

Embracing HOPE.

35 YEARS

Sharing 35 Stories to Help Tell Ours

By Ann Gauthreaux, Director of Public Relations,
Hospice & Palliative CareCenter

Betty, Peter, Steve, Vonda, Ouida, Konnie, Nora, Marketia, Jim, Susan, and Jan. It is my privilege to introduce you to these 8 gracious people who all have one thing in common – a connection to Hospice & Palliative CareCenter. They represent 35 people who are sharing parts of their stories so that you might better understand ours.

2014 marks Hospice & Palliative CareCenter's 35 years of service to our community, and yet, after caring for generations of families, there are still many people who don't fully understand the benefits of our care. Perhaps by reading some of the 35 stories we are sharing, you will get to know us better and know where to turn if you or a loved one is ever in need.

As the first hospice in the state, we admitted North Carolina's very first hospice patient in 1979. It must have been a leap of faith for them to reach out at such a vulnerable time. After all, hospice was a new approach to healthcare at end of life. The movement was just beginning nationally and in North Carolina. It changed the way people thought about living their final months. Hospice care was a new alternative that offered patients a choice to embrace quality of life rather than futile treatments and dying in hospitals. Hospice made it possible for patients to be at home, with holistic care designed to support them, and their family – medically, emotionally, socially, and spiritually.

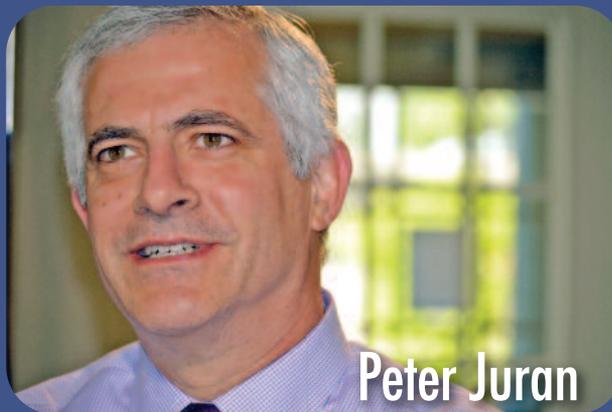
As we commemorate our 35th year, we remind our community that when curative treatment for serious illness is no longer effective, there is still much we can do. That's why Hospice & Palliative CareCenter exists. With Hospice, you can embrace hope – hope to live fully and comfortably at home, making lasting memories with those who matter most. This was the guiding principle 35 years ago, and it remains the same today.

Sitting knee to knee and hearing their stories has been a gift. I've been touched by their strength and resiliency, and I've been reminded of why I so eagerly wanted to join this organization 20 years ago. We chose to commemorate this milestone with one primary goal: to share the stories of 35 people who know firsthand what it feels like to reach out to Hospice & Palliative CareCenter so that you get to know us better. Please don't hesitate to reach out for help, hope, and support – we are just a phone call away.



Betty Speaks

"It was so great to hear the warm voice on the other end of the line. I thought you had to have a terminal disease to get help but to my delight, that was not the case. I felt secluded after losing him. Hospice has the compassion to reach out to people like me, to give me the tools to help me re-engage in life."



Peter Juran

"My mother's decline was a scary and frustrating time. I am glad we were informed and that we knew to ask for Hospice & Palliative CareCenter. They treated our whole family. I don't know anyone who doesn't respond positively to Hospice."



Ouida Hedgecock

"With the help of Hospice's grief counseling, I had the tools and the assurance to know that the grief wasn't going to be there forever."



Rev. Konnie Robinson

“She was a very proud lady. When we brought Hospice in, it curtailed her fear and got her comfortable. She needed and wanted the help. We had Hospice at home for five months and remained very active. She spent her final days at the Hospice Home. Her love and care for me and my well-being was her reason for wanting to be there.”



Jan Detter

“We never saw it as a tragedy but as an experience that had the potential to teach us – to show me and teach my daughter that death, although painful, can be a precious blessing... to help Dan have a safe passage and for us to have the support and care Hospice provided.”



Susan Easter

“No matter when we needed anything... no matter what time of the day or night, they were there... and I think he lived longer with Hospice Care. The team of nurses, aides, the chaplain and volunteers were there to help no matter what we needed.”



Dr. Stinson

“Why not go to the experts? I have worked with Hospice & Palliative CareCenter for over a decade and they go beyond my expectations for my patients and their families, delivering compassionate, comprehensive care that goes beyond what we have in the community.”



Nora Kowalski

“Losing our infant was unbearable. I could tell all my crazy thoughts to someone – my grief counselor –and she didn’t think I was crazy. I thank Hospice’s grief counseling for my sanity... I thank them for helping me be a better mother to my kids... I am still here!”

To see the faces and hear the stories of those who have been touched by Hospice care, visit www.hospicecarecenter.org. For more information about Hospice & Palliative CareCenter, Kate B. Reynolds Hospice Home and any of the programs and services offered, call 336-768-3972