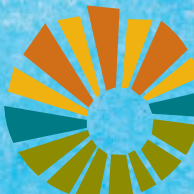
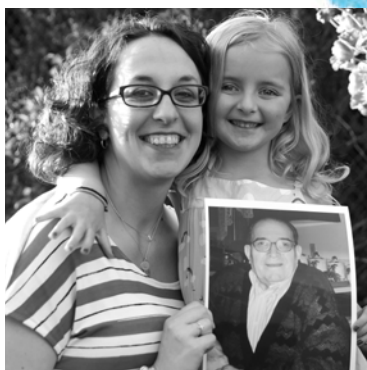


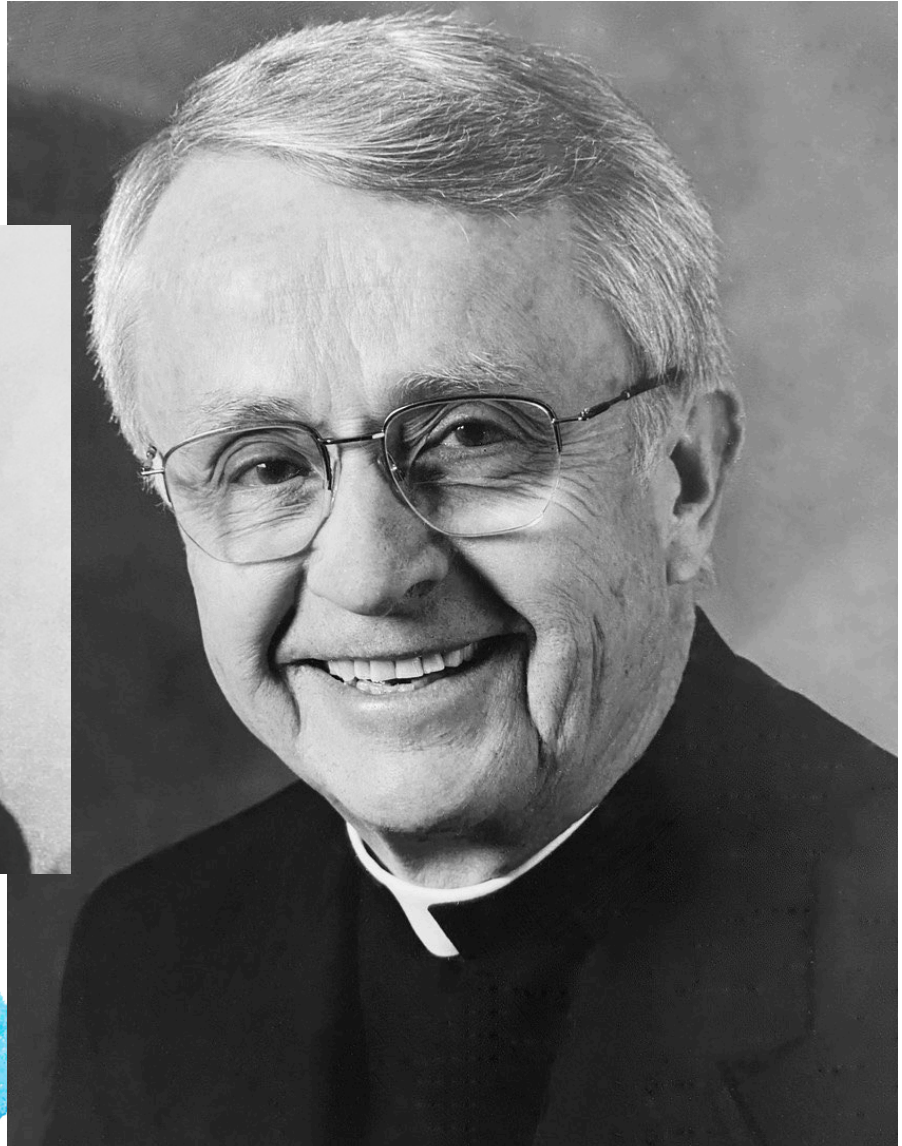
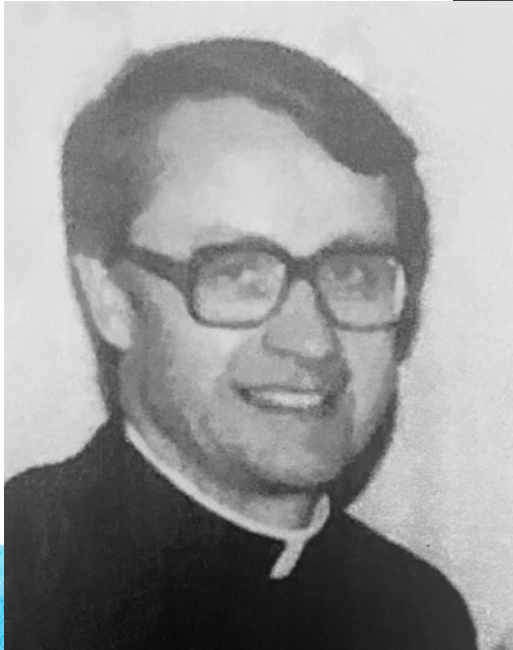
**40**  **Hospice**  
of the  
**Calumet**  
Area

**YEARS of**  
*Cherishing Life*

**2021 ANNUAL REPORT**  
**REMINISCING**







“

*Hospice of the Calumet Area really is a special place, with special people, dedicated to serving thousands of people with compassion. I never could have imagined that four decades later my wonderful younger sister Janie would spend her last days at the [William J. Riley Memorial Residence].*

*-Msgr. Joseph Semancik,  
HCA Founding Board Member*





## Table of Contents

4

MESSAGE FROM CEO  
& BOARD PRESIDENT  
**REMINISCING**

8

A LOOK BACK  
**TIMELINE**

18

DONOR GIFTS TO SUPPORT  
**INSPIRING CARE**

5

SERVING THE  
**COMMUNITY**

10

SHARING THE MISSION  
**HCA BOARD**

20

VOLUNTEERS UNDERSTAND  
**EDUCATING**

6

POWER OF  
KINDNESS  
**VOLUNTEERS**

15

A CLOSER LOOK  
**KEY FIGURES**

22

A HELPING HAND  
**HOSPICE IN  
EAST RAND**

7

IMPACT  
**1981-2021**

16

40 YEARS OF  
**CHERISHING  
LIFE**



# A MESSAGE FROM OUR CEO & BOARD PRESIDENT

Hospice of the Calumet Area (HCA) celebrated 40 years of Cherishing Life in 2021! Cherishing Life - two simple words that speak volumes about who we are as an organization and the values that guide our staff and volunteers. It embodies our vision of bringing care, compassion and comfort to all in the final months of life.

It takes a special gift to help individuals and families, not only with the physical challenges that come with a life limiting illness, but with the myriad of emotions it brings. Hospice of the Calumet Area has been blessed with a team of amazingly talented and compassionate individuals who have made us, not only the first hospice in the region, but the best. And it is not just our opinion.

We have, once again, been recognized by HEALTHCAREfirst with Hospice Honors Elite status for our stellar satisfaction scores from our patients' families.

When we hit a significant milestone, such as a 40th anniversary or one of those "special" birthdays, I think most of us reflect on our past and look to our future; Hospice of the Calumet Area is no exception. We cared for our first hospice patient in October 1981 and served 30 patients that first year. We care for over 1,000 of your friends, family members, and neighbors every year. With the support of our community, HCA was able to build the first free standing hospice house in our area, the William J. Riley Memorial Residence. Over 5,000 patients have called it home since we opened our doors in 1997.

Last year was also the 20-year anniversary for our Transitions program, which provides support free of charge for individuals not yet ready for hospice care. HCA provides community educational programs, massage and music therapy, specialized care for our veterans, and we now have offices in Munster, Porter, and Lansing, to better serve the Region.

Even more remarkable is that for 40 years, we have remained true to our core value of providing exceptional care for those coping with life-limiting illness regardless of their ability to pay.

However, the year wasn't without its challenges; evolving COVID regulations, supply challenges and staff shortages, to name a few. What is remarkable is how staff and volunteers resiliently adapted to each challenge while continuing to provide top-notch care and raise significant support for HCA.

It was heartwarming to watch the 40th anniversary celebration filled with stories and tributes from our board members, family members, staff, volunteers, and especially Msgr. Joseph Semancik, who is a founder of HCA. And what an amazing sight it was to see Chef Gabe and his Hartsfield Village team distribute over 200 take-home gourmet meals to a caravan of cars getting ready to celebrate with us.

The bottom line is that none of this would be possible without the support of all of you. Hospice of the Calumet Area is truly a community-based organization that grew out of a grassroots effort, and we continue to thrive because of your ongoing support and dedication to our Cherishing Life mission. We humbly and graciously thank you from the bottom of our hearts.

*Hospice of the  
Calumet Area CEO  
Adrienne May and  
Board President  
Gene Diamond.*





# SERVING THE COMMUNITY

## IMPACT in 2021

668

Hospice  
Patients/Families  
Cared For



\$1.8 million

Charity, Discounted,  
Uncompensated Care

179

William J. Riley  
Memorial  
Residence  
Cared For



489

Transitions Clients Assisted



93%

Excellence  
Care Rating  
(by caregivers)  
Natl. Avg-85%



99%

Would  
Recommend Us  
(by caregivers)  
Natl. Avg-96.6%



197

Veterans  
Cared For



412

Active  
Volunteers

3,210

Followers

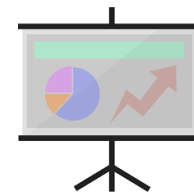


3,721  
WJOB/WIMS  
Monthly  
Listeners/  
Viewers



5,435

TV Spots/  
3 Zones



67

Educational  
Community  
Initiatives



HIGHLAND/GRIFFITH  
CHAMBER



Schererville Chamber  
of Commerce



Duneland Chamber

Special Recognitions



WE HONOR VETERANS

HOSPICE  
HONORS elite



# THE POWER OF KINDNESS VOLUNTEERS

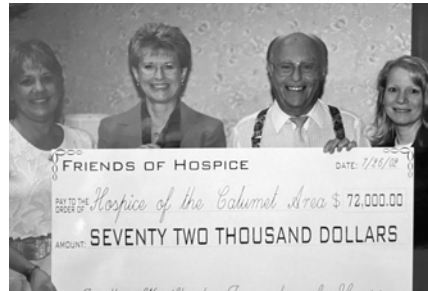
The daily demands of life can get overwhelming very quickly. So why do over 400 active Hospice of the Calumet Area volunteers spend their days and evenings visiting patients, fundraising, administrative duties and even attending funerals?

“Volunteering for [Hospice of the Calumet Area] is good for my soul,” Volunteer Nicole Hofferth said. “I enjoy my time supporting the offices during the day and saying hello to my favorite people that do such amazing work every day. I also enjoy my time as a patient companion at our [William J. Riley Memorial Residence] in the evening, meeting such wonderful people and just being there for them at their time of need.”

Hospice of the Calumet Area is continually humbled and inspired by the generosity of our volunteers. From the time they give us to the financial and emotional investment they offer our organization, HCA values and appreciates it all.

“I have never met such a wonderful group of people that just keep giving,” said Cynthia Camp, HCA volunteer coordinator. “We have volunteers that have been coming through our doors for decades and it amazes me how much

energy and the commitment they have for serving others. Just in the past five years, our HCA volunteers contributed over 35,000 hours of their time, which provided over \$1 million in financial savings for our organization. That’s incredibly generous, and we appreciate their dedication.”



**“**

*Just in the past five years, our volunteers have contributed over 35,000 hours, which provided over \$1 million in financial savings for our organization.*

*-Cynthia Camp, HCA Volunteer Coordinator*





**1981**

1st patient served

**2015**

We Honor Veterans  
4-Star Level

**21,300**

hospice patients served

**5**

Counties  
(IN and IL)  
served

**1997**

William J. Riley  
Memorial  
Residence  
established

**5,300**

William J. Riley Memorial  
Residence in-patients  
served

**3,455+**

volunteers

**64,098**

volunteer  
hours

**2001**

Transitions, a free  
community support  
program  
established

**2,736**

Transitions clients  
served

**2,019**

total children, teens and  
adults participated in our  
free Healing Hearts  
Bereavement Program

**1982**

Friends of  
Hospice  
established

**\$4.7 M**

Raised by  
Friends of  
Hospice

**\$32 M**

Charity, discounted or  
uncompensated care  
distributed to patients

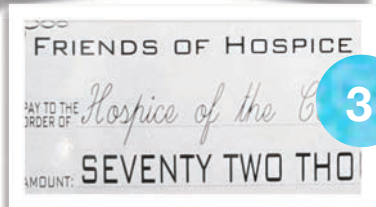
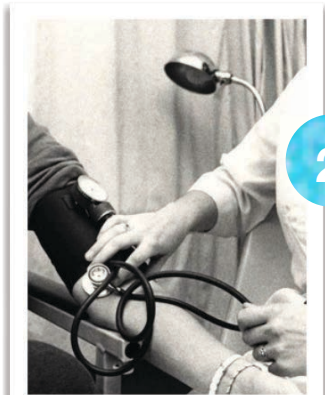
**7,298**

Veterans served

**2015-21**

**Hospice Honors**  
2015, 2016, 2017  
**Hospice Honors Elite**  
2018, 2019, 2020, 2021





## Hospice of the Calumet Area Timeline

- 1979 Bishop Andrew Grutka appoints local medical leaders, clergy to create hospice in NWI (1)
- 1981 Hospice of Northwest Indiana serves first patient (2)
- 1982 Friends of Hospice created (3); Hospice of Northwest Indiana provides first full year of care (4)
- 1986 Hospice of Northwest Indiana becomes the first Medicare Certified hospice in Indiana (5)
- 1989 Hospice of Northwest Indiana opens an Illinois office (6)
- 1990 Hospice of Northwest Indiana becomes Hospice of the Calumet Area (7)
- 1997 William J. Riley Memorial Residence opens. First free standing in-patient hospice facility in NWI (8);  
Adrianne May becomes executive director (9)
- 2001 Transitions program created (10)
- 2003 The Care to Share Gifts donation/consignment shop opens in June (11)
- 2004 Hospice Hustle Cycling Event created (12); The two-room WJR addition serves its first patient in September (13); Children's hospice awareness project is launched, including a "Hospice Helps Me" children's book, "Daisy the Hospice Hound" stuffed animal and storytelling presentation (14)
- 2006 Hospice Artisans created (15)
- 2013 Caring Canine therapy dogs begin visiting patients (16)
- 2015 HCA wins Hospice Honors for Excellence in Healthcare (17)
- 2016 Comedian Jim Gaffigan performs benefit for HCA (18)
- 2018 Rock and Roll Hall of Fame Felix Cavaliere performs benefit to launch Kilmer Spencer music therapy program (19); HCA opens office in Porter (20)
- 2019 HCA awarded Hospice Honors Elite for first time (21)
- 2020 Hospice Honors Elite (22) J.D. Dzurovcik recognized as Times Nurse of the Year Finalist (23);  
Hospice Artisans create on-line store (24)
- 2021 Hospice Honors Elite (25); Pam Robertson recognized as Times Nurse of the Year Finalist (26)





TRANSITIONS

10



HOSPICE  
HONORS elite



HOSPICE  
HONORS

17





# SHARING THE MISSION

## HCA BOARD OF DIRECTORS

**RUTHELLYN BOBAK**

**LINDA DELUNAS, PhD**  
Indiana University Northwest

**GENE DIAMOND, PRESIDENT**  
Franciscan Alliance

**JANICE S. DOBRINICH**

**LINDA G. EISENHAUER**

**DONALD P. FESKO**  
Community Foundation of NWI

**R. MITCHELL GAFFIGAN**  
Purdue Federal Credit Union

**R. LOUIE GONZALEZ**  
Ivy Tech Community College

**REBECCA A. GROVE**  
Franciscan Alliance

**WILLIAM A. HASSE III**  
Hasse Construction

**COREY HECHT**  
Merrill Lynch

**PATRICIA A. KISH**  
The Wounded Healers

**PATRICIA A. LAZZARO**

**JOANNE C. MARKIEWICZ**

**JEFFREY M. MONBERG**  
Quarles & Brady LLP

**ROCHARDA MOORE MORRIS**  
Innovative Solutions

**LYLE R. MUNN, MD**  
Hospice of the Calumet Area

**PAULA E. NEFF**  
Emerson-Neff LLP

**RALPH D. NEFF**  
Mechanical Concepts, Inc.

**DAVID B. NELLANS**

**KAY NELSON**  
Northwest Indiana Forum

**LINDA D. RANDOLPH**  
Innovative Solutions

**RICHARD G. REFFKIN, DDS**

**JOHN T. STEPHENS**

**MARY KATE TESKE**  
Bosak Auto

**PEYMON TORABI**  
Peoples Bank

**RABBI LEONARD ZUKROW**  
Temple Beth-El

**COURTNEY MARKOVICH**  
Friends of Hospice, ex-officio  
Federal Reserve Bank

**ADRIANNE MAY, CEO**  
Hospice of the Calumet Area

**EMERITUS MEMBERS**

**NATHAN A. CARRAS**

**ELEANOR KAY-MIRICH** 

**MSGR. JOSEPH SEMANCIK**





# REMINISCING

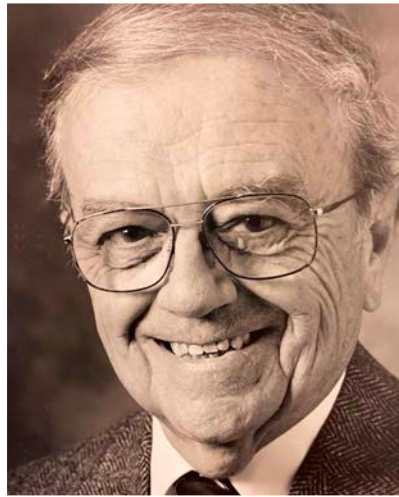


“

*It was 1993 and I remember going through a difficult time as people were losing jobs at the steel mills and we were amidst an economic recession. We would deliberate for hours about whether it even made sense to build a hospice house. Respected board member the Rev. Robert Lowery was the ultimate influencer as he spoke to us with his reassuring voice reminding us, 'If it's God's will, He will touch the hearts of our community and lead us.*

*-Janice Dobrinich,  
HCA Board Member*











## REMINISCING



“

*Our organization is truly blessed to have such a dedicated team. Our partners earn the trust of our patients and families through their professionalism and caring support. I am so proud of the compassionate care we provide and our commitment to serve.*

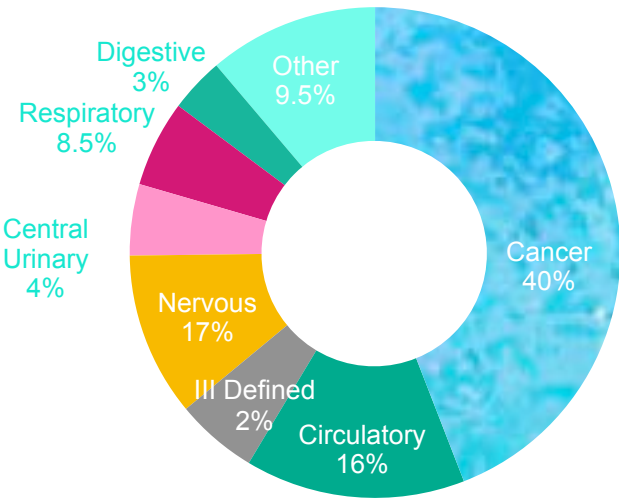
*-Diane Muskin,  
HCA patient care coordinator*



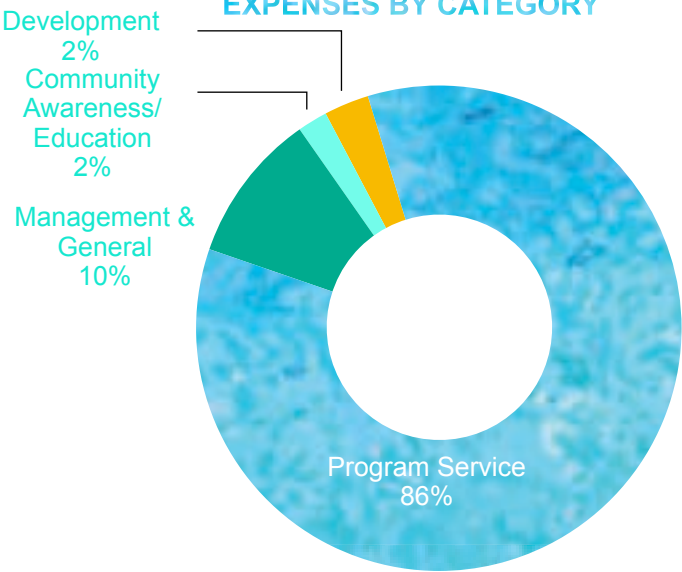
# A CLOSER LOOK

## KEY FIGURES

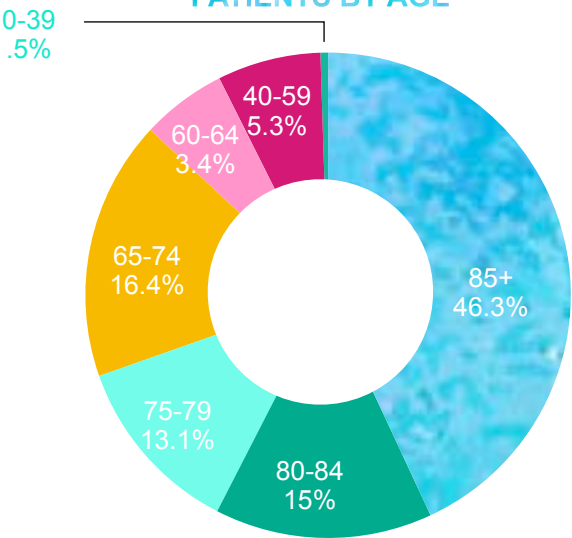
PATIENTS BY DIAGNOSIS



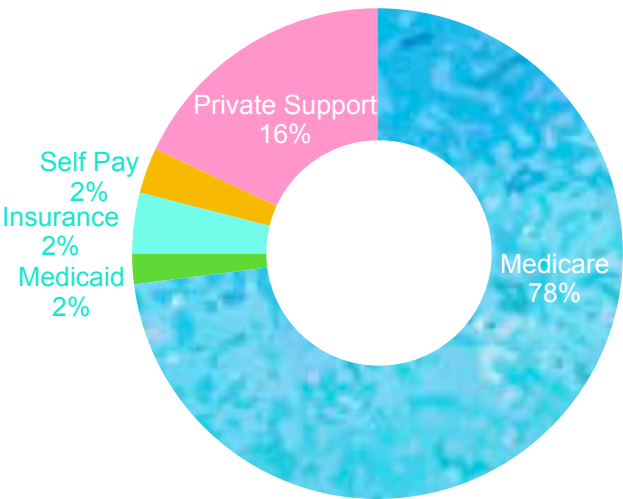
EXPENSES BY CATEGORY



PATIENTS BY AGE



REVENUE BY CATEGORY







**Of all the things I have done in life, the thing I feel most blessed about and proud of is that I have been part of Hospice of the Calumet Area from the beginning.**  
**-Msgr. Joseph Semancik**

## **Hospice of the Calumet Area, 40 years of Cherishing Patients and Families**

Msgr. Joseph Semancik can't believe it's been 40 years since Hospice of the Calumet Area, originally named Hospice of Northwest Indiana, cared for its first patient. HCA was created with the sole mission of compassionately caring for end-of-life patients and their families in Northwest Indiana. It opened in October 1981.

Semancik, of Whiting, remembers gathering donors and building community support in 1979, at Gary Diocese Bishop Andrew Grutka's request, like it was yesterday.

"Of all the things I have done in life, the thing I feel most blessed about and proud of is that I have been part of Hospice of the Calumet Area from the beginning," Semancik said. "It's really a special place, with special people, dedicated to serving thousands of people with compassion. I never could have imagined that four decades later my wonderful younger sister Janie would spend her last days at the [William J. Riley Memorial Residence]."

Semancik, emeritus board member, credits Adrienne May, CEO, and Janice Dobrinich, board member, for their "powerful ability" to connect with people and their attention to strategy, as major influences on HCA's success over the years.

"I felt very fortunate to arrive during a very exciting time," May said. "The board was nearly finished with building the William J. Riley Memorial Residence [WJR], and I was able to help open the home. I was impressed with the board's innovation and its commitment to serve patients and families with compassion and honor."

HCA board member Janice Dobrinich recalls the countless hours of dialogue among the leadership team, that went into the final decision because

numerous studies forecasted a revenue loss as a result of building the in-patient facility. However, she points to the board's "unmistakable commitment to community" and focus on hospice education.

"It was 1993, and I remember going through a difficult time as people were losing jobs at the steel mills and we were amidst an economic recession," said Dobrinich. "We would deliberate for 5 to 7 hours with lengthy conversations about whether it even made sense to build a hospice house. Respected board member the Rev. Robert Lowery was the ultimate influencer as he spoke to us in his calm and reassuring voice reminding us, 'If it's God's will, He will touch the hearts of our community and lead us.'"

Dobrinich said HCA is a nonprofit in the truest sense because "every fiber of our being is dedicated to cherishing life, from our patients and families to our volunteers and staff." Dobrinich echoed Semancik's sentiments on the hiring of May and notes the "professionalism and experience" that she brought to HCA.

May highlights the creation of the Transitions program, a free community-based support service program that assists individuals facing life-limiting illness, as one of the most impactful and innovative strategies provided to the community.

"Our Transitions program has been providing these support services since 2001, long before the current growth of palliative care programs," May said. "We've brought music and massage therapy for our hospice patients and have built a Healing Hearts bereavement program for children, teens and adults. I am proud that we keep evolving and expanding our programs to take care of people with great compassion, regardless of their ability to pay."





*Msgr. Joseph Semancik reminisces about his years and accomplishments as a founding board member at Hospice of the Calumet Area.*









**As a survivor, I raise money for those fighting for another day and feel blessed to ride alongside my supportive family.**

**-Melissa Rothchild, HCA supporter**

## Families impacted and inspired by HCA care continue to Support Cherishing Life

Hospice of the Calumet Area believes in the profound power of giving. For the past 40 years, our supporters have donated financially, physically and emotionally, impacting many lives.

HCA remains humbled and inspired by the community support for our Cherishing Life mission.

In December 2021, George and Cheryl McNamara surprised HCA with a \$35,000 donation in honor of family members previously in our care. George's employer, Body Armor, generously matched the family's gift through their charitable foundation, Nonna's Garden.

"We were touched by their compassion, and this is a small token of our appreciation," said McNamara. "The work that they do touches so many lives."

Hospice Hustle participant Melissa Rothchild strongly encouraged her oncologist to discharge her as she battled cancer in 2019 so she could participate in HCA's annual bike ride. She was discharged 36 hours before.

"As a survivor, I ride and raise money for those fighting for another day and feel blessed to ride alongside my supportive family," said Rothchild. "HCA is dear to our hearts, and I will continue to ride as long as I am able."

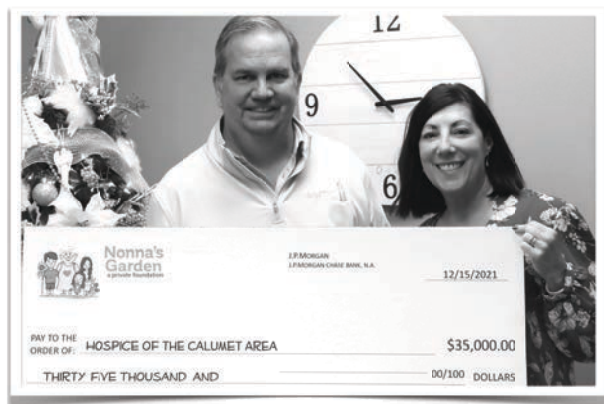
Serena Hewitt remembers when she and her late husband, Jim, would head over to Lan-Oaks Lanes with their family for their Good Friday bowling tradition.

When her husband found out he had a brain tumor 17 years ago, they turned to Hospice of the Calumet Area at the end of Jim's life.

"My husband was in hospice care for less than 48 hours, but their impact on our family was so very powerful," Serena said. "After my husband passed, our kids decided we have to continue to bowl but wanted to include our family and friends to honor Jim's legacy. We created the Jim Hewitt Good Friday Bowl to help raise funds for [HCA] and the American Brain Tumor Association."

Since 2004, the Hewitts have raised over \$160,000 for the nonprofit organizations in Jim's name.

"Serena is a game changer," said Damian Rico, HCA marketing and community relations director. "Her commitment to Jim and her family is inspiring. The way they celebrate his spirit is what cherishing life is all about. I feel honored to see their family and friends every year and their dedication to supporting our organization. It is truly humbling, and we are so very grateful."



*(Left) George and Cheryl McNamara present a generous check to HCA on behalf of Nonna's Garden, a private foundation. (Right) Melissa Rothchild and her family participate in the annual Hospice Hustle.*









**I wish everyone knew how wonderful hospice services are. We need to continue to educate people about the benefits and making the decision sooner.”**

**-Debbie Richards, HCA volunteer**

## **Cherishing Life mission inspires volunteers to educate others about hospice care**

Debbie Richards had an inspiring love for serving.

As an Air Force veteran, Richards was “grateful and proud” for the opportunity to volunteer at Hospice of the Calumet Area’s William J. Riley Memorial Residence. Richards said she found great fulfillment in spending time with patients and their families reminiscing about the “old days.”

Richards was introduced to WJR nearly a decade ago when her husband, Tom, spent his last days there after battling a devastating bout with pancreatic cancer.

“I am so grateful for the Riley Residence because I was taking my daughter back and forth to school, and things became overwhelming in a hurry,” said Richards. “Tom received beautiful care by the nurses, aides and volunteers, and I was so appreciative of the compassion our entire family received. I just knew I wanted to be part of the Hospice of the Calumet Area team.”

Richards began volunteering in 2014 and felt the opportunity had been such a “blessing.” She was compelled to help educate others about hospice services and the benefits for patients and their families.

“I wish everyone knew how wonderful hospice services are because there is still a huge misconception about it,” said Richards. “So many people think it is only for the last days, but nothing could be further from the truth. We need to continue to educate people, one family at a time, about the benefits and making the decision sooner.”

When her 96-year-old mother, Betty Whitford, began struggling with her own health issues, Debbie proudly informed her about the wonderful team at HCA.

Betty trusted Debbie’s sentiments and embraced hospice right away and spent her last days inspiring others with her fascinating stories and savvy one-liners. Whitford’s RN Tammy VanVleet quickly fell in love with Betty’s zeal and sparkling personality.

“Betty is a hoot,” said VanVleet. “She has me cracking up from the moment I walk into her home to the moment I leave. Building these types of relationships with people is good for the soul because although we are serving them, ultimately, they are feeding us.”

Betty did not shy away from attention and would tell her story to anyone and everyone who would listen.

“I do miss my golfing, especially when I look out and see the sun shining so beautifully,” said Whitford. “I started playing because my husband loved it so much, and I realized the only way I’m going to see him is on the course. And I was able to show those other girls that he was spoken for so they just better back off.”

Debbie loved spending her days with her mother and hearing stories about the “good ol’ days.” Her parents always watched what they ate, exercised and lived life to the fullest with little regret. She strongly feels that philosophy is the result of their long-lived happy lives.

*Debbie and her mother, Betty, spend some quality time with their favorite little fur baby.*







**We are so grateful because helping people who have nowhere to turn is so important.**  
-Sister Cyndy, Hospice East Rand

## HCA honored to lend a helping hand to sister Hospice in East Rand, South Africa

Sister Cyndy was far too excited to brief HCA Development Director Joan McInerney and Marketing and Community Relations Director Damian Rico on how they are using funds sent to support Global Partners in Care and Hospice East Rand, South Africa.

“We are so grateful because helping people who have nowhere to turn is so important,” said Sister Cyndy. “Every little bit helps us to reach more and more people and let them understand what hospice is and what we can do to help bring them quality of life in their last days, weeks or months.”

Hospice of the Calumet Area plans to stay connected with their sister hospice and share ideas and strategies regarding health and education. Via Zoom, the group was able to discuss the challenges of the pandemic and share their vision for the future.

Once a month for the the past few years, HCA partners are encouraged to wear jeans with a donation made to support the efforts in East Rand.

Global Partners in Care was formerly known as the Foundation for Hospices in Sub-Saharan Africa (FHSSA). The partnership was created in 1999 and highlighted the tremendous impact HIV/AIDS was having on patients and families in Africa. Many areas had no hospices at all, and the ones that did had very little resources. In 2004, FHSSA became a direct affiliate of the United States-based National Hospice and Palliative Care Organization (NHPCO).

“It’s really an honor to work with compassionate professionals all over the world that love hospice work,” said McInerney, HCA development director. “Providing compassionate care goes way beyond borders and the work they do in East Rand fuels our team to keep supporting them and their mission to serve.”

Global Partners in Care continues to encourage partners to share information and education through video, photos and even videoconferencing.

“It is wonderful to know that we have a common connection regarding palliative care with a partner like Hospice of the Calumet Area,” said Brenda Bisschoff, Hospice East Rand administration manager. “Even though we are so far apart physically, we feel so close, and it’s heartwarming.”

*(Left) HCA partners participate in Zoom teleconference call with Global Partners in Care team members and Hospice East Rand. (Right) A hospice conversation happens between a patient and a doctor in East Rand.*











Hospice  
of the  
Calumet  
Area

*Cherishing Life*

600 SUPERIOR AVE., MUNSTER, IN 46321  
219.922.2732/708.895.8332

Lake County Office, 600 Superior Ave., Munster, IN 46321  
Porter County Office, 1190 N. State Road 49, Porter, IN 46304  
Illinois Office, 3256 Ridge Road, Suite 207, Lansing, IL 60438

[www.HospiceCalumet.org](http://www.HospiceCalumet.org)

