

Cherishing Life



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

Forty Years of Cherishing Lives

Monsignor Joseph Semancik can't believe it's been 40 years since Hospice of the Calumet Area cared for its first patient. HCA opened its doors in Oct. of 1981 with the mission of compassionately caring for end-of-life patients and families in Northwest Indiana.

Semancik, of Whiting, remembers gathering donors and community support in 1979, at the request of Gary Diocese Bishop Andrew Grutka.

"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, who now serves as an emeritus board member, credits the hiring of Executive Director and now CEO Adrienne May, and inviting community leader Janice Dobrinich to the board. He touts the two for their "powerful ability" to connect with people and their attention to strategy as a major influence 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 their commitment to serve patients and families with compassion and honor."

Board member Janice Dobrinich recalls the countless dialogue that went into the decision to open WJR because numerous studies forecasted a revenue loss as a result of building the inpatient facility. However, she points to the board's "unmistakable commitment to community" and focus on hospice education.



Monsignor Joseph Semancik with Hospice of the Calumet Area RN J.D. Dzurovcik and friend Cinda Fife.

Dobrinich says "HCA is a non-profit in the truest sense," and highlights the Transitions Program created two decades ago, to help patients and families through challenging times and offer them free resources along their journey.

"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 resources to take care of people with great compassion, regardless of their ability to pay."

HCA continues that mission created four decades ago and has been consistently recognized nationally with Hospice Honors and Hospice Honors Elite for excellence in care.



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Message from CEO Adrienne May



Hospice of the Calumet Area (HCA) is honored to have served the Calumet Region for the past 40 years. Since we could not gather in person, HCA hosted a unique 40th Anniversary celebration virtually.

From the sponsors; to the Partners, Board members, volunteers and supporters who shared their story on camera; to the 200 individuals who shared a celebratory dinner with us; it was a night to remember. I'd like to give a special shout out to Chef Gabe and the amazing Hartsfield Village crew who prepared 200+ gourmet to-go meals. Guests are still raving about it! If you missed the celebration, you can still view the video by visiting our website www.HospiceCalumet.org and clicking on News/Virtual Celebration.

In addition to providing our unique brand of Cherishing Life hospice care for the past 40 years, this year also marks 20 years of providing

free support for those not yet hospice ready through our Transitions program. HCA has a history of innovation and compassionate care, which are hallmarks of what we provide our community. When our Board of Directors contemplated building an in-patient hospice house, the consultants did not recommend it. To their credit, our Directors put people and the needs of those at the end-of-life first and built the six, now eight suite, William J. Riley Memorial Residence 24 years ago. It continues to provide a home for those needing a level of care that they cannot achieve in their own home.

None of this would be possible without the support of the remarkable people of this region who lend their support in so many ways. And of course, it would not be possible without the dedication and commitment of the extraordinary staff and volunteers HCA has been blessed to work with over these past 40 years, and especially now in these unprecedented times.

Thank you for continuing to support end-of-life care and making it part of the fabric of this community. Here's to another 40 years of Cherishing Life.



Bill Hasse Recognized by Boy Scouts of America

For 31 years, the Boy Scouts of America, has recognized a top community leader through their Annual Distinguished Citizens Dinner. This year, HCA Board Member William "Bill" A. Hasse III, President of Hasse Construction Company, Inc., a General Contractor / Design - Build Firm located in Calumet City, IL and Munster, IN, will be honored.

"Bill has always been a tremendous supporter and we are grateful for his continued leadership," said Adrienne May, CEO. "As the co-founder of our

Hospice Hustle bicycle event, he has helped to raise an inspiring amount of money for us while helping to educate our community along the way. Bill is a very humble leader but this recognition is a testament to his selfless hard work and dedication."



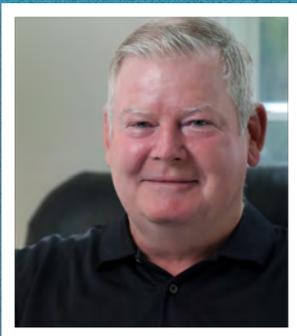
Community Corner

Hospice Hustle Rides Into 17th Year of Success

More than 200 cyclists spent Sunday, Sept. 12 riding south Lake County courses with HCA and our event co-chairs Bill Hasse and Gus Galante. Although the cyclists, volunteers and friends who joined us were wearing masks during the early morning check in, this very special Hospice Hustle made everyone's smile shine in their eyes.

Hospice of the Calumet Area raised more than \$57,000 from the outstanding turnout of cyclists and 84 sponsors. Top-level sponsors included Community Healthcare Systems, First Merchants Bank, Largus Graphix Solutions, Peoples Bank, Times Media, Trek Bicycle Store Schererville, Vyto's Pharmacy, Hasse Construction, Drs. Gus and Rebecca Galante, BMW Constructors, Braman Insurance Company, Falk PLI, Horizon Bank, McMahon & Associates CPAs P.C., Dr. Russ and Mrs. Ann Pellar, Reith-Riley Construction and Strack & Van Til.

Their contributions, along with many others, made the event a memorable success.



Cherishing 40 years of History

Four decades of providing compassionate end-of-life care to individuals and families in our community is a proud milestone for Hospice of the Calumet Area. On June 3, HCA and the Friends of Hospice hosted a virtual anniversary celebration including personal stories from individuals who hold HCA fondly in their hearts, a special musical performance from Rock and Roll Hall of Famer Felix Cavaliere of the Rascals, a cooking demonstration by former "Care to Share" Chef Arthur Stark and a special guest appearance by comedian Jim Gaffigan.

In addition to being a fun evening that brought us all together as we looked back at our rich history, the event successfully raised funds that will support individuals and families in our organization's care as we move forward. We are grateful to all who sponsored this virtual celebration, including Community Healthcare Systems, Hartsfield Village, the Catherine Riley Boege Donor Advised Fund with the Legacy Foundation, Adrienne and Christopher May, The Times of NWI, Peoples Bank, Joanne and Jim Markiewicz, Gene Diamond and MSI Express. Your confidence in Hospice of the Calumet Area's mission to Cherish Life inspires us every day.



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2019, 2020

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Stay connected...

★ What would you do with \$10,000?

Friends of Hospice is honored to announce Hospice of the Calumet Area's newest fundraising initiative, our Cherishing Life Drawing. In our 40th year of serving all of Lake, Porter, parts of LaPorte County and surrounding Illinois communities, we are launching an exciting initiative that will help us continue to educate our community and support the inspiring work we do for patients and families. These \$100 tickets will help us continue our mission to serve with compassion and dignity, and allow us to have some fun along the way.

Tickets can be purchased through debit cards over the phone or by calling the Drawing Hotline at 219.301.2775. Contact our Drawing Hotline or email Sarah Hankins at shankins@hospicecalumet.org with any questions.



Hospice Artisans Online Gift Shop

Feel good about your shopping! Visit the Hospice Artisans' online store and find an array of quality artisan crafted merchandise, including unique seasonal items. All proceeds benefit hospice patients and their families. Our Artisans are here for your gift-giving needs all year-round at www.hospiceartisans.org.

HCA's Celebration of Life

Join us online as we celebrate lives well-lived during an uplifting virtual service at 6 p.m. on Tuesday, Nov. 16. This special ceremony offers the opportunity for participants to reflect on loved ones and all the important ways they touched our hearts. The service will accessible on our homepage at www.hospicecalumet.org.

