From the President of the Board

Our Mission
Hospice of Northwest Ohio provides specialized medical, emotional and spiritual care to people of all ages – living with any end-stage illness – in Northwest Ohio and Southeast Michigan. Equally important, we also provide support and education to their families and caregivers.

Our Vision
To provide care and education that positively transform the way people view and experience serious illness and the end of life.

Hospice of Northwest Ohio
Judy Seibenick, RN, MOL
Executive Director

MAINTAINING A CULTURE OF CARING
All of this illustrates the culture of caring that is the essence of Hospice of Northwest Ohio. I am still moved by the memory of the nurse who stayed long after her shift was over to support me at the hour of my father’s death. I have been touched many more times when hearing the stories of other patients and families who received a level of TLC from Hospice not often experienced in health care.

Hospice of Northwest Ohio has certainly left a lasting impression on my family. If it has on yours, please join me in supporting our mission through your own charitable giving.

Sincerely,

David Schlaudecker • President, Board of Trustees

In 2017, almost 2,400 patients made the decision to improve their end-of-life experience by turning to Hospice of Northwest Ohio. As the community’s first hospice, we remain a non-profit agency that cares for patients of all ages, with any late-stage illness, wherever they live. Thanks to the generous support of our donors, we turn no one away due to inability to pay or the complexity of their care needs.

Making The Right Decision
Feeling stronger, Jun was able to enjoy a reunion with family who came all the way from China to visit her. She had not seen them in several years and, during their two-week stay, they were able to share stories, laugh and just appreciate being together.

“My family is extremely grateful to everyone at Hospice of Northwest Ohio who has helped us,” said Jun. “We definitely made the right decision.”

Initially under the care of our Sincera™ palliative care program, Jun was able to find some relief from the side effects of chemotherapy. But when the symptoms become too difficult to be managed at home, Jun and her family took the advice of her doctors and the Sincera team and chose to seek care at our Hospice Center.

“My husband was afraid of hospice,” she said. “He was concerned that stopping all treatment would mean that I would get weak and decline very fast. However, after just a few days at the Center, my pain, nausea and vomiting were much better controlled and I regained my strength. He changed his mind!”

Jun-Ying Zhang had made many difficult decisions during her life, including moving her family from their home country of China so she could pursue her career as an engineer. Recently, at just 57-years-old, Jun made another important decision. When faced with the reality that the treatment for her bile duct cancer was doing more harm than good, she chose hospice care and quality of life in lieu of additional treatments.

Finding Reassurance
Initially under the care of our Sincera™ palliative care program, Jun was able to find some relief from the side effects of chemotherapy. But when the symptoms became too difficult to be managed at home, Jun and her family took the advice of her doctors and the Sincera team and chose to seek care at our Hospice Center.

“Initially under the care of our Sincera™ palliative care program, Jun was able to find some relief from the side effects of chemotherapy. But when the symptoms became too difficult to be managed at home, Jun and her family took the advice of her doctors and the Sincera team and chose to seek care at our Hospice Center.”

While at Hospice, Jun-Ying Zhang felt strong enough to enjoy time with her extended family from China as well as her husband, Qi (left); sons, Lei and Jun; daughter-in-law, Connie. Their family photo album was huge!

Our Mission
Hospice of Northwest Ohio provides specialized medical, emotional and spiritual care to people of all ages – living with any end-stage illness – in Northwest Ohio and Southeast Michigan. Equally important, we also provide support and education to their families and caregivers.

Making the Choice for Quality of Life

Unanswerable Care

When my mother passed away under the care of Hospice of Northwest Ohio, I was deeply touched by the compassion shown to her and my family. While I knew we were blessed with a deeply meaningful experience, I admit that I had no idea how much care had been so successfully delivered.

Investing in Expertise
There are more than 4,400 hospices in the nation and at least 10, locally. As the community’s first and largest, Hospice of Northwest Ohio is an independent, non-profit agency. That means we invest in the expertise and resources necessary to best serve this community.

We have more staff certified in hospice and palliative care than any area hospice and unlike many, who simply have a part-time medical director, we have six physicians on staff whose careers are devoted to end-of-life care. This gives us the expertise and capacity to manage the most difficult, complex cases that many hospices can’t… or won’t.

Finding Reassurance

Jun-Ying Zhang had made many difficult decisions during her life, including moving her family from their home country of China so she could pursue her career as an engineer. Recently, at just 57-years-old, Jun made another important decision. When faced with the reality that the treatment for her bile duct cancer was doing more harm than good, she chose hospice care and quality of life in lieu of additional treatments.
Judy Seibenick Honored

Twice last year Executive Director Judy Seibenick was recognized for her positive contributions to the community.

The Girl Scouts of Western Ohio named Judy as one of their “Women of Distinction” for 2017. She was recognized as a role model for girls and for leading the way for future girls leaders in the areas of Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Math.

In addition, Judy was the recipient of the 2017 Alumna of the Year Award from Lourdes University, which honors graduates who demonstrate Lourdes’ values of learning, reverence and service to the community.

Judy ensures that our progress reflects our original mission while also funding the underserved, palliative care, bereavement services, education and outreach. In addition, they support many extra patient services and the Hospice Centers’ amenities that ensure the best end-of-life experience possible.

Veterans Deserve a Special Kind of TLC

In 2017, we were recognized for attaining the highest level of achievement through the National Hospice and Palliative Care Organization’s We Honor Veterans program. Developed in partnership with the Department of Veterans Affairs, this national initiative has helped hospices enhance care to veterans by encouraging greater understanding of their service histories and the physical conditions and psychological scars that plague many of them at the end of life.

Through the program, Hospice of Northwest Ohio volunteers recognize veteran patients with special pinning ceremonies. These are poignant and memorable tributes that are deeply appreciated by patients and cherished by their families, especially when the occasion prompts the telling of “war stories’ that have never been shared before.

Education Integral to Our Mission

Exhilarating future physicians about palliative care and hospice is a priority for our agency and our donors. Last year, 328 medical students and residents rotated through our training program and, in addition, we provided continuing education for almost 1,000 practicing nurses and social workers. We also continued to play a key role in training the city’s only Palliative Care Fellowship, based at Mercy Health – St. Vincent Medical Center.

The annual Dr. Sharon Eret Lecture, an endowed educational event held last year for the 12th time, featured Deborah Grassman, a nationally known expert on soul injury. In addition, our annual educational event for long-term care administrators discussed sexuality among the elderly and featured BSUI Professor Emeritus, Nancy Orel, Ph.D.

Outreach to community caregivers continued, with 50 people benefitting from small-group education and more than 1,300 others—through churches, employers and schools—attending larger presentations that emphasized how to reduce stress, focus on the positive and improve their quality of life.

Saying Goodbye to a Loyal Friend

Last May, Sincera Supportive Care and Symptom Relief, for patients not on hospice, became the first community-based palliative care program in Ohio to be awarded The Jane Commissioner’s Gold Seal of Approval.14 Improving quality of life for seriously ill patients, palliative care manages pain and other debilitating symptoms whether patients expect a full recovery or continue to decline. It also assures that important conversations are held to determine patients’ goals of care and how they can best be achieved.

While insurance provides coverage for Sincera’s services, the costs for the program exceed the reimbursement we receive. It is only through the support of donors that we are able to provide this much-needed service to the community.

Volunteers Put the Heart in Hospice

Whether providing a break for weary caregivers, helping with personal care in the Hospice Centers, brightening the days of nursing home patients or making phone calls to someone who is grieving, Hospice volunteers are a loving presence in all parts of our agency.

Two-hundred individuals donated their time and talent last year. Their efforts in support of patient care were valued at more than $200,000. Additionally, volunteers worked in our gardens, sewed comfort pillows and lap quilts, sang in our Threshold Choir, provided office support, walked therapy dog June and represented us at educational events in the community.

Our 40 teen volunteers also brought smiles to many faces by creating cards, decorating for various holidays, listening to and learning from patients’ stories, performing music and helping out wherever youthful energy was needed.

You Can Help, Too!

Adults or teens who are interested in becoming a Hospice volunteer can learn more at hospicenwo.org or by calling 419.931.5534.

Healing Begins at Hospice

Hospice of Northwest Ohio’s bereavement services continue to be the most comprehensive in this area and are provided free of charge to anyone in the community. In 2017, 40% of those who turned to us for support following the death of a loved one had no previous experience with Hospice of Northwest Ohio.

Our credentialed bereavement counselors—supported by specially trained volunteers—assisted more than 1,500 people last year through one-on-one counseling, support groups and phone calls made to grieving caregivers. They also helped 200 of our Hospice families become better prepared for their loved one’s passing through anticipatory grief counseling.

Sincera® First in Ohio to Earn Certification

Two-hundred individuals donated their time and talent last year. Their efforts in support of patient care were valued at more than $200,000. Additionally, volunteers worked in our gardens, sewed comfort pillows and lap quilts, sang in our Threshold Choir, provided office support, walked therapy dog June and represented us at educational events in the community.

Our 40 teen volunteers also brought smiles to many faces by creating cards, decorating for various holidays, listening to and learning from patients’ stories, performing music and helping out wherever youthful energy was needed.

You Can Help, Too!

Adults or teens who are interested in becoming a Hospice volunteer can learn more at hospicenwo.org or by calling 419.931.5534.

Healing Begins at Hospice

Hospice of Northwest Ohio’s bereavement services continue to be the most comprehensive in this area and are provided free of charge to anyone in the community. In 2017, 40% of those who turned to us for support following the death of a loved one had no previous experience with Hospice of Northwest Ohio.

Our credentialed bereavement counselors—supported by specially trained volunteers—assisted more than 1,500 people last year through one-on-one counseling, support groups and phone calls made to grieving caregivers. They also helped 200 of our Hospice families become better prepared for their loved one’s passing through anticipatory grief counseling.

Sincera® First in Ohio to Earn Certification

Two-hundred individuals donated their time and talent last year. Their efforts in support of patient care were valued at more than $200,000. Additionally, volunteers worked in our gardens, sewed comfort pillows and lap quilts, sang in our Threshold Choir, provided office support, walked therapy dog June and represented us at educational events in the community.

Our 40 teen volunteers also brought smiles to many faces by creating cards, decorating for various holidays, listening to and learning from patients’ stories, performing music and helping out wherever youthful energy was needed.

You Can Help, Too!

Adults or teens who are interested in becoming a Hospice volunteer can learn more at hospicenwo.org or by calling 419.931.5534.

Healing Begins at Hospice

Hospice of Northwest Ohio’s bereavement services continue to be the most comprehensive in this area and are provided free of charge to anyone in the community. In 2017, 40% of those who turned to us for support following the death of a loved one had no previous experience with Hospice of Northwest Ohio.

Our credentialed bereavement counselors—supported by specially trained volunteers—assisted more than 1,500 people last year through one-on-one counseling, support groups and phone calls made to grieving caregivers. They also helped 200 of our Hospice families become better prepared for their loved one’s passing through anticipatory grief counseling.

Sincera® First in Ohio to Earn Certification

Two-hundred individuals donated their time and talent last year. Their efforts in support of patient care were valued at more than $200,000. Additionally, volunteers worked in our gardens, sewed comfort pillows and lap quilts, sang in our Threshold Choir, provided office support, walked therapy dog June and represented us at educational events in the community.

Our 40 teen volunteers also brought smiles to many faces by creating cards, decorating for various holidays, listening to and learning from patients’ stories, performing music and helping out wherever youthful energy was needed.

You Can Help, Too!

Adults or teens who are interested in becoming a Hospice volunteer can learn more at hospicenwo.org or by calling 419.931.5534.

Healing Begins at Hospice

Hospice of Northwest Ohio’s bereavement services continue to be the most comprehensive in this area and are provided free of charge to anyone in the community. In 2017, 40% of those who turned to us for support following the death of a loved one had no previous experience with Hospice of Northwest Ohio.

Our credentialed bereavement counselors—supported by specially trained volunteers—assisted more than 1,500 people last year through one-on-one counseling, support groups and phone calls made to grieving caregivers. They also helped 200 of our Hospice families become better prepared for their loved one’s passing through anticipatory grief counseling.

Sincera® First in Ohio to Earn Certification

Two-hundred individuals donated their time and talent last year. Their efforts in support of patient care were valued at more than $200,000. Additionally, volunteers worked in our gardens, sewed comfort pillows and lap quilts, sang in our Threshold Choir, provided office support, walked therapy dog June and represented us at educational events in the community.

Our 40 teen volunteers also brought smiles to many faces by creating cards, decorating for various holidays, listening to and learning from patients’ stories, performing music and helping out wherever youthful energy was needed.

You Can Help, Too!

Adults or teens who are interested in becoming a Hospice volunteer can learn more at hospicenwo.org or by calling 419.931.5534.