfortable enough to listen. It's not a lack of compassion or sensitivity,

but rather discomfort at not knowing how to help, fear of saying the wrong thing, or a desire to spare each other's feelings.

Research has found that 80% of Americans say they want to die at home. Few people want to die in hospitals, but depending on where they live, most do die there. Of the 2.4 million Americans who die each year, less than 25% actually die at home.

Experts agree that the time to learn about your end of life care options and to discuss your wishes is before you are faced with a crisis. Less than 25% of Americans have prepared advance directives that spell out how they want to be cared for at the end of life. Most of those who have written their wishes have not shared them with their doctor or loved ones.

Conversations about how you wish to be cared for if you have a life-limiting illness are difficult at any time. Add to that the stress of a crisis or sudden decline in health and it is understandable why people receive care they do not really want. Open discussions before the need arises help ease the anxiety and worry families face in making care decisions for a loved one. They also help ensure your loved ones are comfortable with your choices and will honor them.

I encourage everyone to talk with the important people in your life and let them know your treatment choices should you be facing a life-limiting illness. If you are currently struggling with these issues, don't hesitate to call Hospice of the Calumet Area or attend one of our National Healthcare Decision Day 2008 programs on April 16. You may be surprised at the secondary benefits and intrinsic rewards you'll receive from such discussions.

Aduanne May

Let's face it. Completing Advance Directives rates right up there with getting a root canal. Chances are you're going to put it off until you absolutely need it.

And apparently, we're not alone. The U.S. Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (www.ahrq.gov) stated in a 2003 article that:

- Less than 50% of the severely or terminally ill patients studied had an advance directive in their medical record.
- Only 12% of patients with an advance directive had received input from their physician in its development.
- Approximately 72% of physicians whose patients had an advance directive were not aware that it existed.

For this reason, we've decided to participate in the inaugural event called *National Healthcare Decisions Day 2008*. On Wednesday, April 16th, Hospice of the Calumet Area will be hosting two events that will consist of a presentation from our social workers on the importance of having an advance directive and power of attorney completed prior to a crisis situation. Immediately following we will aid participants in completing their advance directives and power of attorney form. Notaries will be on hand to assist.

The two locations will be:

11:00 a.m. St. Mary Medical Center Auditorium
1500 S. Lake Park Ave.
Hobart, IN 46342

6:00 p.m. Hartsfield Village
10000 Columbia Ave.
Munster, IN 46321

We're sure that as a result of National Healthcare Decisions Day, many more people in our community can be expected to have thoughtful conversations about their healthcare decisions and complete reliable advance directives to make their wishes known. Fewer families and healthcare providers will have to struggle with making difficult healthcare decisions in the absence of guidance from the patient, and be better able to honor patient wishes when the time comes to do so.

This event is being underwritten by Fifth Third Bank. Please RSVP to our office at 219-922-2732, 219-736-2422 or 708-895-8332 for purposes of refreshments. You may also RSVP to info@hospicecalumet.org.

Hospice of the Calumet Area, Inc. **DIRECTORS**

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David Schneider
Monsignor Joseph Semancik
Gloria Smokvina, Ph.D.
John T. Stephens
Catherine Wiseman
Cindy Beckman, ex-officio

As of March 2008

*We recognize the dedication and
commitment of our directors who
support our staff in fulfilling our
mission of caring for individuals and
their families who are facing
a life-limiting illness.*

*To opt-out of receiving promotional/marketing or
fundraising information from Hospice of the
Calumet Area, please contact Craig Harrell at
219-922-2732 or email:
charrell@hospicecalumet.org*

A Lasting Remembrance

Supporters of Hospice of the Calumet Area can memorialize and honor loved ones with our Buy A Brick program. Each inscribed brick costs \$100 and has room for three lines with up to 12 characters per line.



All bricks are placed in the sidewalk at the William J. Riley Memorial Residence according to their order date. Those ordered between August and January are placed in the spring and those ordered between February and July are placed in the fall.

To purchase a brick, a form is available for download at www.hospicecalumet.org under "Giving Opportunities." For more information or to receive the form by fax/mail, please contact Chris Dow at 219-922-2732 or 708-895-8332.

Staff Announcements

Adrienne May, Executive Director, has been elected Board Chair of the Indiana Hospice & Palliative Care Organization (IHPCO) for 2008. The mission of the non-profit advocacy organization, headquartered in Indianapolis, is to educate the people of Indiana about end-of-life choices. The agency works with hospices and palliative care organizations statewide to ensure the highest quality end-of-life care for all Hoosiers.

Ms. May was named executive director of Hospice of the Calumet Area in March 1997. A native of Northwest Indiana, she has a bachelor's degrees in nursing as well as a master's of public health degree in health services administration. She has worked in healthcare administration since 1983. Prior to her recent election, Ms. May served IHPCO as treasurer and as chair-elect.

In addition to her work with hospice, Ms. May is an adjunct professor at Indiana University Northwest.

Teresa Daniels, Home Health Aide / Certified Nursing Assistant, has been named the new referral liaison for Hospice of the Calumet Area. In this role, she joins the admissions team and will work with referral sources and patient/families to assure individuals receive the help they need. Teresa joined HCA in 2005.

Tenth Anniversary (continued from page 1)

Board of Directors member Catherine (Kay) Boege was one of the major donors for the facility that was named for her brother, William J. Riley. We are proud to say that over 1,700 patients and families have received compassionate and comprehensive end-of-life care at our hospice house since its dedication. We are grateful to have the opportunity to provide care for many more persons facing end-of-life illnesses in its second decade of service.

Creator Of Hospice Ornaments Retires

For nearly a decade, Hospice of the Calumet Area has sold a series of delicate white clay angel figurines and hearts, produced in limited edition and enclosed in cream-and-gold boxes decorated with satin ribbon.

The artist, Judy Murphree of Victoria, Texas, designed these collectibles to benefit hospice organizations nationwide, and many people searching for a thoughtful gift have purchased them to support our patient programs and services. Recently, the artist announced her retirement and the closure of her studio for health reasons.

“Judy's works of art have, over the years, comforted many people who have lost loved ones,” said Julie Stogsdill, HCA director of development. “They have also been extremely popular as gifts for graduations, baby showers and weddings.”



While some of the early angels had already been retired by the artist, a beautiful selection of angels and hearts remains available, including some that were new to our inventory. They may be purchased at *Care to Share Gifts*, 1842-B 45th Street in Munster, and at The Gift Shop at South Shore Arts, located in the Center for Visual and Performing Arts in Munster. Please call 219-922-2732 for more information.



HCA Partners with South African Hospice

Thirty years ago, the hospice movement in America mobilized in many locales because people were dying alone in hospitals, anxious

and afraid, frequently in pain, hooked up to machines, and often ignored by healthcare workers. Today that has changed. Most Americans have the option of hospice care and of dying at home. Most can be relatively pain-free and able to spend valuable time with their loved ones. We know that children need special attention. We even know that healing and growth happen as part of life closure and effective grieving.

Today, global HIV/AIDS has spawned a situation parallel, but far more desperate than we faced 30 years ago. In Sub-Saharan Africa, nearly 7,000 people are dying each day. Many are alone and in pain, anxious and afraid in the midst of stigma, gender abuse and child neglect. In some countries, there is no access to basic pain medication while hunger and poverty are common factors which may contribute to death. In the midst of this situation, which many public health agencies have already called the worst epidemic ever, African hospice and palliative care programs are heroically struggling to start and scale up services.

For these reasons, Hospice of the Calumet Area has partnered with Hospice East Rand in South Africa. This mutually beneficial relationship fosters intercultural learning between both hospices and creates resource mobilization for the African program.

The Foundation for Hospices in Sub-Saharan Africa (FHSSA) offers a unique way in which U.S. donors can help improve the lives of those affected by the HIV/AIDS pandemic. Leadership provided by FHSSA ensures that donations benefit African hospices via a regionally coordinated program with monitoring, evaluation, and a high standard of care.

Charlie's Ale House "Show You Care" Reception

*Let's Celebrate
Hospice of the Calumet Area!*

In its continued support of Hospice of the Calumet Area, Charlie's Ale House will once again host a cocktail / hors d'oeuvres reception.

Tuesday, April 8, 2008
5:30 to 7:30 p.m.
8940 Calumet Avenue
Munster, IN



*Please RSVP by Friday, April 4 to
Chris Dow at 219-922-2732 or cdow@hospicecalumet.org.*

A \$25 donation will allow you to immortalize your name on a classic brass plaque at Charlie's. Plaque purchases are available through Charlie's only. All plaque proceeds benefit Hospice of the Calumet Area.



HCA Continues Commitment to Excellence

Hospice of the Calumet Area is proud to be participating in an intensive 12-week collaborative aimed at helping hospices improve quality by learning a new method of performance improvement in a collegial atmosphere with other hospice providers.

The Quality Partners Collaborative is based on the Institute for Health Care Improvement (IHI) Model for Improvement which utilizes a disciplined approach to identify a problem, select an attainable aim, implement changes, and test to see if the changes are improvements. The collaborative has a learn-by-doing approach but the processes learned can then be used for future improvement projects.

Quality Partners is uniquely designed to help hospice teams learn best practices that lead to improved outcomes for patients and families. Led by the National Hospice and Palliative Care Organization and co-sponsored by the Indiana Hospice and Palliative Care Organization, the collaborative also promotes a culture of quality within the state.

Hospice of the Calumet Area remains committed to excellence in the care we provide in our community. Continuous performance improvement of our processes and care is one way we ensure gold standard care for those we serve. HCA Quality Partners team members are **Kim Morris, Teresa Daniels, Cynthia Camp, Kathy Smith, Christina Bailey** and **Kristi Nance-Hmurovich**.



Nurses Honor Hospice With Donation

Hospice of the Calumet Area partners with numerous area healthcare institutions including St. Margaret's, the first hospital in Lake County, Indiana. Founded in 1898 by the Sisters of St. Francis of Perpetual Adoration, the hospital is now known as St. Margaret Mercy Healthcare Centers and consists of two campuses located in Hammond and Dyer.

From 1919 to 1967, nearly 800 women graduated from nursing school at St. Margaret's Hospital and formed an alumnae organization, which today has 325 active members. The group meets twice a year to honor its 50-year graduates as well as all deceased alumnae.

HCA Executive Director Adrienne May was a recent invitee, addressing the gathering of nearly 100 guests about the vital role nurses occupy within the hospice and palliative care team and the education they can share with patients and families facing end-of-life illnesses.

At the conclusion of her remarks, Adrienne was presented with a check for \$250 on behalf of the members of St. Margaret's Nurses Alumnae. This was a generous and thoughtful donation from a group that continues to faithfully serve our community.

PROMPT Employees Wrap Up The Holidays

Men and women who provide the community with emergency medical services must have an advanced level of training to help those in need 24 hours a day. For employees of Highland, Indiana-based PROMPT Ambulance Service, their education might include gift wrapping!

For the third year, dedicated PROMPT staff members braved winter weather and massive traffic jams to wrap holiday gifts in return for donations that benefited Hospice of the Calumet Area. Stationed in a storefront at the region's largest shopping mall, they spent one Saturday gamely tackling packages of all sizes with brightly colored foil paper and homemade ribbons.

Thanks to our good friends, owners Gary and Shar Miller and their team of professionals, more than \$1,000 has been raised for patient programs and services. We are indebted to everyone at PROMPT for their creativity and support.



Rosanne Loughmiller of PROMPT Ambulance ties a bow on a package in order to raise donations for Hospice of the Calumet Area.

Contest Proves Lucky For HCA

Last fall, area non-profit organizations received information about a contest sponsored by the Crown Point Community Foundation to celebrate its attainment of \$10 million in assets. The Foundation announced that it planned to award 10 grants of \$1,000 to charities whose names were submitted on special ballots and then drawn at random.

Our staff, volunteers and friends submitted entries, hoping that good luck would follow. Just before Thanksgiving, we received word that out of more than 8,000 entries, Hospice of the Calumet Area had been selected as a winner! Executive Director Adrienne May attended a festive holiday reception where she received a \$1,000 check from Foundation President Patricia Huber. We congratulate everyone at CPCF for reaching its \$10 million milestone and for sharing its success with the Northwest Indiana community!

*If your company or organization is interested in fundraising for Hospice of the Calumet Area, please contact our Development Office at 219-922-2732. If your group did a fundraising activity and would like to be included, let us know and we will publish it in our next issue of **Reaching Out**.*

Care To Share Dinners Find New Home, Format

For over four years, chefs from Northwest Indiana and the Illinois suburbs have generously shared their culinary talents with our community at the **Care to Share Dinners**. Located at our donation consignment shop *Care to Share Gifts*, this unique special event has grossed nearly \$65,000 for our programs and services.

This year's dinners will have many of the elements that made them memorable. Guests will still be entertained by well-known chefs who sauté and filet with ease, making their dishes look oh-so-easy to prepare.

The location, however, has moved “uptown” to beautiful Centennial Park in Munster. More than three years in the making, the town's newest park offers an amphitheater, walking trails, dog park and formal gardens in addition to a two-story clubhouse where our events will be held.

Seasonal dinners will be held on the following Wednesday evenings: June 11, September 10 and November 5. Tickets are \$35 per person per event and may be purchased at the Hospice office, 600 Superior Avenue, Munster, from 8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. Monday-Friday, or at *Care to Share Gifts*, 1842-B 45th Street, Munster, during shop hours. You may order tickets by phone using Visa, MasterCard or Discover by calling Chris Dow at (219) 922-2732.

Further details about the **Care to Share Dinners** will be available on our website (www.hospicecalumet.org) under “Events.” Join us for evenings with a purpose that offer great food and fun and a beautiful view!



The Ballroom in Munster's Centennial Park.

James & Sons Silent Auction



Over \$1,000,000 of diamonds, fine jewelry and Swiss time pieces will be on display.

\$5 Bid Cards available April 14th.
Bidding to run April 14th - April 19th (3 pm).

James & Sons

Silent Auction To Benefit HCA

James and Sons jewelers will be hosting a silent auction with over \$1,000,000 in fine diamonds, jewelry and Swiss time pieces. A portion of the proceeds from each item sold will benefit Hospice of the Calumet Area.

The auction will take place at the James and Sons location at 112 Indianapolis Boulevard in Schererville, Indiana. Bid cards can be purchased starting April 14th for \$5 each, with that entire amount going to HCA. The silent auction bidding will begin on April 14th and end at 3pm on April 19th.

All bids will start at or below cost. This will be a great opportunity to get a bargain on a fine diamond, watch or piece of jewelry. James and Sons carries brand names and designers including Ritani, Verragio and Hearts on Fire, the world's most perfectly cut diamond.

“We are very pleased that Hospice of the Calumet Area will benefit from this event,” said Jim Sunderland, chief executive officer of the

four-store independent jewelry chain. “Last year we raised over \$10,000 for local charities, and we're honored to assist HCA in its mission.”

Please help Hospice raise money and participate in the silent auction at James and Sons in Schererville. For more information, call the store at 219-864-9090.



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Save the Date!

Sunday, September 21, 2008

What: 25 & 62 mile rides

Where: Beginning and ending at the Lake County Fairgrounds

Why: To help provide care for individuals facing a life-limiting illness.

Hospice of the Calumet Area's Service Area

HCA serves all of Lake County, Porter County to the western edge of Valparaiso and bordering Illinois communities from Crete to the south side of Chicago.

