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hospice
of the chesapeake
Celebrating Forty Years of Care

CARING FOR
Life

hospicechesapeake.org

Letter from our President



Dear friends,

The year 2019 is very special to us because we get to celebrate all year long as a family. A family that started 40 years ago when Martha O'Herlihy, Mary Ellen Blondel, Norman Lambert, Frances Grauch and others decided they would do something different. They planted the seeds for an organization that would impact the lives of thousands of families.

They envisioned, and ultimately willed into reality, a type of care that would focus beyond medical treatment alone. Care that would attend to the needs of the body, mind and spirit of those living with and impacted by illness. It all began in 1979 with just four patients.

Often, I share stories about our patients and families rather than numbers because I want to be sure that we convey the depth of the work we do rather than just the reach. But, I have one very impactful number to share -- 42,138.

We have cared for 42,138 hospice patients since Martha and Fran decided to change the world after hearing Elisabeth Kubler-Ross speak in Baltimore. And, so it began.

I am not even sure we know that today's Hospice of the Chesapeake is what they envisioned. I am sure that all they did accomplish was not done alone. I hope today's Hospice of the Chesapeake is even better than what they envisioned because of the thousands of people—volunteers, staff and community members—who have contributed to help us grow in ways these two nurses might not have imagined. Would they have imagined palliative care could exist? Or that we would provide specialized care for pediatric patients and their families with the Chesapeake Kids program? That we would become regional experts in grief support even beyond loss due to illness? I'm not sure they did, but I am sure glad we did.

Thank you for helping us to build on their legacy. Thank you for sharing in our mission of caring for life through the journey with illness and loss.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ben Marcantonio".

Ben Marcantonio

Save the Date

4th annual Welcome Home Vietnam Veterans Day Celebration

Friday, March 29, 2019 – 4 to 7:30 p.m.
Hilton Baltimore BWI Hotel, Linthicum

14th annual Emily Schindler Memorial Lecture

Wednesday, May 1, 2019 – 9 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.
Johns Hopkins University Asthma & Allergy Center, Baltimore

10th annual Fashion for a Cause benefiting Chesapeake Kids

Thursday, June 6, 2019 – 6:30 to 9:30 p.m.
Porsche of Annapolis

For tickets or sponsorship opportunities, please contact Chris Wilson, Director of Advancement, at cwilson@hospicechesapeake.org or 443.837.1530.

Treating sudden loss: The chance to *exhale*

By Roberta Rook, MA, LCPC, and Joy McCrady, MS, LCPC, NCC
Bereavement Counselors with Chesapeake Life Center



The majority of Chesapeake Life Center clients come to us as part of the Medicare Hospice Benefit that offers support to family members for 13 months after their loved one's death. Many families begin the grief process with our care teams even before their loved one passes away.

An increasing number, however, seek help from the center after sudden loss. This includes people grieving someone who died from substance misuse, suicide, accidents, and sudden illness such as cardiac arrest, disease and undiagnosed advanced-stage cancer. With little exception, the families had no time to even consider death, much less prepare for it. They didn't have a chance to say goodbye.

Adapting to the reality of sudden loss takes much longer. Before sadness and grief play their roles, the survivors must address the shock and disbelief that comes with trauma. Many sudden deaths have a component of perceived preventability: If only he had gone to rehab; if only she had talked about her feelings; if only he exercised more; if only she didn't drive that night. This is a major complicating factor in reaction to sudden or traumatic death. It can cause survivors to replay the circumstances leading up to the death and exacerbate feelings like guilt and anger. Additionally, suicide, homicide and overdose can carry a stigma that complicates the grieving process. If the loss is perceived as preventable based on bad choices, survivors can feel ostracized by their community.

Chesapeake Life Center relies on the generosity of our community to provide services to any who need our expertise. If you would like to help by making a donation, please contact us at foundation@hospicechesapeake.org or 443-837-3385.

For all these reasons, we offer services that are supported by trauma-informed counselors as well as support groups that address sudden loss. The Pasadena campus offers two monthly grief support groups: Together...Silent No More, for overdose loss; and Suicide Grievors. New this year in Largo is a group for general sudden loss. You can learn more about these and other groups at chesapeakelifecenter.org

Survivors can go through their daily life just holding their breath. These groups are a safe place where others understand and empathize with the stigma, guilt and anger of coming to terms with their loved one's death. These groups give them the chance to exhale.



Roberta Rook and Joy McCrady

In lieu of flowers:

The power of memorial giving

Thomas Jones had a remarkable life. When he was just 24, he and a workmate started their own business. Now known as Valley Lighting, it has been responsible for lighting up many iconic venues – Orioles Park at Camden Yard, M&T Bank Stadium and Live! Casino and Hotel, to name a few.

He also was really good at landing some really big fish. In 2013, he earned the top prize in the 40th White Marlin tournament, by reeling in a 83-pound white marlin, worth \$1.2 million. Through this all, he was a generous man grounded by faith and an incredible love for his family and friends. He shared his zest for life and did not hold back. “We had a great life,” said his wife and high school sweetheart Maureen Jones. “He did everything big.”

Perhaps that’s why she wasn’t surprised by what happened after he died last year from cancer at the age of 76. When writing his obituary, the family added that in lieu of flowers, people could donate to Hospice of the Chesapeake.

Over the next month or so, donations ranging in size from \$25 to \$1,000 dollars started to roll in. Forty-one gifts, in fact, totaling nearly \$9,000.

“Everybody loved him. He was fun to be around. He was the old-time business man. He could close a deal on a napkin and a handshake,” Maureen said. I wasn’t surprised he got a lot of donations. I was glad that they gave to hospice.”

The Jones family’s experience with hospice was brief but impactful. Thomas was diagnosed with cancer after having trouble swallowing in December 2016. He was quite the fighter, though, and also a very good patient, who did all that was asked of him and never complained. As the disease progressed, it began to take its toll. He told Maureen not to wait any longer. “Call hospice. They can help you and me,” he said.

“It was such a relief for them to take on that role. Just to have someone to talk to. He had the nurses laughing,” she said.

**To make a memorial gift, please contact us at
foundation@hospicechesapeake.org
or 443-837-3385.**



Tom and Maureen Jones, seated on the couch and surrounded by their children and grandchildren

In April, the nurse told her that they needed to tell Thomas he was dying. "The nurse said, 'It's time now. You can let go.' She was talking very soft, and very peaceful. Then I went in and told him it was okay."

A half hour later, he went. Very peacefully. "It was a blessing the way he went," she said.

Memorial donations are a significant portion of the funds raised each year and last year, the organization raised close to \$450,000 through 3,390 memorial gifts. But the volume and final total of the gifts honoring Thomas made a big impression with our leadership. "It was clear this was a man who was so adored and respected, who created a lasting legacy," said Chief Advancement Officer Shauna Chabot. "We felt we could best honor the generosity he inspired with a naming opportunity."

Our team contacted Maureen and shared our plan to put Thomas's name on something in the Rebecca Fortney Inpatient Care Center. Maybe a patio? Or, how about the electrical room?

"It's perfect, being the electrical room," Maureen said. "The patio would have been nice, but we thought the electrical room was very appropriate."

So now when you visit the inpatient care center in Pasadena, you will see an electrical room bearing a plaque that reads:

Generously donated by
the Jones Family and Friends
In Memory of Thomas E. Jones
"Kingbone"

"He would love that – he would be embarrassed and maybe turn all red, but he would love it," Maureen said.



Volunteer Spotlight: Jason Cherry



When we shine the spotlight on our volunteers, we like to share what we call their “hospice story.” Jason Cherry has three.

The first story revolves around his mother, Cathy Purple Cherry. The architect who designed the Rebecca Fortney Inpatient Care Center, she has been a loyal friend to Hospice of the Chesapeake. He saw her altruism and was inspired.

The second story is about his grandmother. In her final days, his family moved her from Florida to be with them and she was in our care. It played an important role in his decision to serve this organization. “I was 16 or 17 with her passing. I was able to see the level of support the care team provided,” Jason said.

The third story is very personal. He was diagnosed with Hodgkin’s lymphoma at age 19. He has been in remission now for two years, but the impact of seeing other children suffer and die from cancer was powerful.

With three different stories to fuel his passion, Jason has helped raise funds and awareness for the Chesapeake Kids program by volunteering for the last four years with the Fashion for a Cause committee. This fashion show with a runway in the service bays of Porsche of Annapolis is a great gateway event for young adults like Jason. “Jason is known throughout Maryland for raising money and awareness for Autism Society of America while competing nationally as a race-car driver,” said Director of Advancement Chris Wilson. “Fashion for a Cause was the perfect fit. And he made an impact right from the start – bringing in friends and donations.”

For Jason, it was the pediatric hospice and bereavement program itself that inspired him. “The level of involvement with youth in the community was surprising and still impresses me today,” he said. “Getting to know some of the kids and families has been great.”

Since he graduated from Annapolis Area Christian School in 2014, Jason began and has grown his own business, Mission Escape Rooms. He founded his own nonprofit, Siblings of Autism. He was named Community Foundation of Anne Arundel County’s Young Volunteer of the Year for 2017. And, just this year, we were fortunate enough to have the now 22-year-old join the board of directors for the Hospice of the Chesapeake Foundation.

Jason said he hopes that he can use his youthful enthusiasm to help the board get more millennials involved in the organization. He said his generation is at the age right now that are “the strongest years to make change happen.”

Have fun while raising money for our Chesapeake Kids program on June 6. Call Megan Lawton at 443-837-1531 and get your tickets for Fashion for a Cause.

The celebrating begins with *memories and hopes*

We started our ruby anniversary year with a kick-off reception at the Severn Inn on Jan. 24. We were joined by some of our most dedicated supporters, including members of our 40th Anniversary Honorary Committee, who reflected on their favorite memories and shared their hopes for the next 40 years.



The evening was made perfect when founder Martha O’Herlihy arrived with her husband, Dr. Hilary O’Herlihy, and their son, Sean. She said that favorite memories were caring for the patients and her hopes were “that we keep growing and getting bigger, but still offering excellent care.”

Those hopes were mirrored by most of the guests, with many also seeking to continue growing in Prince George’s County. Jimmy Wilburn said that our efforts to reach the faith-based community through its churches is important and should be expanded on. “I have watched the growth for the last 12 years in Anne Arundel County and I think we can do the same for Prince George’s County.”

We were especially moved by those who counted as their best memories the care we provided to their loved ones. Steve Samaras said he will always remember the care we provided his mother after the death of his father, and then later, how we cared for her in the final stages of Alzheimer’s disease, adding that he believes we are “one of the top two important charities in our community.”

John Warner’s hospice story has many chapters, as his parents and his wife were cared for by Hospice of the Chesapeake in the last month or so of their lives. “It’s exhilarating in the fact that they did such a wonderful job and made my life a lot easier than it would have been without them. I get involved in fundraising because it makes me feel good to help them. I want to give back and that’s one way of doing it.”

40th Anniversary Honorary Committee

Senator John Astle	Stanley Klos
The Baldwin Family	Richard Lerner
Senator Pamela Beidle	Elizabeth Liechty
John and Cathy Belcher	Bill and Rose Lovelace
Senator Ed DeGrange	James and Katherine Mandrin
Mike DeStefano and Molly Driver	Tim McDonough
Brian and Martha Gibbons	Jeff McKnight
Thomas B. Howell, Sr.	Martha and Hilary O’Herlihy, MD
Jim and Linda Humphrey	The Tate Family
Rev. Dr. James G. and Elizabeth Kirk	The Wilburn Family
Jerry and Jane Klasmeier	

THE GIFT OF



hospicechesapeake.org

LEGACY

"I hope Hospice of the Chesapeake continues the amazing path that it's on. I hope it remains a local charity that continues to serve the immediate community."

– Brian Gibbons



Be an Angel

Support Hospice of the Chesapeake

Your gift will help a patient or family member in need, provide comfort to someone grieving a loss and ensure quality care for our community.

Memorial Gifts
Grateful Family Gifts of Gratitude
Monthly Giving
Gifts of Stock and Securities

Event Sponsorships
Workplace Giving
Corporate Partnerships
Matching Gifts

Bequests, Beneficiary Designations and IRA Gifts

Make a gift online at www.hospicechesapeake.org/giving.
Call 443-837-3385 for more information or to make a credit card gift over the phone.
Mail a check made out to Hospice of the Chesapeake Foundation.

Thank you for your support!