

## LIGHT UP A LIFE

We invite you to celebrate the life of a friend or family member with a donation to our annual Light Up a Life campaign. The needs of each patient and family are as unique as they are.

There are a variety of services Hospice of Northwest Ohio provides to patients that are not covered by Medicare or insurance reimbursement. Your gift – be it big or small – will help us fund:

- One massage, music or art therapy session for a patient \$70
- One day of hospice care for a patient without insurance \$145
- Six months of bereavement counseling for one family \$600
- One year of Positive Memories for patients and their families \$5,000

If you have already made a year-end gift to Hospice of Northwest Ohio, **THANK YOU!** If not, you may do so by visiting [www.hospicenwo.org](http://www.hospicenwo.org) and clicking **DONATE NOW** on the home page.

For more information, contact Director of Development Ken Frisch at 419-931-5186 or [kfrisch@hospicenwo.org](mailto:kfrisch@hospicenwo.org). ■

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# Passages

## Teens Make a Difference!

"I value life a lot more now than I did before," shares Tiffany Gibson. A junior at PENTA Career Center, Tiffany is among 75 teens from 20 area high schools who volunteer for Hospice of Northwest Ohio.

"It makes me happy to know that I can be there for people who might not have anyone. I was nervous about it at first, but now I tell my friends that they should volunteer, too," she shares.

### Time and Talents Are a Gift

In addition to accompanying Sam, the Hospice therapy dog, on his visits to area nursing homes, teen volunteers routinely visit with patients at Hospice of Northwest Ohio's inpatient centers, entertain visiting children, lend a hand to staff by passing water and clean linens to patient rooms, and help with special events.

Other notable things the teen volunteers have done this year to make a difference include painting a mural on the flower room wall at the Toledo Hospice Center, greeting families at the annual memo-



Along with Courtney Hyndman, a junior at the Toledo School for the Arts (not pictured), Tiffany Gibson (left) and fellow PENTA junior Laila Jamaledin (middle) recently took Hospice therapy dog Sam to visit 76-year-old Joann Muir at Parkcliffe Community at Northwood. Joann suffers from Parkinson's disease. While her speech is impaired by her disease, Joann was able to tell the girls that she very much enjoyed visiting with them and Sam.

rial service, creating rubbings of walkway bricks to give to families, decorating cookies to put in the family rooms at both Centers over the holidays, celebrating birthdays by singing to patients, carving pumpkins, keeping the hummingbird feeders filled at the Toledo Center and even cleaning off car windows for visitors and shoveling sidewalks following a snow storm.

### Giving Back

It is not only the kids who are part of the formal teen volunteer

program who have helped to make a difference for Hospice. Last summer two young men who each lost a parent under our care held a concert and donated all the proceeds to Hospice.

Clay High School student, Cody Corado, was only seven years old when his mom passed away from cancer. To mark the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of her death, he and fellow band mates from the group *Breaking Silence* – Taylor Miller and Mike Weidman – performed a

show at Burns's Green Iguana in Northwood.

Cody explained, "My mom was very musical...she was also in the Clay High School band. I thought putting on a show would be a great way to celebrate her life."

When musician Jake Beckman learned of the plans for the concert, he knew he wanted to be a part of it, also. Jake, from *Secrets of Your Smile*, lost his father in 2007, also from cancer.

*Continued inside*

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# Colonel David Sutherland: On the Front Lines for Vets and Wounded Warriors



Executive Director Judy Seibenick and Colonel David Sutherland following the Colonel's speech at Monroe County Community College.

**“W**e are successful today because of the veterans who came before us and established our military standards. They weren't just the 'greatest generation,'" proclaims Colonel David Sutherland, "they were the greatest 'culture.'"

A Toledo native who is now Special Assistant for Warrior and Family Support to the Joint Chiefs of Staff, Sutherland was the featured speaker

at a veterans' event co-sponsored by Hospice of Northwest Ohio in Monroe, MI. Bringing awareness to the special needs of returning veterans and wounded warriors, his speech was the culmination of an educational event that enlightened area professionals about the issues that affect some veterans until the day they die.

## It Takes a Village

"There is an epidemic of disconnection between civilians and the military," says Sutherland, who illustrated his point by sharing that 18 veterans take their own lives every day. "When our veterans return from serving our country, we need to make sure we are ready to serve them.

"So many vets express that they have trouble fitting in when they return," explains Sutherland. "We may look the same,' they say, 'but we feel and act differently.' They have difficulty with their relationships, pursuing education or maintaining a job. Sometimes they turn to drugs or alcohol.

"The number one remedy for post traumatic stress disorder (PTSD)," he says, "is a sense of connection and belonging. Returning soldiers need to know they are supported and appreciated by their communities. And of course, they need access to education, meaningful employment and health care."

## Supporting Vets on Hospice

While PTSD and post-traumatic brain injury are prevalent among warriors returning from recent wars, those serving in prior conflicts have a wide range of other problems, depending upon the type and location of their service.

Says Diana Hacker, RN, co-chairman of Hospice of Northwest Ohio's *We Honor Vets* initiative, "It is very disconcerting to see how many veterans are still daunted by their war experience late in life. With veterans now comprising 25% of all U.S. deaths, it is extremely important that we understand their service history and honor them for their sacrifice. We review the military histories of all patients coming onto our program so we can identify any issues that may be causing them distress at the end of life."

For some patients, medical or psycho-social interventions are required. For others, just the opportunity to talk about their experiences is therapeutic. "Often," says Hacker, "we have Hospice volunteers who themselves are veterans conduct a private pinning ceremony for our veteran patients, which honors them for their service. These are extremely meaningful and allow families...and us...to thank them one last time for their sacrifices." ■

# Teens

## Continued from cover

The August 28 performance by both groups raised \$670 for Hospice of Northwest Ohio.

## A "Cool" Gift

A group of inspired students from Crissey Elementary School recently presented a gift to the patients, families, visitors and staff at Hospice of Northwest Ohio.

Following the death of their beloved teacher, Allison Badgley – who was cared for at the Perrysburg Hospice Center – the students held several fundraisers in her memory including selling key chains that they designed and having an art auction.



From left Michael Weidman, Cody Corado, Taylor Miller and Jake Beckman visit Hospice to present the proceeds from their show.

Knowing that cancer patients often find frozen beverages to be soothing, the students collaborated with ICEE Corporation/RandomKids

to place an ICEE machine in the Perrysburg Hospice Center. Proceeds from their fundraisers will be used to provide syrup, cups and straws.

Any high school student who is interested in Hospice of Northwest Ohio's Teen Volunteer Program should call 419-661-4001 and ask to speak to one of the teen volunteer coordinators. Orientation classes are held several times a year.

## Life-Long Lessons Learned

"It is so wonderful to see all the ways young people are giving back to this organization," says Judy Seibenick, Executive Director. "They develop a positive, informed perspective on the possibilities at the end of life which will serve them well the rest of *their* lives." ■

# Recognized for Excellence!

**T**his fall Hospice of Northwest Ohio was awarded the first ever **Northwest Ohio Nonprofit Innovation and Excellence Award.**

We are both humbled and proud to have been selected for this honor during our 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary year. Chosen because of our quality services, community impact and strong financial management, this award recognizes our commitment to being the "community's hospice."

Because of the support we receive from the community, we are able to provide a level of services that is unsurpassed in the area. And, we are able to care for everyone who seeks our help, regardless of the complexity of their care or their ability to pay.

*Thank you for helping us become the "excellent" agency we are today.*



PRESENTED BY THE BLADE and TOLEDO COMMUNITY FOUNDATION in partnership with The Center for Nonprofit Resources



# Technology Update

In November we installed a new phone system throughout Hospice of Northwest Ohio. This necessary upgrade to our communication system has changed all staff direct-dial phone numbers. If you are having trouble reaching someone, please dial our main phone number and ask to be transferred. Thank you for your patience as we work to improve our systems!

**Main numbers**  
419-661-4001 (Ohio)  
734-568-6801 (Michigan)

## Thrift Store

Hospice of Northwest Ohio is no longer partnering with Neighborhood Thrift Stores. The response to our announcement earlier this year about our relationship with the stores was overwhelming! Unfortunately, we have decided to discontinue the association. Thank you to everyone who bought or donated items over the past several months. ■