

# Cherishing Life



Hospice  
of the  
Calumet  
Area

A publication celebrating the inspiring patients, families, staff, donors, volunteers, stories, events and initiatives of Hospice of the Calumet Area.

## The Power of a Giving Spirit

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

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

During our first Cherishing Life Drawing, over \$40,000 in tickets were sold and a grand prize of \$10,000 was awarded. Many of the cash prizes were either donated back partially or in their entirety.

“We are thankful to those that either bought a ticket, sold a ticket, or just helped us spread the word,” said Courtney Markovich, Friends of Hospice president. “It was a great way to commemorate and celebrate our 40 years of serving the community.”

Last month, 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 it’s a small token of our appreciation,” said McNamara. “The work that [HCA] does touches so many lives. We are grateful to support their efforts.”



George and Cheryl McNamara present a generous check to HCA on behalf of Nonna's Garden, a private foundation.

HCA has been blessed over the years to have experienced many forms of giving. One of those includes Purdue Northwest Alumni Chad Hunter. Hunter and his band of friends have been decorating our William J. Riley Memorial Residence for the past 24 years. Over the years, different groups, schools and organizations have assisted their group, and they remain a holiday blessing.

This season, the Indiana University Northwest men’s and women’s soccer teams joined the efforts.

“It’s touching to know that we are putting smiles on patient and family faces, especially because they may be struggling,” said Hunter. “Our volunteers are transformed beyond expectations because we help bring a semblance of normalcy. It’s about providing moments of peace for people.”



Indiana University Northwest Soccer Teams join the holiday decorating at William J. Riley Memorial Residence.

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



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# Message from CEO Adrienne May



Happy New Year!

While much has changed in our daily lives over the past year, Hospice of the Calumet Area's commitment to quality end-of-life care remains a constant. Last year, we celebrated an important milestone, 40 years of

providing quality hospice care.

This year, the Friends of Hospice, a remarkable group of area women and men, mark their 40th anniversary of raising funds and educational awareness for HCA. What started out as a small group of women sponsoring ice cream socials to raise money, has grown into a group of over 250 of our area's finest individuals who host some of the region's most successful events. They have raised over \$2 million to support our unique hospice care.

Hospice of the Calumet Area will also commemorate 25 years of caring for patients at our hospice house, the William J. Riley Memorial Residence (WJR). Over 5,000 individuals have received all, or a portion of their hospice care, at WJR. It has been described as

a home away from home, a haven for comfort, and grandma's big new house, by one precocious four-year old visiting his grandparent. WJR has hosted patient family weddings, wedding vow renewals and countless birthday celebrations. Due to the pandemic, HCA initiated new protocols and limited visitors for safety reasons; however, WJR has remained opened and cared for hospice patients throughout this challenging time. While many hospice facilities across the country have been forced to close their doors due to financial struggles, HCA remains committed to the special type of care we are able to provide our community at WJR. Stay connected with us to learn about our exciting plans for the future.

This has also been another exceptional year for our team, who continually amaze me with their commitment to those we are honored to serve. I am grateful for their professionalism, kindness and resiliency. That is why it is said hospice workers are not hired; they are called.

Last, but certainly not least, I want to include a heartfelt thank you to all of our supporters and friends. Together we are making a difference by Cherishing Life for all in our region.

## Connecting Through Education

Being empowered by hospice education may not make things easier, but it can make situations a bit more manageable.

Our team is committed to hospice education. We are proud to present our Patient/Caregiver's Guide, designed to provide guidance through the end-of-life journey.

A collection of frequently asked questions and important benefits of early hospice care are highlighted in the publication to provide patients and families with practical information. The publication can be found on our [HospiceCalumet.org](http://HospiceCalumet.org) homepage.



of Americans have not discussed end-of-life care.

## Community Corner

### Honoring those Who Served with Heart

James Nance served in the Army during the Vietnam Era, and today he serves Hospice of the Calumet Area's veteran patients as a "We Honor Veterans" volunteer.

Father of Kristi Nance-Hmurovich, HCA's longtime Counseling Coordinator, James makes a difference by sitting with veteran patients in life's last chapter, honoring them with a special certificate and pinning ceremony to thank them for their service. As an HCA volunteer, Nance also attends funerals of veterans who have passed.

"Having my father volunteer and impact patients and families revitalizes my spirit and pride for our country," said Kristi Nance-Hmurovich. "My parents were great role models whose core values have always been to help others through volunteering ever since I was a little girl."

This Father-Daughter duo support their community through the Schererville Lion's Club as well. Every year, this club sends care packages to veterans, typically ones stationed overseas. This year, they brought their focus back to our local community. Working with American Legion Post 485, Daughters of the American Revolution, and 4th graders from the Lake Central Schools, the Lions gathered personal care packages tailored to needs of local veterans, and an assortment of socks – all for the Adam Benjamin Jr. VA Clinic in Crown Point.



*From top, James Nance and his daughter Kristi Nance-Hmurovich. Kristi presents a certificate to John Pastrick.*

James and Kristi knew they could rely on HCA to help. HCA staff donated two carloads of personal hygiene items and socks to support this important initiative.

James and Kristi are part of three generations of Lions Club members. The organization's motto – "We serve" rings true for the Nance family as well.

"Throughout the years, my wife and I would always do our best to support the community where we lived," said James Nance.



### A Class Act: A Partnership for the Hospice Artisans

Bee Quilting and Such has been a fantastic partner to the Hospice Artisans. This local Munster store, caters to modern sewists in Northwest Indiana and Chicagoland is owned by Martha Lowry and Meghann LaBadie, a mother-daughter duo.

"Prior to opening Bee Quilting, we ran a law office and routinely saw HCA in action," said Martha Lowry. "They make a difference to so many and we hope our contributions help them."

Year round, Bee Quilting sells Hospice Artisans items, including charm squares and cards, and donates 100% of the sales back to Hospice of the Calumet Area.

Late in the fall of 2021, Bee Quilting generously donated the fee from their "Christmas Wreath" sewing classes to HCA. Kathleen Kelly, one of the class participants, even donated her wreath for the Hospice Artisans to sell. HCA is continually humbled by the support we receive from local businesses like Bee Quilting and Such.



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

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## Stay Connected

### A Very Heartfelt and Special Thank You

Hospice of the Calumet Area supporters are the most generous and during this Season of Giving you gave in such a big way. To celebrate HCA's 40 years of service to the community, Friends of Hospice had their first ever Cherishing Life Drawing. It was a wonderful success, and all the winners were delighted. Most people already know it's better to give than receive, however, you all proved it by making our 2021 Annual Holiday Appeal a tremendous success. We are grateful for your ongoing kindness and inspiring support.



### Hospice Artisans- Give the Gift That Gives Twice

Lots of giving occasions are coming up and our Hospice Artisans have a wide variety of quality artisan crafted merchandise for your gifting needs. Many items are one-of-a-kind and all are made with care. Not sure what your recipient would like? We can help as gift cards are available for your convenience. We are also offering free shipping on all purchases over \$65. We are confident you will find the perfect gift at [HospiceArtisans.org](http://HospiceArtisans.org)

**Valentines Day - February 14**

**Passover - April 15-23**

**Easter Sunday - April 17**

**Administrative Professionals Day - April 27**

**Mother's Day - May 8**



[hospiceartisans](http://hospiceartisans.org)