

Circles of Care

Fall 2016 Newsletter Vol. 23 No. 2

HARBOR HOSPICE

Your Journey. Your Terms. Our Expertise.

Director's Column



Mary Anne Gorman
Executive Director

It is with mixed emotions that I write my last *Circles of Care* column as executive director. I am retiring and looking forward to spending time with family, traveling more, and yes, continuing to support Harbor Hospice as a volunteer. Over the past few weeks, I have enjoyed a bit of a "trip down memory lane" as I sort through files and documents that reflect our history of bringing 'empathy, expertise and excellence to end of life care.' That has been our mission statement for almost 20 years. The task of clearing out 27 years of files, clipped articles, thank you cards and mementos has been bittersweet. *Here are but a few of those nuggets...*

This from a woman about her last weeks with the man in her life who meant so much to her...
"Thank you from the bottom of my heart for helping me take care of him. He thought all of you were special people and you are—only a phone call away—and you proved it time and again. May God bless all of you. I'll never forget all that you did for someone I love."

And another from a patient himself, a veteran who had lived a hard life, was often homeless and who spent his last days at our Poppen Hospice Residence where he shared with his nurse, *"this is the nicest place I've ever lived."*

Our reputation for quality is rooted in the dedication of every one of our staff—patient care, administrative and office based. They all play a critical role. So when a nurse who has been with us for over 20 years wrote me, "I will forever be grateful for the integrity in which you have led our ship," that is a gift I will treasure always.

Little did I know that when our founder, Sue Wierengo, left to head up our state hospice association, I would find my life's calling in the role of executive director. I am enormously grateful for the blessing and privilege of being able to serve for these last 27 years.

Occasionally I am asked about leadership and how to discern what direction to take an organization like hospice—

a community based non-profit. The compass that has stood me in good stead is to keep the focus on mission and to be passionate about staying true to the *why* of what we do. It is important to know the history of hospice; our roots, our pioneers, and the challenges and battles both won and lost. Dealing in the world of public policy, health care funding, regulation, and human services is full of challenges and frequently messy.

Of all the successes that we have enjoyed over these last three decades, one that gives me confidence as I retire is the character and strength of those we have attracted to our mission—staff, volunteers, board members and donors alike. As our new director assumes the reins, I know that she will have the joy of leading an organization that has lived its mission well and will continue to do so in the years to come.

A Mission Lived

Mary Anne Gorman celebrates 27 years of being the Executive Director of Harbor Hospice





Keepers of the Mission

Strong Leadership

Our diverse leadership and board of directors continually provide guidance, support and stewardship.

"My association with this organization over the past 13 years has been extremely rewarding. I joined the Board in 2003 when Harbor Hospice was known as Hospice of Muskegon-Oceana. After having served two terms as President of the Board and completing six years of service, I remained involved by serving as a member of the Resource Committee. I was honored to be asked to serve again as Board President in 2016. I am impressed with the staff's ability to consistently provide extraordinary care to patients; support, empathy and compassion for families."

Heather Brolick, Board Chair

We would like to welcome our newly appointed members of the Board of Directors



Congratulations and thank you to Bob Jackson, Volunteer of the Year 2015



Expert Staff and Volunteers

Volunteers and team members giving themselves in time, talent and treasure.

"I'm very grateful to be part of this organization. Every time I go on a patient visit to give, I always walk away having received!"

Kathy Huffman,
Volunteer (pictured above)

"I have been a part of Harbor Hospice for 15 years and I still love my job. My job is so important to me. I get to be a piece of someone's last days on this earth, to make them feel that they are still in control and I'm just there to help. I don't want to take anything away from them. It's important to me to make sure they are comfortable and not in pain. We have a great team that we all work with. We are Harbor Hospice and we have a lot to offer to our patients and their families. I love putting a smile on my patients' faces."

Cindy Fowler, CENA, CHPNA



Heather Brolick
Board Chair
CEO and President,
Community Shores Bank



Kristi Nagengast, CPA FHFMA
Treasurer
VP Finance & Integrity Officer,
Mercy Health Muskegon



David Dora, DO
Retired Physician



Spencer Hines
Vice President,
Hines Corporation



Will Meier, Esq.
Attorney, Parmenter O'Toole

"Some very special nurses helped me through the loss of someone extremely special to me. That experience made me realize what kind of a difference nurses can make in people's lives. Those nurses and my lost loved one became my inspiration to obtain a nursing degree and pursue hospice nursing. Now, as an administrator, I can support our staff in a way that allows them to make a difference in all of the lives they touch."

Kim Holton, Director of
Clinical Services





Philanthropic Community

To continue the legacy of our organization, the Harbor Hospice Foundation was established to enhance the programs, services and quality of life for our patients and families.

A common misconception of hospice is that it is for the last days of life, but the above picture signifies our patients living until the end of life. The legacy of our program relies on donations and support from our community. We are grateful for every in-kind gift we receive, including art supplies and games donated to the Leila and Cyrus Poppen Hospice Residence in memory of Fr. Philip Salmonowicz by his family.



Our Partnerships

Harbor Hospice is responsive to the needs of the communities we serve, creating partnerships to ensure a prosperous community.

“What started as a revitalization of the Muskegon End of Life Coalition and Advance Care Planning Steering Committee has catapulted into a wonderful community collaborative called *Charted: Healthcare Planning Coalition*. I am honored to be included in a talented group of professionals and community leaders to tackle this greatly needed patient empowerment initiative. It is wonderful to see the synergy of various organizations working together, including Mercy Health, Mercy Health VNS & Hospice, Harbor Hospice, LifeCircles, North Ottawa Community Hospital, Senior Resources, Community Health Project, and other agencies along the lakeshore. Our ultimate aim is to ensure that all adults have the opportunity to explore what is important to them and how they want to live their lives! The concept of putting your wishes in writing is still a misunderstood concept for the majority of people. We believe that the process for clearly articulating your wishes starts by having careful, deliberate conversations that result in documents that are easily understood, easily retrievable, and always honored. It boils down to a basic standard of care—a document that transfers to any care setting a person may encounter.”

Luke Reynolds, Executive Director, LifeCircles PACE and Charted Chair

“Developing the Community Health Innovation Region (CHIR) under the State Innovation Model requires an all hands on deck approach to examining how the social determinants of health intersect with and affect the delivery of medical care. Through planning and design, and eventually health transformation funding, we’ll be able to test new delivery models in order to truly begin to design systems of care that improve population health.”

Stevi Riel, Executive Director Health Project, A Community Benefit Ministry of Mercy Health



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Haven't signed up for eHospice stories and news? Stay up to date by signing up on our website HarborHospiceMI.org



Look for the latest edition of Harbor Hospice *Touching Lives* magazine in your physician's office. Within its cover, you will find helpful information on Telling Your Story Your Way and a beautiful story of Gifts from the Heart. If you would like copies for your church, organization or business, email or call us today.

After the death of a loved one, the holiday season can seem like an overwhelming experience that often leaves one with a sense of dread, confusion or, at best, indifference. What used to bring warmth, love and excitement may now bring painful reminders that something now is very different; someone is missing.

You may notice a lack of motivation or a strong desire to avoid the holiday festivities altogether.

You are not alone.

Come and hear what others have found meaningful during their time of loss and learn what might help you cope through the holidays. Please call Harbor Hospice Grief Support Services at 800.497.9559 to register or email info@HarborHospiceMI.org.

These seminars are for individuals and families who are grieving during this holiday season because of the death of a loved one. Each seminar aims at discussing

the many aspects of grief (emotional, physical, social, spiritual and cognitive) one may have during special holidays and celebrations. After identifying how grief impacts us each individually, further discussion will address topics like: reducing stress, finding and building a support system, continuing or changing traditions, safety in traveling and tips on overall coping with grief.

Maybe you are not the one who is personally struggling; do you know a grieving person who might need help coping through the holidays? Please have them contact us today. They can also find Steps to Coping through the Holidays tips on our website HarborHospiceMI.org

Our weekly grief support groups will begin again in January 2017. Call or email us today for more details.

Coping through the Holidays

SEMINAR

December 15
Muskegon 11:00am
and 6:00pm
Hart 11:00am

Thank you to the Ladies of the Lake Quilting Group for the BEAUTIFUL quilts donated to our patients and families at the Leila & Cyrus Poppen Hospice Residence!

Ladies of the Lake Quilting Group
(not in order in picture): Peggy Dehoog,
Carla Deibel, Jackie Engel, Pam Foster,
Pat Ganson, Sara Kuberski, Lynne Osborn,
Nancy Peters, Ellen Prowant and
Sherry Wilson

"There are so many reasons the Poppen Hospice Residence is so special and valued in our community; however, it is because of people like these ladies who create a calming atmosphere to help patients and families cope during a difficult time."

Ammy Johnson, Director of Development
for the Harbor Hospice Foundation

"We are very proud to be part of the wonderful work done at the Poppen Residence."

Jackie Engel, Ladies of the Lake Quilting Group

Hear more stories and get ehospice news!
Visit us at HarborHospiceMI.org and sign up today to receive wonderful hospice stories, two yearly newsletters and other updates from our organization.

Quilts to Carry Them Home





Thank You

Keepers of the Mission

Every year, Harbor Hospice staff and volunteers work together to provide compassionate end of life care to more than 800 individuals and help thousands of family members and friends cope with the loss of loved ones.

These amazing day-in-and-day-out *keepers of the mission* give comfort and aid, provide training and maintain records, organize events and coordinate communication, welcome, listen, console, and inspire. They are on the front lines and behind desks, on the road, in patients' homes, and at the bedsides of residents at the Leila & Cyrus Poppen Hospice Residence. What they have in common is a deep commitment to the belief that people of all ages and backgrounds, regardless of resources, deserve the kind of peaceful, patient-directed passing that hospice care makes possible.

You are also a *keeper of the mission*. Each time you make a financial contribution to the Harbor Hospice Foundation, you help make it possible for hospice care to be available now, and in the future—for anyone who needs it in Muskegon, Oceana, Mason, Newaygo and Ottawa Counties.

You are the reason so many of our patients can depend on Harbor Hospice at the end of their lives. Because of you, no one is ever turned away for lack of ability to pay. Your support is that important.

Thank you for joining with us in this important mission and for your continued financial support.



Harbor Hospice Foundation

Community Partners Giving Back

We had a wonderful year of philanthropic support, raising over \$70,000 of charitable funds to support the programs and services of Harbor Hospice.

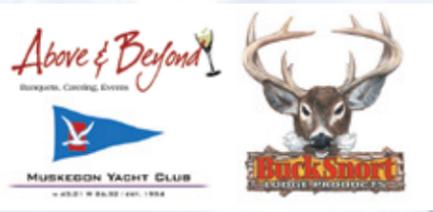
Our signature fundraising events, open to the public and hosted by the *Muskegon Yacht Club*, *Above & Beyond Catering* and *BuckSnort Lodge Products*, began Friday, August 5 with the return of our gala, **The Event of Events**. This unique party included an evening of food, fun, live music by the *West Side Soul Surfers* and silent and live auctions. Concluding the evening was the anticipated drawing for the car raffle sponsored by our Corporate Partner, *Betten Baker*. Drawn from among hundreds of tickets sold, Tyler Kaines (pictured below) was announced the winner by our emcee Bob Scolnik.

The next morning, sailing fans and community supporters gathered along the shores of Muskegon Lake for the signal to start of the 9th Annual Harbor Hospice Regatta at the Muskegon Yacht Club. The event is part of the National Regatta Alliance (hospiceregattas.org),

which has raised more than \$21 million dollars for hospice services across the country. West Michigan sailors love this race, and in the past nine years have raised over \$200,000 to support hospice care in our community.

"The Harbor Hospice Regatta is a wonderful, fun-filled event for families to enjoy," said Ammy Johnson, Director of Development for the Harbor Hospice Foundation. "The proceeds from this event help to ensure that all Harbor Hospice patients facing life-limiting illnesses have access to expert care as well as support for their families, regardless of their ability to pay."

On shore, vinyl records spun by *Black Circle Radio* entertained spectators while bidding on sailing-themed auction items and enjoying a casual picnic until the racers navigated back to the Muskegon Yacht Club. The Beebe Family and their boat, *Diminished Fifth*, won the overall race, qualifying them, once again, to compete in the National Hospice Regatta in 2017.



Photography by Jennifer Green



Additional 2016 events include:

12th Annual Clover Open bowling event, held on March 19, hosted by Trophy House/Jones Sports



2nd Annual Purse Party, held on May 12, hosted by the Aerie #3214 of the White Lake Eagles



10th Annual Ride to Remember, held on May 28, sponsored by Fruitport Lions Club and Fruitport Chiropractic Center



Corporate Sponsors