



Hospice & Palliative Care of Westchester

TODAY

SUMMER 2013

Comfort Crew

A New Pediatric Palliative Care Program

HAPPENINGS & GATHERINGS

Hospice & Palliative Care of Westchester (HPCW) held a fundraising event at The Brazen Fox Restaurant in White Plains. Guests enjoyed a lovely dinner, with a portion of the proceeds generated that evening being donated to HPCW.



Norm DiChiara with family and friends at HPCW's fundraising dinner at The Brazen Fox Restaurant.



HPCW Board Member Michele Geller with family and friends at HPCW's fundraising dinner at The Brazen Fox Restaurant.

OUR MISSION

Hospice & Palliative Care of Westchester strives to provide extraordinary and dignified comfort, care and compassion to individuals and families facing a serious or life-limiting illness.

Children are one of life's most precious gifts and they deserve the opportunity to live each and every day to its fullest. When a child is diagnosed with a progressive, life-limiting illness, the entire family faces many challenges. Pediatric palliative care provides these children and their families with the support and care they need to continue to enjoy life.

Unlike traditional hospice and palliative care for adults, parents can keep their child on a curative treatment plan when beginning palliative care services.

An individualized plan of care is developed for each child and the palliative care team works with the many social groups in a child's life. These may include family, friends, neighbors, teachers and sports teams. Serving as a communications liaison for these groups, the palliative care team allows the child to maintain as normal a life as possible. It is through this teamwork that the care offered fulfills the physical, psychosocial, social and spiritual needs of the child and their family. At the same time the plan of care remains sensitive to developmental, personal, cultural and religious values. This collaborative approach to care takes a significantly larger amount of time, energy and resources than traditional hospice and palliative care for adults.

In 2011, Hospice & Palliative Care of Westchester (HPCW), with more than 20 years of experience serving the community, began examining the level of pediatric palliative care available in Westchester County. According to the Westchester County Bureau of Statistics, 94 deaths of children age 0-21 took place in Westchester County in 2010 with 82 of the 94 deaths a result of life-limiting disease or neurological conditions.

Calling upon local healthcare providers, HPCW began discussing services that were then available to parents and caregivers. After more than a year of discussions, research and countless meetings it was determined there was a significant need for increased pediatric palliative care in the community and HPCW began developing a pediatric palliative care program they have recently named "Comfort Crew".

Comfort Crew is a specially trained team that includes pediatricians, nurses, social workers, spiritual care coordinators, home health aides, volunteers, expressive therapists, and grief and bereavement counselors. The team works with the child's own medical team to create a plan melding any curative treatments the patient is undergoing along with palliative care to create the best prognosis and highest quality of life for the patient and the greatest level of comfort and support available for the child and their family.

2012 Annual Tree of Life Reception



(L to R): Event Sponsors Michael K. Ciaramella, Polchinski Memorials; Kevin Hanlon, Hilton Westchester; Jennifer Watts, Board Chair of HPCW; Event Sponsor Stacey Cohen, Co-Communications, Inc.; Event Grand Sponsor Edward Stoppelmann, Red Oak Transportation; Mary K. Spengler, MS, Executive Director of HPCW; and Event Sponsor William F. Flocks, Jr., Beecher Flocks Funeral Home.



Manhattanville College's The Quintessentials with Mark Cherry, Artist in Residence, Musical Theatre, Manhattanville College Music Department (seated), provided music and entertainment at the Tree of Life tree lighting reception.

Pennies from Heaven: A Community Effort

This past June, Hospice & Palliative Care of Westchester (HPCW) was the recipient of a special donation from Ferncliff Cemetery, located in Hartsdale, NY.

For decades, bereaved families and friends would visit Ferncliff's Shrine of Memories and place coins into the fountain in remembrance of loved ones. Recently, the cemetery decided to replace the fountain in the Shrine of

Memories with a plant sanctuary. Once the money was removed from the fountain, the staff at Ferncliff Cemetery felt a donation to HPCW was the most appropriate option for the dozens of containers filled with coins.

HPCW Director of Development Holly K. Benedict sought help from a local TD Bank branch located on Mamaroneck Avenue in White Plains. Bank staff spent an afternoon counting

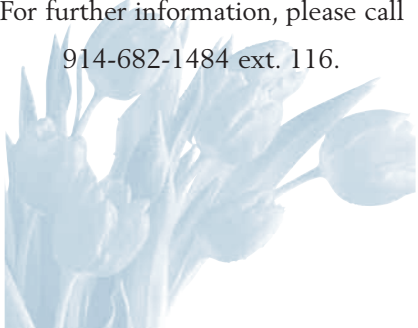
the hundreds of long-submerged coins. Through this joint community effort, HPCW received the donation of more than \$900.

HPCW is grateful to Ferncliff Cemetery for its generous gift and to TD Bank for its unwavering support in helping to sort and count the donated coins. Thank you to Ferncliff Cemetery and TD Bank!

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Our Volunteer Department is seeking friendly visitors for patients that live in a private residence or in Nursing and Assisted Living facilities. Training will soon be available for those who wish to volunteer in the areas of spiritual care and bereavement.

For further information, please call 914-682-1484 ext. 116.



2013

Bereavement Support Groups

Evening-Adult Loss of Parent
Evening-Loss of Spouse/Partner
Daytime-Senior Loss of Spouse/Partner
Evening-General Bereavement Support Group
Seasonal Educational Workshops
Celebration of Life Memorial Butterfly Release

All of our eight week support groups are facilitated by experienced professionals with expertise in grief counseling. Please contact our bereavement department for further information regarding start dates and registration.

Bruce Page, MAT., M.Div.,
Bereavement Coordinator
914-682-1484 ext. 118

Kim Gordon, CT
Bereavement Coordinator
914-682-1484 ext. 163

A new support group is being formed for people touched by a life-threatening illness. This group is co-sponsored by HPCW and Friends In Deed. The group will begin in September. For further information, please call 914-682-1484 ext. 118.





Throughout our 21 year history, the dedicated professionals and volunteers at Hospice & Palliative Care of Westchester (HPCW) have

sought to meet the needs of an ever changing community by continually improving and expanding our programs and services.

Now in 2013, we continue to re-define end-of-life care in Westchester County by enhancing the care provided to our patients and their families with our newly expanded pediatric palliative care program, appropriately named Comfort Crew. This journey leading to the creation of Comfort Crew began a little more than a year ago when we began to examine the need for pediatric palliative care in our community.

We organized several roundtable discussions and meetings with acute care providers in the region including Maria Fareri Children's

Hospital, Elizabeth Seton Pediatric Center, Memorial Sloan Kettering, Blythedale Children's Hospital and pediatric oncologists. These vital conversations led to a realization of the significant shortage of pediatric palliative care in Westchester County. As a result, we are in the process of expanding Hospice & Palliative Care of Westchester's pediatric palliative care program. This will allow us the opportunity to work in conjunction with area facilities to better meet the needs of this special population.

Palliative Care for a child differs greatly from the services we provide to adults. Experts in this unique type of care, the staff of Comfort Crew, have been specially educated in this field. Four of our Comfort Crew staff members recently attended a "train the trainer" program and are now certified to educate staff at other organizations throughout New York State.

As we enhance our services for patients, we must be cognizant of the financial impact recent government cuts are having in our local community. Sequestration, the

mandatory cuts to Federal agencies, went into effect on April 1. Many are unaware of the impact these cuts have on our HPCW's bottom line. Hospice & Palliative Care of Westchester remains dedicated to its mission. It is important to note that we will continue to maintain our exceptional level of care and will not allow sequestration to impact services to our hospice patients and their families. These losses, however, require us to be ever more dependent on the generosity of our supporters.

When I consider the changes 2013 has brought and those still to come, I want to extend my deepest gratitude to our dedicated Board of Directors and to our exceptional staff who every day celebrate and exemplify our mission. I would also like to thank the Westchester community and our donors and supporters for the essential role they play in our continued success. It is through this combined effort that we remain the "Hospice of Choice" in Westchester County.

Mary K. Spengler, MS

Butterfly Release

More than 250 families, friends, and community members gathered for Hospice & Palliative Care of Westchester's third annual Memorial Butterfly Release held at the Rye Nature Center.



HPCW Bereavement Coordinators Bruce Page, M.A.T., M.Div., (left) and Kim Gordon, CT, (right).



Families gathered outside Rye Nature Center to release Monarch butterflies in memory of their loved ones.



A child participates in craft activities at HPCW's Third Annual Memorial Butterfly Release.



Hospice & Palliative Care of Westchester

311 North Street, Suite 204
White Plains, NY 10605

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STAFF ANNOUNCEMENTS

HPCW WELCOMES NEW STAFF MEMBERS

Christine Hopkins, RN
Staff Nurse

Kim Gordon, CT
Bereavement Coordinator

Bruce Page MAT., M.Div.
has been appointed the new
Director of Volunteers and
continues in his role as
Bereavement Coordinator

Maryanne DiDonato, RN our
staff nurse, has been appointed
Coordinator of our
Complementary Care Program.

Congratulations to all!

SAVE THE DATE

October 3, 2013

"IN CELEBRATION" Gala Cocktail Reception
recognizing Kenneth J. Doka, PhD, Professor of
Gerontology, the Graduate School of the College of New
Rochelle and Mae Carpenter, Commissioner, Westchester
County Department of Senior Programs and Services
5:30pm – 7:30pm
Westchester Country Club, Rye, NY
For further information please call Holly K. Benedict at
914-682-1484 ext. 122.

November 8, 2013

Veterans Recognition Breakfast

10:00a.m. – 11:30a.m.

The Westchester Marriott

Reservations are required. For further information, please
call William Dawe at 914-682-1484 ext. 149

If this was received in error please call 914-682-1484 ext. 122.

YOUR LIFE, YOUR DECISION, OUR HELP.