



# Hospice of Cincinnati

*The community not-for-profit hospice*

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**They came...they saw...they gave**

A group of six Hospice of Cincinnati employees embarked upon the journey of a lifetime when they



extended their professional expertise and overflowing compassion to hospice patients and families affected by Hurricane Katrina. Read about their unique experiences on page 6.

Hospice of Cincinnati is sponsored by Bethesda Inc. in a collaborative community partnership with TriHealth and Mercy Health Partners.

## Hospice helps make dream come true



Hospice of Cincinnati patient Larry Holtkamp reaches his long-time dream of meeting game show personality Bob Barker from "The Price is Right."

Larry Holtkamp and his daughter, Amy, had a daily ritual: they loved watching "The Price is Right" together. A father of six who taught math at Mariemont Junior High School, coached basketball and was a busy community member, Larry had always dreamed of being on the show with his daughter. Tragically, a drunk driver took Amy's life when she was just 23, before father and daughter could realize their dream.

But Larry's dream was finally fulfilled with help from Hospice of Cincinnati social worker Molly Wright, MSW. "After I started seeing Larry as a home care patient, he told me his daughter had promised to take him to the show some day," Wright says. "So I started to look at ways we could make this happen."

With help from The Dream Foundation and his church, Larry and his sister, Mary Beth, flew to L.A. in September to attend the show. "They treated us like VIPs!" Mary Beth exclaims. "They went out of their way to make everything just wonderful."

Larry proudly recalls how show staff let them sit in on the rehearsal, gave them seats in the second row, and brought them behind stage after the show to meet Bob Barker. "Amy was with me in spirit," he says softly.

In addition to making Larry's dream a reality, Hospice staff has helped manage his pain and continues to work with the family so they know what to expect as his cancer progresses. "They very compassionately lay out the picture of what we can expect emotionally and physically," Mary Beth says. "They really know how to comfort the patient and his family."

Larry's family is a very close unit and takes great care of him. "I think that's why I've lasted so long," Larry admits with a smile. His great attitude also plays a key part. "Larry is a very inspirational person," Mary Beth says. "I'm gaining my strength from him." Not only is Mary Beth coping with Larry's terminal illness, but also that of her mother's. Both were diagnosed with cancer within a week of each other.



Larry and his sister, Mary Beth, pose with Bob Barker and the cast of "The Price is Right."

Larry's inspiration touches many. He gathered a group of more than 25 family members, co-workers and friends for this year's Hike for Hospice. Last June, Larry was honored when the elementary school gym was named after him during a ceremony that included the Mariemont High School band and hundreds of loving friends. "I was totally overwhelmed," he says. "This was their payback to me for what I loved doing all those years."

Wright says Hospice of Cincinnati helps patients like Larry manage their illness in a way that helps them live every day to the fullest. "We supported Larry and his dream," says Wright. "My goal was to help him fulfill his wish."

## Message from the CEO



The new year is a time of reflection for most of us. When I think about the past year at Hospice of Cincinnati, I can't help but pause in amazement at the accomplishments of HOC employees. Through their dedication, selflessness, professional expertise and business acumen, they have helped enrich the lives of so many in our community and beyond.

This fall, Hospice of Cincinnati extended care beyond Greater Cincinnati in the spirit of true outreach when six HOC employees traveled to Louisiana to assist hospice patients displaced by Hurricane Katrina. I invite you to turn to pages 6 and 7 for a story chronicling their incredible journey.

Through their stories and experiences, we were all reminded of the simplicity and importance of presence. It's not enough to simply offer clinical, holistic and spiritual support. When we are present with people, we are able to connect to their feelings and tune in to what brings them joy. It is within our presence that the real work begins and where the daily accomplishments unfold.

On our cover, you will find a fascinating story about Larry Holtkamp, who realized a life-long dream this fall when he attended a taping of "The Price is Right" game show. After sharing his wish with an HOC social worker, he soon found himself on a plane to Los Angeles.

Each year, Hospice of Cincinnati walks with thousands more like Larry in their end-of-life journey. Assisting us in these journeys are the many communities who partner with HOC to make our care more accessible. Read about how residents living in and near Anderson Township will welcome our new 16-bed inpatient care center this spring (page 8).

Additionally, I'd like to note a few events that help enrich the lives of patients and families through the generous contributions of our devoted donors. Our annual Gourmet Sensation and Hike for Hospice events (page 3) create funding allowing us to offer support beyond basic patient care, such as art and music therapy, and bereavement services. This important funding also helps us provide care for every person in need, regardless of his or her ability to pay.

In partnership with our community, we look forward to enriching the lives of all HOC patients as they seek peace and joy in their final days. Whether it's helping people live out their lives with dignity and comfort or making hospice care more accessible, we remain passionate in this ministry. I personally thank you for sharing in this passion.

Many blessings to you and your loved ones in the New Year!

Steve West  
President and CEO

## Employee of the Quarter

# Katrina volunteers honored as Employees of the Quarter

Each member of the HOC Hurricane Katrina relief team was chosen as an Employee of the Quarter. The following are reflections about their experience. (See pages 6-7 for story.)



Hospice of Cincinnati's emergency relief team to Louisiana included: (left to right) Jeanette Wiedeman, RN, Partners Team; Ed Bastien, chaplain, West Home Care Team; Trudy Warren, RN, Manager, Support and Comfort Care Program; Molly Wright, MSW, social worker; Audrey Dwyer, chaplain, East Home Care Team; Laura Dornoff, RN, Support Team

**Ed Bastien, chaplain**  
West Home Care Team  
*"It's great to be a part of a team of people like this. We all truly feel a certain calling to do what we do."*

**Laura Dornoff, RN**  
Support Team  
*"I feel like I got so much more than I gave."*

**Audrey Dwyer, chaplain**  
East Home Care Team  
*"I saw such a parallel between the hospice patients we saw and the folks in the shelters who had lost everything. They all had a huge change in perspective in terms of what is important, especially that their faith in God and life is most important above all else."*

**Trudy Warren, RN, manager**  
Support and Comfort Care Program  
*"It was really a privilege to represent all of Hospice of Cincinnati."*

**Jeanette Wiedeman, RN, Partners Team**  
*"I'll always remember the stories people told me about the trauma they had been through. They were not only dealing with hospice issues—which is draining enough—but also grieving the great loss they had endured."*

**Molly Wright, MSW, East Home Care Team**  
*"I came back with a better understanding of what it really means to reach out to others in need."*

## *“Sensation” cooks up sumptuous feast*

**A** taste of this and a sip of that kept more than 850 guests coming back for more during the 16th annual A Gourmet Sensation. The food and wine event netted more than \$150,000 for Hospice of Cincinnati.

Title sponsors Edyth and Carl Lindner, along with major sponsors The Cincinnati Hotel and Cutting Edge Selections,

resulted in another banner year for this unique and scrumptious event. Kathy and Michael Brown served as event chairs, with assistance from co-chairs Suzanne and Youssef Costandi, MD.

Guests enjoyed delectable dishes prepared by 18 of the world’s best chefs. Among the participating chefs were locals Guy Hulin and Noreen Nagao of the Palace at The Cincinnati Hotel, as well as Jean-Robert de Cavel and Karen Crawford of Jean-Robert at Pigall’s. In addition, four-star Mobile Guide chef Robert Waggoner of



Chairman of the Hospice of Cincinnati Board of Trustees Marty Piazza and his wife, Marybelle, join Gourmet Sensation co-chairs Suzanne and Youssef Constandi, MD.

Charleston Grill, Charleston, attended along with two-star Michelin chef Michel Rostang of Restaurants Michel Rostang, Paris, France.

Guests also were honored that New Orleans chef Rick Myers of Le Pavillon Hotel was able to attend the event in spite of Hurricane Katrina. He prepared a delicious chicken and shrimp gumbo that was enjoyed by everyone. Our other New Orleans chef, René Bajoux of René René Bistrôt, was unable to join us, but we are relieved he and his family are safe.

Once again Kathy and Michael Brown prepared a sumptuous pre-event feast for guest chefs and major sponsors. This was the 12th year the Browns have donated their amazing talents and time to this wonderful event.

Special thanks go to Edyth and Carl Lindner, Kathy and Michael Brown, The Cincinnati Hotel, Cutting Edge Selections, Meijer and Sandy and Bob Heimann.



Chef Rick Myers of Le Pavillon Hotel, New Orleans, managed to make the trip to Cincinnati to participate in A Gourmet Sensation and treated guests to excellent chicken and shrimp gumbo.

## *Campers sail through another successful session*

**S**ailing the Seas: A Voyage through Grief” was the theme of Fernside’s Camp WeBelong, held Aug. 12 through 14 at Joy Outdoor Education Center. Children participated in daily sharing circles, allowing them the opportunity to share their stories of loss, changes in their lives, memories and feelings through a variety of expressive art activities.

Next year’s Camp WeBelong will offer enhanced services made possible by an anonymous donor. The grant will fund a session for parents to attend the last day of camp to further their child’s experience once camp is over. “Kids go through Camp WeBelong, but if parents aren’t involved at all there is a disconnect,” explains Sandra Lobert, HOC board member. “This allows the whole family to be involved in the grief work.”

Self-care, exercise and nutrition education also will be offered at camp next year due to the additional funds.



Making new friends with other children who have experienced loss is an important part of Camp WeBelong.

Children participate in a variety of activities, including art therapy, to express and work through their grief.



## From the Foundation

# Double Your Gift Without Doubling Your Donation

Gary Algie  
Director, Planned  
Giving/Major Gifts



**W**hen employees think of benefits offered by employers, they often think of health insurance, life insurance or 401(K) plans. In addition to these traditional benefits, some employers may offer a matching gift program. This allows employees to double the size of their charitable gifts without doubling the size of their donations.

The gift is made in the name of the employee but paid by the employer. The donor first gives his or her donation to a charity like Hospice of Cincinnati. Then, HOC verifies the gift with the donor's employer, who then sends a matching contribution in the employee's name. A spouse's or retired individual's employer also may offer to match a gift.

For example, Jane is an employee of General Electric, which offers a matching gift program. Jane decides to donate \$1,000 to HOC. When she sends her gift, she includes her employer's matching gift form. Hospice of Cincinnati processes the gift and sends verification to Jane's employer. The employer

then sends another \$1,000 as a charitable gift in Jane's name. Even though Jane and her employer each receive a \$1,000 charitable deduction, Hospice credits her with a \$2,000 gift.

Gifts in the form of cash or checks are eligible for employer matches. Other types of gifts, such as charitable remainder interests or gifts of remainder interests, are usually eligible depending on the employer's designed program. These gifts may be matched to the extent of the charitable deduction. In other words, a 60-year-old donor establishes a \$10,000 charitable gift annuity at a rate of 5.7 percent. Since the donor's charitable deduction is \$2,844\*, the employer can match the \$2,844, not \$10,000.

Be sure to check your employee handbook or contact your human resources department to see if your employer offers a matching gift program. If you don't have a program, ask your employer to consider offering one that lets you double your gift without doubling your donation.

\*Based on quarterly payments and a 4.6 percent charitable midterm federal rate.

## Bereavement Offerings

### Fairfield Afternoon Support Group

Fairfield Community Arts Center  
Senior Lounge  
411 Wessell Drive  
Jan. 10, 17, 24, 31, Feb. 7 and 14  
1 to 2 p.m.  
Group size limited to 8 people.

### Blue Ash Afternoon Support Group

2nd Floor Conference Room  
4310 Cooper Road  
Jan. 19, 26, Feb. 2, 9, 16, and 23  
1 to 2 p.m.

### Blue Ash Evening Support Group

2nd Floor Conference Room  
4310 Cooper Road  
Jan. 19, 26, Feb. 2, 9, 16 and 23  
6:30 to 8 p.m.

For more information about any bereavement offerings, contact Alan Gruber MA, MSW, LISW, at (513) 936-5811 or Polly Peterson MSW, LSW, at (513) 936-5814.

## Welcome new volunteers!

### Congratulations to the July 2005 graduates of the HOC volunteer program orientation class:

Mary Jane A'Hearn	Danielle Shoreman	Mary French	Gregory Van Ness
Diane Moore	Mary Davis	Barb St. Clair	Karen Martens
Amy Ball	Donna Shoreman	Diane Garnett	Deborah Wheeler
Candace Scarth	Adell Elliott	Julie Tiemeier	Terri Maue
Tracy Cohen	Mark Shoreman	Aruni Marapane	Jane Wilkinson

### Next Training Dates

January 21 and 28th Hospice of Cincinnati, Mercy Hospital of Western Hills	April 4th, 6th and 8th Hospice of Hamilton, Hamilton, Ohio	May 9th, 11th and 13th Hospice of Cincinnati, Mercy Hospital of Anderson
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For more information please call Judy Russell, Program Assistant @ 792-6989 or Jo Ann Ropp, Manager Volunteer Services @ 792-6982 or visit our website @ [www.hospiceofcincinnati.org](http://www.hospiceofcincinnati.org)

# Hikers step it up for Hospice

## Blue Ash Hike

Sunny skies and nearly 1,000 warm hearts presented the perfect combination for the 24th annual Hike for Hospice of Cincinnati held Oct. 1.

The event raised more than \$60,000 for HOC and again featured WKRC-TV Channel 12's Cammy Dierking as master of ceremonies. Walkers enjoyed great weather and a light picnic lunch after burning a few calories with family and friends.

Co-chairs were Grady Davis and Sandi Plummer. Committee members included Tamara Behrens, Marie Bell, Diana Fogel, Nicole Gunderman, Mary Kelley, Sherry Lewis, Robin Lippelman, Andy Mack, Frank Myers, Judy Russell, Jerri Spurlock, J.C. & Betsy Stadnik, and Sandy Wagner.

Major sponsors included John Morrell, Tradewinds Beverage Company, Channel 12 WKRC and the Cincinnati Chapter of the GE Elfuns. Additional sponsors for this year's Hike were: Carington Health Systems, registration sponsor; Tape Products Company, rest stop sponsor; Ethicon Endosurgery,



Nearly 1,000 hikers helped raise more than \$60,000 for the 2005 Hike for Hospice of Cincinnati and celebrated after the Blue Ash hike with food, good friends and entertainment.

Fort Washington Investment Advisors, Pet Stop and Therapy Support Inc, program sponsors; and Huntington Bank and Charles Hamilton Company, map sponsors.

Thanks to all of our walkers and sponsors, and to the City of Blue Ash and the Blue Ash Police Department for helping make this event such a wonderful success!

## Hamilton Hike

The 7th annual Hike for Hospice of Hamilton was held Saturday, Sept. 17, with hikers raising about \$37,000 (including in-kind donations) for Hospice of Hamilton – almost a 25 percent increase from last year!

Hikers enjoyed a light breakfast and lunch, music by the Risky Business Band, clowns, games for the children and more than 40 raffle prizes. Jazzercise of Fairfield pumped up hikers with a “warm-up.”

1st Financial and Carington Health Systems were the Platinum Sponsors for the hike. Heritage Spring was the Gold



On wheels or on foot, the Hamilton community came out in full force this year to raise more than \$37,000 for Hospice of Hamilton.



Sponsor and Silver Sponsors included Chaco Credit Union, Pella Rolscreen Foundation and Harry's Corner. Other major sponsors included: Mercy Hospital Fairfield, Internists of Fairfield, Heritage Health Alliance, Tri-County Extended Care Center & Fairfield Pavilion, Rik Saylor Financial and Wal-Mart Store #3502 (Fairfield Township). The Rebel 105.9 WPFM-FM served as media sponsor.

Prizes were awarded to the following for obtaining the highest level of donations: Sister Antoinne from Mercy Hospital Fairfield, individual category; the Matthews Family, family category; Faith Church, church group; and “Robbie's Song” from Harry's Corner in the corporate category (look for a story about “Robbie's Song” in the next newsletter). Faith Church took a creative approach to gathering donations by selling angels in memory or in honor of loved ones. Organizers raised more than \$3,300 from its members.

Thank you to everyone who volunteered, sponsored and participated to make this year's hike the most successful yet!

For more information on next year's hikes, please contact Jerri Spurlock (Blue Ash Hike) at (513) 745-1618 or [jerri\\_spurlock@trihealth.com](mailto:jerri_spurlock@trihealth.com) and Debbie Hauenstein (Hamilton Hike) at (513) 792-6999 ext. 8158 or [debbie\\_hauenstein@trihealth.com](mailto:debbie_hauenstein@trihealth.com).

## HOC employees reach out to Hurricane Katrina victims

The SOS came just hours after the overwhelming destruction of Hurricane Katrina's wrath became visible through the dark clouds:

*“The situation is dire. The most pressing need is for medical support. If there are nurses who can come, we need them as well as physicians. The enormity of need is difficult to comprehend.”*

The plea to the National Hospice and Palliative Care Organization (NHPCO) was urgent. Many New Orleans-based hospice patients had already been evacuated with more on the way. Hospice of Acadiana—the largest hospice in Louisiana—had the greatest need for help with a surge in patient census. The staff was overwhelmed and exhausted.

### A gracious, giving people

Upon arrival, the HOC staff found their Louisiana counterparts overwhelmed and exhausted. “We met a staff whose director of nursing had dropped dead of a heart attack less than a year ago and with two staff members who are battling cancer,” notes Audrey Dwyer, HOC chaplain. “They were already somewhat overwhelmed before Hurricane Katrina hit and they took in 30 or 40 additional patients.”



Hospice of Acadiana board member Dee Conque prepares a ‘southern-style’ meal for Trudy Warren and Laura Dornoff upon their arrival in Lafayette.

Lafayette, Hospice of Acadiana’s headquarters, is a town of approximately 140,000 people, recalls Ed Bastien, HOC chaplain. Overnight, the population swelled by more than 40,000 people escaping Katrina.

The Lafayette group was taken in by Dee Conque, a Hospice of Acadiana board member, and her husband, Rusty.



The HOC relief team is joined by Steve West, CEO, Hospice of Cincinnati, Nelson Waguespack, CEO, Hospice of Acadiana, and Michael Blanchard, executive vice president, Hospice of Acadiana.

See page 2 for more information on relief team members and their Employee of the Quarter honors.

Working through NHPCO, Hospice of Cincinnati CEO Steve West put together a six-person emergency relief outreach team. “Their jobs were to assist in not only providing hospice care but also in restoring peace to these patients and their families after their unimaginable ordeals,” West says.

The Bethesda Foundation provided a grant to fund round-trip airfare to Louisiana.



A makeshift air mattress hotel had to suffice for HOC staff in Houma. However, local staff made their accommodations as cozy as possible.

“They really pampered us,” Bastien boasts. Jeanette Wiedeman, RN, adds, “I think they felt it was their ministry to take care of us.”

The other three HOC employees—Trudy Warren, RN, Molly Wright, MSW, and Laura Dornoff, RN—were based at Hospice of Acadiana’s Houma office. While equally welcomed, the Houma group had slightly different housing arrangements.

Every available bed in Houma was already taken by someone evacuated from New Orleans, so the HOC trio slept on air mattresses in Hospice of Acadiana’s Houma office. “I found a wonderful culture in Houma,” says Warren, team leader of HOC’s mission group. “People were so gracious, warm and giving. They were very grateful we were there and willing to give what little they had left to other people in need.”

Dornoff remembers the many patients and their families who cooked meals and offered to help the HOC staff with their laundry. “The secretary from the hospice—who lost her home and everything in it in a fire during Hurricane Katrina—brought in delicious meals for us every night that she cooked in a trailer in her sister’s back yard.”

She remembers walking through grocery stores and seeing shelf after empty shelf. “It’s something you just can’t imagine finding in America,” Dornoff says.

# defining moments

## So much loss

A lot of time was spent listening to people's stories, Wiedeman says. "Not only were these people dealing with hospice issues, they had all of this loss." She had been on 10 mission trips prior to heading to the gulf. This, however, was a very different experience. "In Lafayette, I was dealing with people who had just lost everything."

Dornoff recalls her preparation for the outreach. "I had a five-minute orientation, then I hopped in a van with some directions," she says. "Most of the patients I visited lived in the bayous, so I had to negotiate a lot of waterways."



HOC staff helped calm patients and families who had faced catastrophic conditions and frightening relocation, in addition to dealing with terminal illness.

## A dramatic exit

The team's trip was cut short by the arrival of Hurricane Rita. They became evacuees themselves as they rushed to escape the next hurricane. "After experiencing the evacuation from Hurricane Rita, I think we all have a better appreciation of why some people don't leave. It's not because they don't want to... it's because they can't," Dornoff says. "Houma is out in the bayous, and there are waterways everywhere. If the bridge is flooded, you can't get out."

## Safely home

"I can't say enough about the pride, respect and admiration I have for our relief team," West says. "Equally significant was the selflessness of so many of our employees who, in only one day, donated enough vacation hours to help compensate the team of six during their two-week relief mission. In this way, the entire HOC organization has shared in this unique opportunity to help our fellow man."

As the weeks and months continue in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina, people have begun rebuilding their homes and their lives. "Hospice patients and families are challenged

One of the most heartbreaking experiences she recalls was helping a 10-year-old girl who was totally paralyzed from a tumor, except for her right hand. "I brought her stickers, movies and food that I thought she might be able to eat. The care she got from her mother and family was exceptional ...she died the day before we left."

"I met a man who had lost both of his legs, and his left arm was useless from a stroke he suffered a year ago," Dwyer recalls. "He was struggling with his own feelings of uselessness and fright at having to depend on others to get him out of harm's way. It put me in touch with my own feelings of vulnerability. I kept thinking, 'What if it were me?'"

Dwyer also was touched by the story of a 24-year-old hospice patient who had been evacuated from a small town north of New Orleans. In addition to dealing with terminal cancer as the mother of a 5-year-old daughter, she lost her home and everything in it. "A priest came one day and she made her First Communion," Dwyer remembers. "I admired her for continuing her spiritual journey despite her illness and her circumstances. Hospice was instrumental in helping her reach her goal."

"... I was dealing with people who had just lost everything."



HOC staff had to face a lot of local critters they don't normally see running about in Ohio.

to rebuild in ways most of us can never know," West says. "I'm convinced that these six people, with the support of the rest of the HOC family, truly helped our neighbors in Louisiana to regain peace as they travel life's final journey."

## And the giving goes on ...

*Employees from a variety of areas within HOC joined together to donate \$2,000 in December to help brighten the holidays for Hospice of Acadiana employees and families affected by Hurricane Katrina.*

## All about seniors

Hospice of Cincinnati participated in the 2005 Seniors' Health Symposium, which drew more than 220 professionals to the Manor House Banquet and Conference Center Oct. 5. Sponsored by TriHealth and Skilled Care Pharmacy, the event offered topics of interest to professionals working with older adults. Hospice of Cincinnati was part of the planning committee for the event, sponsored the lunch speaker, and HOC Medical Director Rebecca Bechhold, MD, was a speaker as well.



Dana Butler, RN, HOC professional relations coordinator, Rebecca Bechhold, MD and Marie Cunningham, HOC senior account executive, take a break from the daylong symposium.

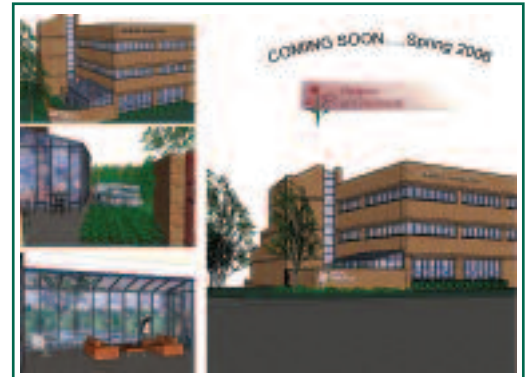
## Inpatient care coming to Cincinnati's east side

Hospice of Cincinnati patients living on the east side of town soon will have an inpatient care center located conveniently to them and their families. A 16-bed center will open this spring on the first floor of the Mercy Health Plaza, 7691

Five Mile Road (former location of Group Health Associates). "Our new inpatient care center will provide the same quality services the community has come to expect from our organization," remarks Steve West, HOC CEO and president. The new center will be open 24 hours a day, seven days a week, and will be staffed and managed by Hospice of Cincinnati employees.

"On behalf of Mercy Hospital Anderson I want to welcome Hospice of Cincinnati to Anderson Township," comments Adam Dittman, vice president of operations, Mercy Hospital Anderson. "For years this organization has demonstrated patient care at the highest level while providing comfort to loved ones during difficult periods. We are grateful for their commitment to improve the quality of life for patients and their families."

An open house will be planned once renovations to the former Group Health Associates space are complete. Please look for more details about this exciting new addition to Hospice of Cincinnati's facilities in future issues of this newsletter.



This architect's rendering shows that Hospice of Cincinnati's new east side inpatient care center will be as open and welcoming as its other facilities.



*The community not-for-profit hospice*

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