Reflections of a Retiring Hospice Volunteer Coordinator

In 1995 when I became the Whatcom Hospice Volunteer Coordinator, I quickly learned how fortunate we are to have so many people in our community who are generous with both time and resources. This May I will retire. Before I go, I want to thank you, our amazing donors, for your philanthropic support that has helped us build and sustain a robust and outstanding hospice volunteer program in Whatcom County.

Hospice volunteers truly are the best of the best – some of the finest people I have had the privilege to know. They visit and read to patients in their own homes or in the Hospice House. They offer respite care breaks for weary at-home caregivers. They deliver medications and supplies. They bring handmade quilts, stuffed animals and comfort shawls to the Hospice House. They even pull weeds and water the plants around the hospice property. They deserve and get as much appreciation from us as we can provide.

Currently we have 285 volunteers. Community donations fund the entire hospice volunteer program, which includes the initial 32-hour training, ongoing education (including DVD’s from current experts in hospice and dementia care), team-building, workshops, and thank you gifts for our very special volunteers. Each Christmas the Whatcom Hospice Foundation Board of Directors holds an appreciation breakfast for all Hospice staff and volunteers and they also host an appreciation tea in the spring.

Your support also funds the Bereavement Program in which many of my volunteers participate. Several volunteers enjoy the Memory Keepsake Workshops, where we make pillows and animals for the bereaved out of their loved one’s clothing. Foundation funding makes it possible to purchase the fleece, eyes, noses, and sewing supplies to carry on this very special mission. After I retire I plan to continue as a volunteer sewing memory keepsakes – I find this enjoyable and meaningful.

I am terribly proud of the Whatcom Hospice volunteer program. I’m inspired daily by the wonderful volunteers I have served over the past 24 years and by donors like you. Hospice truly is all about the love.

If you are interested in volunteering for hospice, please contact us at (360) 788-6892 or email dgillespie@peacehealth.org or acarr@peacehealth.org.
Thank You for Your Support

Estate Planning Services for Whatcom Hospice Donors

As a service to our friends and donors, Whatcom Hospice Foundation has partnered with Thompson & Associates to offer value-based charitable estate planning services. (www.ceplan.com)

Our representative, Cathy Sheffield, will personally guide you through a thoughtful process at no charge and with no obligation. The goal is to create a plan (or review an existing estate plan) that transfers assets to loved ones in a way that is tailored to fit individual needs while identifying philanthropic resources that may be used to support one’s legacy and charitable interests.

If you would like more information or to schedule an appointment, please contact Karen Haggen. If Whatcom Hospice Foundation is already included in your estate plans please let Karen know and she will include you in our Legacy Society listings.

Karen Haggen, Legacy Advisor
Whatcom Hospice Foundation
(360) 788-6851
khaggen@peacehealth.org

LEGACY SOCIETY
Planned Gift or Estate Gift

Margaret Jacobson, MD and Richard McClanahan, MD
Estate of Emma C. Johnson
Estate of Juanita Dorothy Johnson
Estate of Donald Kahn
Linda Kane
Cheryl A. Kellert, MD
Estate of Paule Kelly
Estate of Barbara Kiep
Judy and Mike Kirkland
Patricia A. Kust
Michael Langley
Estate of Donna M Larsen
Estate of Kathleen Maberry
Estate of Ms. Marilyn Matz
Estate of Mary A. McDonald
Cat McIntyre
Estate of Winnifred M. McMurty
Estate of Lajune Means
Estate of Edwin H. Miller
Estate of John Moore
Estate of Paty R. Morin
Estate of James M Murphy
Estate of Effie May Myers
Estate of Ada Nievene
Estate of Nels Olds
Stephanie Onkels
Estate of Evelyn Oordt
Estate of William Oweneel
Catherine Oweneel
Cathy and Dave Pauley
Ingeborg Paulus, PhD
Janet B. Prokopovich
Estate of Annelise Pyansky
Anne and Rob Rasmussen
Ann Robbins
Mary R. Robinson
Estate of Mary Russell
Karen D. Sansregret
Estate of Joe and Ingrgard Schleif
Estate of Davida Schuett
Kay and Fred Schulmacher
Estate of James R Scott
Estate of LaVere Shaffer
Estate of Genevieve Sharp
Estate of Catherine Snider
Estate of Helen Spitz
John D. Stephens, MD
Estate of Raymond A. Stewart
Shaun P. Sullivan, MD
Estate of Herman and Leah Tabak
Estate of Leon “Lee” Taylor
Estate of Robert Thomas
Christine M. Thompson
Betty and Robert Tull
Estate of Carl Vogt
Estate of June Wai Li
Estate of Carol Wentz
Jennifer L. Wilke
Estate of Kenneth A. Wilks
Estate of Anna Wilhelminda
Louise Williams
Anna Williams
Amy Chan Wolsdorf
Estate of Kit Wong
Estate of Jeanne Yanco
Alan Yordy and Joan Kropf

AMBASSADOR CIRCLE
Annual Giving of $5,000 or more during the period of July 1, 2018 to December 31, 2018

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John and Roni Almon
Laura Bacher, MD
Lyne and Gerald Baron
Baron Visuals
Erin Baumgart, ARNP and
Hank Baumgart
DeeDee and Ken Bell
Birch Equipment Rental & Sales
Lorelei and Frank Chambers
Chmelik Sitkin & Davis, P.S.
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First Federal
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Harriett Green
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Icy Strait Seafoods
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Karen and Chris Weitzel
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Windermere Property Management
Tammy and David Yorkston
Yorkston Oil Company, Inc

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Lifetime Giving of $100,000 or more

Anonymous
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Bellingham Bay Rotary Club
Birch Equipment Rental & Sales
Jo Ann and Jack* Bowman
Lorelei and Frank Chambers
Chuckanut Health Foundation
Dorothy B. Davis Family Foundation
Mimi and John Perlin
Sylvia and Dennis Holmstrom
Cuqita and Mark W. Lindsey
Lummi Indian Business Council
The Norcliffe Foundation
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Rotary Club of Bellingham
Sarah Rothenbuhler
State of Washington, Office of Financial Management
The Riley Companies, Inc.
Betty and Robert Tull
Trudy Zwink*

Thanks to Our Generous Donors
Most Whatcom Hospice patients prefer to receive care in the comfort of their own homes, but when that is not possible or appropriate our 12-bed Hospice House offers 24-hour skilled hospice care in a comfortable, home-like environment. Hospice House is located in a serene wooded setting with beautiful mountain views.

At Hospice House, family and friends are not busy with caregiving and are free to simply spend meaningful, precious time with their cherished loved one. They can visit as often as they desire and stay for as long as they wish. A day bed is provided in each private patient room for guests who wish to spend the night.

Most insurers do not cover the room and board portion of the Hospice House stay. This expense would fall to the family, similar to if the patient were residing in a skilled nursing facility or adult family home.

To ease the patient’s transition to Hospice House, Whatcom Hospice Foundation will cover up to five days of room and board charges, reducing out-of-pocket expenses for the family.

This is just one of the many ways that generous donations from people like you are transforming the end-of-life experience for patients and families in our community. Thank you for your support.