



EverHeart

HOSPICE

Community Benefit Report

2022

Honoring life with trusted care



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COMMUNITY FOCUSED



From Our Board President: Nick Anderson

Some eight years ago, I conversed with a childhood friend I met on the playgrounds of St. Mary's Catholic School in Greenville. Coincidentally, he was a member of the Board when we were formerly known as State of the Heart. He spoke with enthusiasm, drive, and dedication about most everything, including our organization, EverHeart. Through our interaction, we rambled about a multitude of things. The next thing I knew, I was introducing myself at a board meeting in Portland, Indiana, where I was unknowingly congratulated on becoming a member of the Board, which turned out to be a lovely bamboozling!

Sitting in that first meeting, I never foresaw that being President of the Board would be an eventual destination. I've heard and viewed many things in those eight years: good, bad, ugly, tear-jerking, heart-warming, mind-numbing/provoking, etc. It has been an affirmed honor to sit in a room with anyone involved within this organization. Many things were learned from volunteers, caregivers, management, former and board members, families we have served, and especially clients.

"It has been an affirmed honor to sit in a room with anyone involved within this organization."

-Nick Anderson, Board President

When I wrote a similar blurb for this article last year, I spoke of the word CHANGE. The previous few years were not a bit easy, and CHANGE was the new norm that had to be embraced. In reviewing this past year within EverHeart, the word that comes to mind is PASSION. There is zero possibility of finding anyone whose PASSION is not evident and

demonstrated consistently within our organization! PASSION is the driving force of the success that the team embodies and pridefully displays daily. It is no coincidence that within

our mission statement, PASSION is intertwined... "To serve our communities by providing compASSIONate Hospice and Palliative Care to patients and families experiencing a life-limiting illness." PASSION is contagious. Service to others with PASSION is a lasting impact that will forever be with me.

I appreciate the opportunity to serve the EverHeart family and everyone associated with it!

With gratitude,

Nick Anderson



From Our Chief Executive Officer: Kristi Strawser

When reflecting on the past year, a word cloud we completed as an organization came to mind. We asked our team to use one word to describe EverHeart Hospice. These words formed into a word cloud. The more the word is used, the larger the word becomes.

The words chosen by our team are also words I would use to reflect on the past year.

The word Compassionate is often used not only by our team but also often used by the public to describe our team and the care provided. While meeting with each new group of orientees that enter our organization, I share that we can teach them many things, but compassion is not one of those.

Compassion is a core value of our organization, and we recruit employees that possess compassion. Compassion is holding the hand of those we serve as they take their final breaths and supporting the

loved ones of the individual as they reflect with tears and memories of their life together.

Living is another word on our word cloud. People often associate end of life with hospice; however, hospice is really about living. It is about allowing those we serve to spend the remainder of their life with comfort and making each day what they want it to be. We do our best work having time to connect and support our patients and families and add value to their days. **We honor life with trusted care.**

Family is a word our team chose to describe EverHeart Hospice. We are united to serve one mission. It is why we all show up for even the most challenging days. Our staff is dedicated to our mission, and our mission is our purpose. I am proud to show up every day with these individuals and serve this important mission.

-Kristi Strawser, CEO

Board of Directors



NICK ANDERSON
PRESIDENT



LAUREN HENRY
VICE PRESIDENT



JIM STAMCOFF
SECOND VICE PRESIDENT



TRACY HAINES
TREASURER



SARAH ROYER
SECRETARY



JORDAN FRANCIS
BOARD MEMBER



PAUL FADDIS
BOARD MEMBER



TWYLA HAYES
BOARD MEMBER



DEB HEMMELGARN
BOARD MEMBER



CINDY LIETTE
BOARD MEMBER



MIKE SCHLAMB
BOARD MEMBER

Farewell

Thank you for your service!

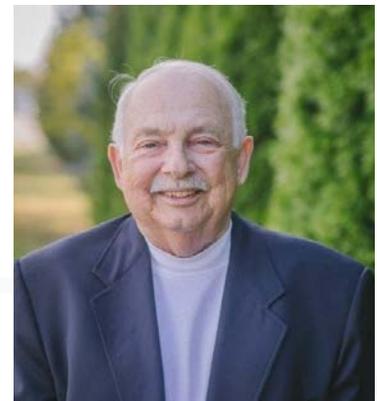
The entire team at EverHeart Hospice would like to give their best wishes to Jim Stamcoff, Sarah Royer, and Twyla Hayes as their time on the Board of Directors is coming to a close.

Jim Stamcoff joined EverHeart's Board of Directors in 2005, serving a total of 15 years in multiple roles, including President. When asked about his time on the Board, Jim shared, "It has been a privilege and a pleasure to be a member of the EverHeart Board. Many good things have transpired during my time as a Board member."

Sarah Royer served as Secretary and has been a Board member since 2016. Joining the Board was an easy decision for Sarah, who shared, "I believe EverHeart Hospice is a terrific organization and is much needed in our community. There are unbelievable people on their team who have enormous hearts and a strong love for the people they care for."

Twyla Hayes has been a member of the Board since 2019, excited at the opportunity to share her marketing background and knowledge with the agency. When starting her term with EverHeart, Twyla shared, "I consider it an honor to be asked to be involved with a caring, worthwhile organization where I can be available to use my marketing experience if needed."

We want to thank Jim, Sarah, and Twyla for their time and commitment to our organization over the years and wish them well in each of their next chapters!



Senior Leadership

Our team of leaders truly sees the importance in our mission and helps guide the way for our entire care team to ensure we provide an individualized and exceptional end-of-life experience for all patients and families we serve.



FROM LEFT:
KRISTI STRAWSER,
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER
JEREMY BAILEY,
CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER



FROM LEFT:
BARBARA BELL
CHIEF BUSINESS
DEVELOPMENT OFFICER
ASHLEY BOLIN
CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER



FROM LEFT:
STEPHANIE CRUM
CHIEF CLINICAL OFFICER
ANGIE DIDIER
CHIEF QUALITY OFFICER



Mission

Our Mission

To serve our communities by providing compassionate Hospice and Palliative Care to patients and families experiencing a life-limiting illness.

Our Vision

EverHeart Hospice will be the prominent hospice for an exceptional and individualized end of life experience.

Our Values

Patient and Family-Centered
Compassion
Excellence
Integrity
Community-Focused

Year in Review

86

Veteran patients recognized through our We Honor Veterans program

112

total employees

932

hours served by EverHeart Hospice volunteers

130

people attended our luminaria drive thru

838

total patients served

193

patients were cared for in our Hospice Care Center

91

Palliative Care patients served

34

teams & 42 sponsors supported our 27th Annual Memorial Golf Outing

4

office locations serving 12 counties in west-central Ohio and east-central Indiana

2

patients were honored through our new Nursing Honor Guard program

80

patients and their families received legacy hand photographs

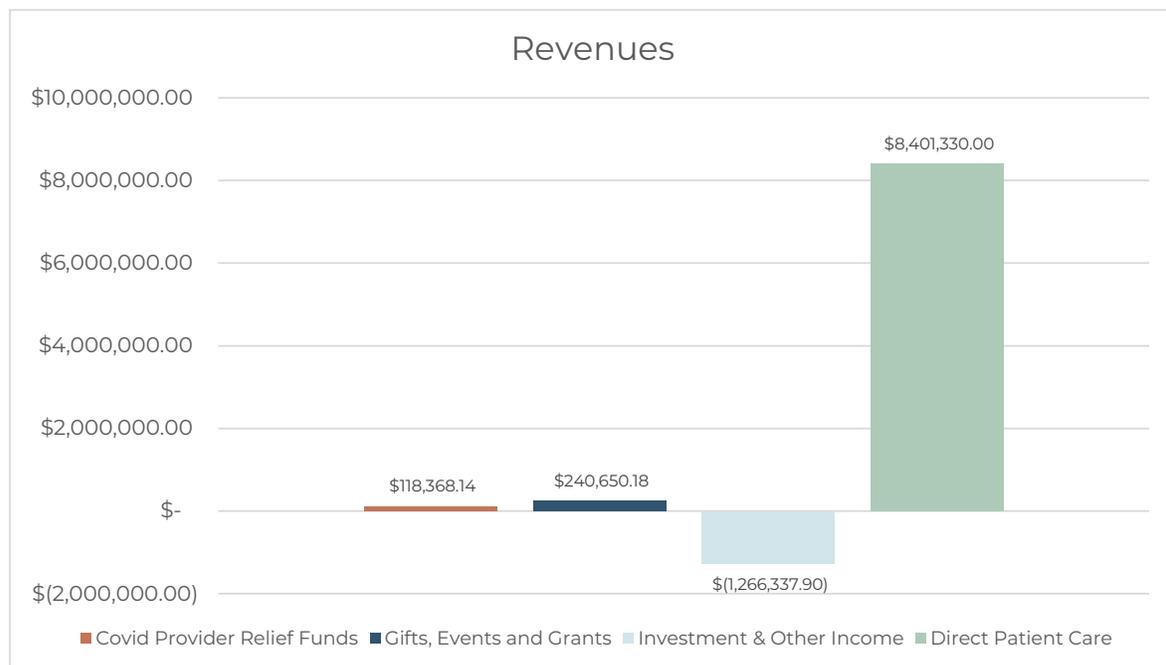
145

ADC for fiscal year

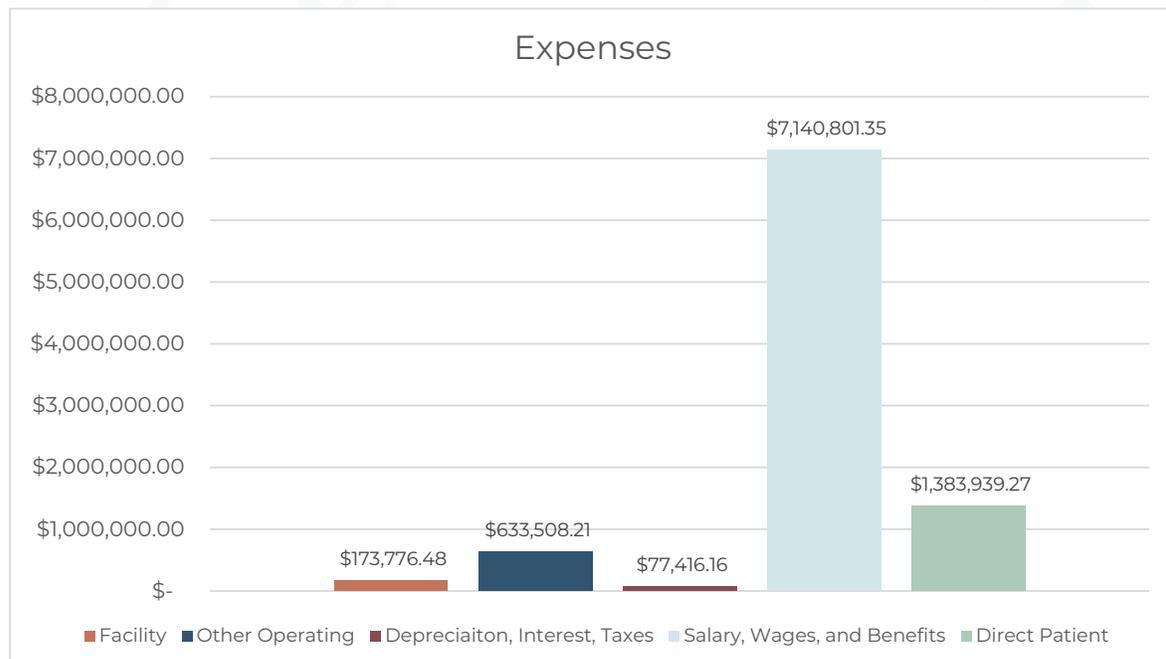
Financial Report

Report for the Fiscal Year: July 1st, 2021 - June 30th, 2022

Total Revenues
\$7,494,010



Expenses
\$9,409,441



Special Memories



Corynna's Wish Allows Patients to Create Memories

To Corynna, it was about the small gestures that mean just as much as the big ones. It's about the people you meet through the journey and what you can give to others.
-Kristi Strawser, Corynna's mother

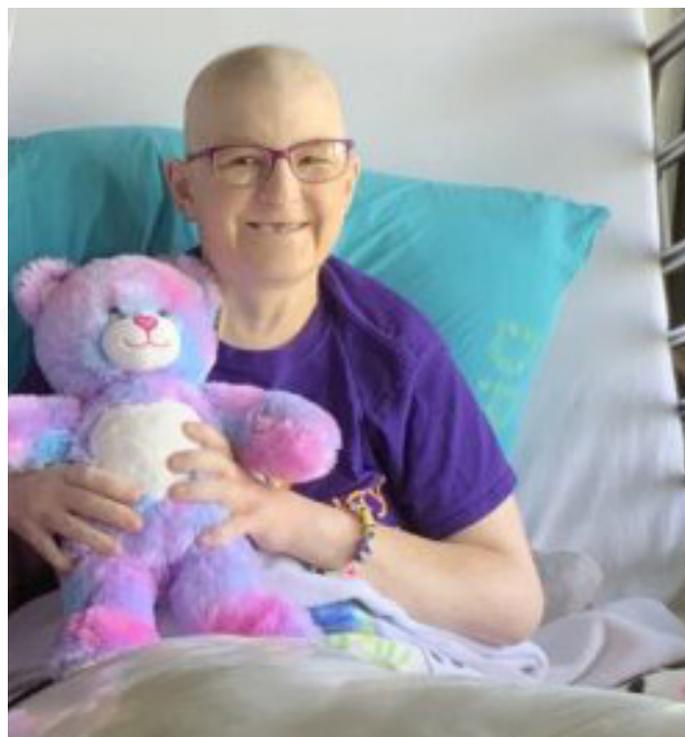
Build a Bear Wish Becomes Reality for Best Friends

Most people can agree that a teddy bear has the ability to provide comfort and a sense of calm when it is needed most, regardless of your age. And the opportunity to "build" your own bear makes it much more meaningful.

A Legacy Becomes a Wish

Megan Foster, After Hours RN at EverHeart Hospice, had initially recommended Amy Pearson, Music Therapist, visit Margaret to create a Legacy Heartbeat Bear for Margaret's family. Megan shared, "I felt that a bear with a recording of Margaret's voice and heartbeat would help comfort her loved ones when she couldn't be there anymore. I knew her boyfriend would also have a rough time, and having a special stuffed animal would help comfort him when he missed her."

While visiting Margaret to record her message and heartbeat on a special stethoscope, Amy Pearson showed Margaret the bear where the recording



Margaret holding build-a-bear

would be placed. That was what sparked Margaret to tell Amy about her desire to make her own teddy bear.

Amy stated, "Her reaction to seeing the legacy bear was priceless! She shared that she had



always wanted to go to Build-A-Bear to create a bear herself but being on hospice and having limited ability to travel, she didn't think she could go. After hearing her say that, I knew it was a "Corynna's Wish" that our agency could help fulfill!"

Making Her Wish Come True

Margaret's care team knew it would not be in her best interest due to her medical needs to travel all the way to an actual Build-A-Bear workshop, so they decided to bring the Build-A-Bear workshop to her! Keeping her favorite color, purple, and her bright style in mind, the team quickly ordered all supplies needed to make this experience happen for Margaret, including arranging for her best friend Melissa to join her in building a matching bear.

You could feel the bond between the two best friends as Melissa arrived to help join Margaret for her special day. Melissa even created a song to sing for Margaret to show her how much her friendship

meant to her. All of Margaret's closest friends she used to work with also came to her home to show their support. Margaret and her caregiver and

mother figure, Mo, said this was even better than going to Build a Bear because all her friends and family could be at her house to watch her fulfill her wish.

Margaret's sense of humor shone as both women got to work making their bears "come to life" while stuffing them. Her smile was contagious, as the entire house was filled with love and joy watching Margaret create her special bear. Mo even got in on the fun, as she helped Margaret fill the bear with stuffing between Margaret playfully trying out a new hairstyle and showing off her best version of a Santa beard!

You could feel that these were memories that

both of them would forever carry in their hearts. Maggie Salem, Margaret's primary nurse, shared, "Our time on earth is so precious and limited. Moments like this enrich the human spirit, fostering



"The absolute delight on Margaret's face when she first pulled that bear out of the bag is something I will never forget!"

-Amy Pearson, Music Therapist



an environment of deepening compassion, joy, and love for one another. Granting this wish meant the world to this patient and consequently brought us all closer together in a shared unity of love.”

Margaret’s care team from EverHeart Hospice, including Nicole Puderbaugh, Hospice Aide, and Amy Pearson and Jeralayne Ruiz, Music Therapists, also joined in on the fun, taking turns helping her with the stuffing and dressing the bear in its bright purple dress and glasses. Amy even led both girls in a special wish ceremony to bring their bears to life.

The last step in creating your special bear is picking out a name for it to put on its official birth certificate. When both women were asked what they would like to name their bears, Melissa quickly lit up and said, “I want to name my bear Margaret!” She said that would allow her to always think of her best friend when she cuddled her bear. After asking Margaret if that was ok, Margaret quickly responded, “Yes, and I want to name my bear Melissa.”

After making their wishes, naming their bears, and dressing them in matching outfits, the afternoon was complete with Margaret’s favorite Big Mac meal from McDonald’s!

Memories to Last

The impact of her wish come true carried over to make a lasting imprint on the EverHeart staff as well. Amy Pearson shared, “The absolute delight on Margaret’s face when she first pulled that bear out of the bag is something I will never forget!



Nicole Puderbaugh, Margaret, and Amy Pearson

She was able to have her best friend come to her home and share the experience of stuffing the bear and adorning it with matching clothes and accessories. What an honor it was to be a part of such a memorable moment in her life!”

Nicole Puderbaugh visited Margaret shortly after her special day and shared Margaret’s lasting thoughts about her experience. “This meant so much to Margaret! I asked Margaret what her favorite part of that day was. She got a big smile on her face and said the friendship and love of everyone being there with her.”

Margaret passed shortly after and will forever be remembered by her friends and family.

Special Memories



More Than a Meal: A Special Day with Family

Every Tuesday, you could find Merlin Booker and his wife of 73 years, Marjorie, sharing a meal at their favorite spot, Rob's Restaurant. Cinda Brubaker, Marjorie and Merlin's daughter, shared, "Every Tuesday, mom and dad would go to Rob's, and then they would drive past the old homestead where dad was raised before coming home."

So, when Sarah Tipple, EverHeart Hospice Aide, heard of Merlin's special memories with his late wife, who had passed last October, she knew she wanted to try and get Merlin back to their old spot through EverHeart's "Corynna's Wish" program.

Cinda said that at first, she was unaware of "Corynna's Wish," a program established in 2014 in memory and honor of Corynna Strawser. Corynna's

Wish is a program that helps patients and their families fulfill a wish they cannot accomplish because of financial or physical conditions.

"When Sarah said they were going to make it happen, getting him back to Rob's, he was so excited. Every day he'd ask what day it was, counting down the days to go."

"I wish someone else could've seen the way his face lit up when I told him we were going. He was talking about what he was going to eat before we even went," shared Tipple.

To help make this happen, special transport was arranged with Spirit Medical Transport and driver Shannon Miller. Looking back on this day, Shannon shared she felt she was meant to help with this special wish on that particular Sunday. She was initially off this day and had plans to have dinner with her mother but just felt called to come into work and transport Merlin.

Brittany Noble, owner of Brittany Carol Photography, volunteered to take professional photos of the event to provide to the family. At first, Noble admitted she was nervous about what kind of situation to expect since the patient was on Hospice. However, she quickly realized that the granddaughter, Haven Zimmer, was one of her close friends from High School, and she was familiar with the family, which made her much more comfortable.



Merlin Booker eating at Rob's



When she arrived at the restaurant, Booker was ready to eat and very focused on his meal. Some of his favorites included mushrooms, green beans, and cherry pie for dessert. His appetite and ability to get around really impressed Noble.

“He just looked so happy,” Noble shared. This didn’t just make his day. You definitely made that man’s year.”

Noble captured candid moments of the family interacting throughout the afternoon, helping them preserve the day’s memories. Small details like the lighting hitting the red cups on the table and the crowds of people filling in after church brought about a sense of nostalgia. “I thought for sure I would see some tears, but it was a really happy day. Everyone was all smiles,” she shared.



Merlin Booker pictured with his family

Throughout the day, Noble noticed several people approach Booker and thank him for his military service as he was wearing his Veteran hat that day. As she observed everything happening that day, she commented on how knowledgeable the aide, Sarah Tipple, was in interacting with Booker.

“Sarah knew exactly what he liked and where he wanted to go. It was like she was part of the family too,” said Noble. “She knew every little detail.”

During the meal, Noble sat with team members from EverHeart Hospice and the Spirit Medical Transport driver, Shannon. “It was incredible for all these strangers to sit together for a common cause,” she shared. “I didn’t know about the Corynna’s Wish program, and I think it is really important for the community to know about it.”

At the end of the meal, Shannon had heard that Merlin’s childhood home was in the same area. She knew she had to take Merlin past his special place. This extra act of kindness meant so much to Merlin

and his family, and Shannon shared her appreciation for the opportunity to help Merlin, saying he reminded her so much of her father.

Tipple shared after the dinner, “I know he really enjoyed it. He was emotional when we got back to the house. It was very special to him and his family.”

Cinda said the day was really special to all of them.

“He and mom, that was their thing. It meant a lot to us that he got his wish, and he could go, and we got him there. It made everyone feel really happy for him; we were so happy to see him happy.”

Merlin passed away just a few weeks later, joining his wife once again, where perhaps they are again spending Tuesdays together sharing a meal at their favorite spot.

We Remember

These individuals have been remembered through memorial contributions made by loved ones. Memorial contributions allow EverHeart Hospice to continue honoring life with trusted care.

IN MEMORY OF:

Agnes Pohlman	Charles H. Borger	Dorothy O'Brien	Helen L. Teeter
Alberta Eckstein	Charles Grube	Dorothy Richardson	Helen Thompson
Alice Hollenback	Charles Huwer	Dorothy Sieftring	Helen Young Bigham
Alva Yoder	Charles Owen Beam	Doug Batty	Howard D. Fasick
Amy Hughes	Charles W. Lane	Doug Goubeaux	Irene Ritz
Angie Geise	Clarence Sieftring	Douglas E. Dickey	Ivo Schwieterman
Anna Pottkotter	Claudet Jewett	Ed Pottkotter	James Cluster
Annabel Enicks	Cleopha Brunswick	Eddie Gene Murphy	James E. Roeth Sr.
Arthur Price	Connie Loughman	Edward Miltenberger	James O. Warner
Audrey Niekamp	Corynna Strawser	Elaine Fitzgerald	James R. Hayes
Babara A. Toschlog	Cris Miller	Faye Heitkamp	Janet DeMoss
Barbara B. Carroll	Darrel Ford	Fern Heise	Janet J. Gilliland
Barbara Hunt	David O. Thornhill	Foss O'Brien	Janice Hocker
Barbara Swink	David W. Bruns	Frank Huber	Jay Wright
Beverly Brown	David W. Teeter	Franklin Weyrick	Jean Clark
Billy Jay	Dawn Hughes	Frederick "Gene" Oda	Jean Renee Green
Bobbie McCowan	Delbert Hofacker	Gary Hemmerich	Jerome
Bruce Borgerding	Deo Troutwine	Gene Homan	Schwieterman
Bud Stahl	Dick Nuckols	George Brenner	Jerry Grube
Carl Stammen	Don Niekamp	George J.	Jesse Heise
Carl Trittschuh	Donald Denniston	Mittermann	Jim Guntle
Carolyn McWhinney	Donald E. Smith	George W. Shelton	Joan Capowski
Carolyn Schaller	Donald Pavelka	Gerald Greer	Joan Langenkamp
Carroll Puckett	Donna L. Riley	Gerald Sharp	Joan M. Schmidt
Charles D. Fair	Donna Wright	Gerhard Bruns	Joey Tucker
	Doris Yoder	Harold Davis	John Hittle

We Remember

These individuals have been remembered through memorial contributions made by loved ones. Memorial contributions allow EverHeart Hospice to continue honoring life with trusted care.

John Labig
John Mangan
Joyce McKee
Judith E. Cupp
Judy Harman
Judy Rowland
Karen Dynes
Karla Kay Greer
Keith Batty
Kem Alan Stewart
Ken Kremer
Ken Rosengarten
Kenneth R. Delk
Kenneth Scholl
Kent Scholl
Larry Grube
Leo Rinderle
Leon Homan
Leonard Jutte
Lester Poling
Loretta Bowman
Lorin Linn
Lowell Thomas
Lucille Snyder
Luella Spain
Mabel Linn

Madge Westerheide
Marjorie Threewits
Marshall Wells
Mary Ann Harting
Mary Ann
Schwieterman
Mary E. Fields
Mary Lou Klenke
Melvin Gerstner
Merill Wysong
Mervin Schulze
Michael N. Laux
Mildred Huelskamp
Mildred Nolcheff
Miriam M. Norton
Murray Ritz
Nancy Cail Petry
Nancy Thomas
Norma Thornhill
Olive Moyer
Otto Pohlman
Paul S. Baker
Paul Turner
Pete Runner
Philip Doseck
Phyllis Carpenter

Horton
Phyllis Smiley
Phyllis Troutwine
Ray Snyder
Raymond Kahlig
Raymond Koesters
Richard "Duke" Hittle
Richard Fiely
Richard L. Easterday
Robert Buschur
Robert Lyme
Robert Neil Nuckols
Roberta Gerstner
Ron Warner
Ruth Doseck
Ruth Stammen
Shelli Armstrong
Sue Hans
Tamara Hoening
Tammy Jo Shapiro
Tom Stephens
Vera Poling
Victor, Herb, and
Arlene Shiverdecker
Vinnie Hill
Virginia Throp

Walter Threewits
Walter Throp
Wanda M. Bolyard
Wayne Brumbaugh

IN HONOR OF:

Alice Rose
Betty J. Paulus
Chuck Thompson
Crystal R. Gibson
Dan Ward
Dorothy Mangan
Joe L. Houpt
Lance Corporal Gene M. Lutz
Lester Huelskamp
Mary Alice Redman
Mary Wenning
Molly Stephenson
Norman Redman
Tom Rose
Vercie Roberts

Colors, Coping, & Connection



Camp Encourage Offers Support to Grieving Children

Perhaps one of the most exciting events over the past year was our Camp Encourage workshops held in June. Two groups of children, all sharing the common thread of experiencing the loss of a loved one, gathered during workshops held on Friday and Saturday afternoon. Each child was paired with an EverHeart staff member who was their designated “Buddy” for the day. Through fun art projects and activities, the kids had time to open up to their buddies and each other about their feelings of grief and loss.

Sarah DePoy, Camp Director and Bereavement Coordinator at EverHeart Hospice, led the camp and discussions before each activity, relating colors to emotions and how one might feel during their grief journey. Sarah shared, “To have Camp Encourage in person again after being unable to for a couple of years due to the pandemic was such an honor. Seeing the interaction between the campers and volunteers reiterated the need and purpose of Camp Encourage.”



Patient & Family Centered



We value being Patient and Family-Centered. We want our patients to share as many special moments with their family as possible during their end-of-life journey. Below you will find just a small glimpse of memories made with our patients this year.

Hospice Patient Wins Model Car Show

Kelly Mast remembers building model cars as a child. About three years ago, he received the news that he had a serious medical condition, and his outlook was poor. Because of his cancer, he was not able to get around as much and didn't have anything to do. That's when he was inspired to rekindle his childhood pastime and resume painting and building model cars.

According to Mast, the cars he builds are 125th scale models. The supplies are purchased in a kit and then assembled and painted. He always customizes them to make them his own creation, rather than following all of the details on the kit.

Recently, Kelly participated in the Phil's Hobby Shop Memorial Car Show Plastic Model Show Division in Fort Wayne, Indiana. He entered a black and white historical car for the event. Mast was awarded the "Best Interior" prize and received a large green and gold trophy. He also received three plaques, a t-shirt, key chain, and stickers.

Mast shared with his hospice nurse, Jessica Sheets, that this is the first prize he has ever received. When she was at his home making a visit, Sheets could tell just how excited he was about this accomplishment. When asked how winning the award made him feel,



Kelly Mast with hospice nurse Jessica Sheets

Mast responded confidently, "Satisfied!" He felt there was a large group of people who participated, and said, "I was proud."

Ed Ferguson is the chairperson of the group that organizes the car show and is also the President of Pharaoh's Car Club Bluffton, Indiana chapter.

"Pharaoh's Car club is a national organization. Our chapter application was approved about five months ago," he shared. Prizes at the Phil's Hobby Shop Memorial Car Show are awarded for the top 25 entries as well as special prizes for Best Engine, Best Paint, Best Interior, and Best of Show. The plastic model show is held in conjunction with their full-size car show.

Patient & Family Centered



Mast's creativity is not limited to just model cars. Throughout the home, several of his watercolor paintings were on display, adorned in handcrafted wooden frames that he built himself. Kelly pointed out two specific paintings he created, one of a Naples Florida courtyard, and the other of a knotted pine tree at his parents' home in Florida. At one time, his paintings were represented by an art gallery in Naples, Florida.

Today, Kelly's creative focus is on his model cars. In total, Mast has completed about 70 different cars in all different varieties and colors. His cars are neatly displayed on a wooden shelf, where he even has a model Texaco fuel station.

His favorite kind? "Fast ones!" he chuckled. "Really though my favorite one is always the one I am working on. Then when I start something new, it becomes my favorite."



“If you’re going to live, leave a legacy. Make a mark on the world that can’t be erased.” Maya Angelou

Our Legacy Program continues to be a special way for us to create lasting memories that our patients' loved ones can have as a way to remember them. Thanks to generous donors, we continue to offer hand photographs and heartbeat bears as special keepsakes for family members.

Patient & Family Centered



Recognizing Patients through New Nursing Honor Guard

This year we have started recognizing patients who worked in the nursing field. Our Nursing Honor Guard consists of staff members who will dress in a traditional white nursing uniform draped with a red and blue cape. They will then visit the patient and family to perform a special ceremony sharing the patient's accomplishments during their career.

All fellow nurses in the room recite the Florence Nightingale Pledge together, followed by a beautiful poem titled "She Was There." The EverHeart Nursing Honor Guard members then present the patient with a special pin and glowing lantern to symbolize the honor and appreciation of their care as nurses.

Stephanie Crum, Chief Clinical Officer, is a member of the Honor Guard and shared of the first ceremony held in June, "It was so special to be with the patient and family to celebrate all the years she had been a nurse. To think of all of the lives that she had impacted is amazing! What an honor to celebrate her and all she gave to others."

The staff who have volunteered to be on the Nursing Honor Guard look forward to providing more ceremonies to future patients who have contributed their care in the medical field.

Florence Nightingale herself knew the meaning

of life and each moment you are granted; as she once said, "Live life when you have it. Life is a splendid gift; there is nothing small about it."



EverHeart Staff ready for Nursing Honor Guard Ceremonies

Patient & Family Centered



The Leohner's celebrating their 68th wedding Anniversary



Patient Atlas Dunn blowing bubbles on "Be A Kid Again" Day



Titia and her dog, Gabby, on National Pet Week



Strawberry Festival Donuts delivered to patient, Clark



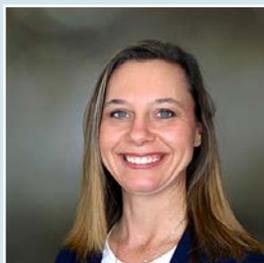
Patient Ruth Sites celebrating her 100th birthday with her care team

Music Therapy



Sharing Compassion through the Power of Music

Music Therapists assist with providing emotional, cognitive, social, and physical support to the patient and family through music. Our music therapists, Amy Pearson and Jeralayne Ruiz, are board-certified and specially trained to use musical interventions that can calm a restless patient, provide the patient with pain and symptom management, and assist with feelings of depression and anxiety. Both recently shared why they chose to work in the field of Music Therapy and what it means to them to share their talent through hospice care.



AMY PEARSON

"I chose to become a music therapist because I loved music and wanted to be in a profession where I could help others. A career in music therapy was the perfect fit for my goals!

The thing I enjoy most about being a hospice music therapist is being able to help patients and families find joy and make meaningful connections at the end of life. When people hear that I work for a hospice, they often comment that it must be so depressing. For me, it has been quite the opposite! I have found music can bring peace, comfort, and joy even at the end of life!

The music therapy program is ever-changing at EverHeart! One major change in the 15 years that I have been here is the addition of our recordable stethoscopes. With this new technology, we can offer our patients and families a way to preserve the sound of the heartbeat long after the patient has died. The heartbeat sound can also be paired with the patient's voice or a favorite song to create a variety of legacy projects. It has been a positive change that has benefited our hospice!"



JERALAYNE RUIZ

"I chose to become a music therapist because I have always believed in the healing power of music. Music has been such a huge part of my life and the lives of those closest to me. Music therapy allows me to experience that passion and love every day while

simultaneously helping others experience the power of music in a unique way.

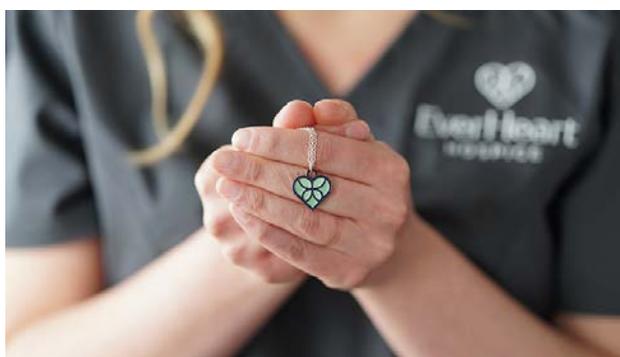
Music therapy with hospice patients and their families is truly a special thing. We can honor the life of our patients in so many wonderful ways, including through music. Like myself, music holds a special place in many people's lives. It can remind us of specific memories or people and connect us to the ones we love.

Music therapy is also useful during end of life in helping to address symptoms and enhance comfort, making it an important part of the interdisciplinary approach in hospice. Seeing how elements of music can be used to bring a patient or family peace is incredibly meaningful and keeps my own love of music alive.

I have enjoyed working at EverHeart immensely since I started in May. Every team member shows compassion and advocates for the best care for the people we serve. I am very proud to work as a part of the EverHeart Hospice team."

Testimonials

Honoring Life With Trusted Care



"The love, tenderness, and care that was shown to her at her end of life was beyond amazing. Thank you as well for your concern for her family during those difficult days."

"Thank you so much for the compassionate care you gave our mom in the week we needed you most. Our family is forever grateful for each of you!"

"Thank you so much for all your services. All were so personable and caring. All our family members felt comfortable around the nurses, and answered our questions."

"Thank you for all you did for our mom! We knew she was in good hands. Your nurses, therapists, and chaplain were so kind and passionate with mom, right up to her passing. Thank you for making her journey home a peaceful and comfortable one."

"Thank you so much for being there with my husband for his final two days of his life. Thank you all for being such a kind and thoughtful voice when we needed it most."

"Thank you for the care and professionalism through this process. Thank you for your services to help navigate through the difficult times."

"Thank you from the bottom of our hearts for the thoughtfulness, caring, kindness, and genuine concern that your staff showed for our father during his last days. This journey is never easy for a family, but your staff helped to make our travel on this path just a bit lighter!"

"EverHeart Hospice staff were amazing both during and after. I will definitely spread the word to my community about the wonderful care our family received."

"I thank God for Hospice. They were so wonderful to my mom and me. I don't know what I would have done without them!"

"I could not ask for better care. Everyone was so caring and gentle. He was such a kind person and you treated him the same. Your respect for him remains in my heart. You all do a great job."

"We were completely amazed by the care our mother received. The hospice team of nurses were exceptional. We live in a community of such loving and caring people. Thank you so much."

"We could not have made it through his illness and then death without the support of the Hospice team. We both agreed they are angels here on earth."

Giving Back

EverHeart Hospice values being Community-Focused

Throughout the year, our staff have engaged with our communities in numerous ways:

- Darke County United Way's Stuff the Bus campaign
- Assisting with senior activities including movie days, bingo, and senior dances
- Participating in local health fairs
- Delivering blankets to area cancer associations
- Offering grief support groups in local schools
- Adopting families during Christmas through local Angel Tree programs
- Serving meals through C.A.L.L. Ministries
- Supporting area Walk to End Alzheimer's chapters in our community





EverHeart

HOSPICE

Thank you for
your continued support.

Honoring life with trusted care