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of the chesapeake
foundation

CARING FOR

Life

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Letter from our President

Dear Friends,

You often hear us talking about how our programs are family-centered. That means more than providing care to both patient and family. It is also about empowering them to make decisions about their healthcare, choosing their own path on their journey through illness and loss.

It is why we entered the new decade by rebranding our palliative care program to Chesapeake Supportive Care to ensure patients and families have access to the supportive care services they need. Realizing the word palliative is very misunderstood, we're hopeful that rebranding under the supportive care umbrella will remove that barrier and allow for a robust conversation with patients and their loved ones.

Another way we are empowering the family is by partnering with the Anne Arundel County Department of Aging through Leadership Anne Arundel to educate residents about advance healthcare decisions. According to a 2018 survey by The Conversation Project, 92% of people say talking about end-of-life care with their loved ones is important but only 32% have had the conversation. The Take Charge of Your Healthcare Decisions Initiative will address that disparity, beginning on April 16, National Healthcare Decisions Day, at the Annapolis and Arundel Mills malls. There people can learn about creating advanced directives and even have a nurse practitioner review and sign off on a Medical Order of Life Sustaining Treatment, known informally as a MOLST.

In addition, our commitment to family-centered programs has earned us a \$35,000 award through the State of Maryland tax credit program so that we can continue to evolve our bereavement programs as we learn from the families we serve. For information or to buy tax credits, call Shauna Chabot at 443-837-1503.

It is all thanks to you. Simply put, your support gives us the opportunity to provide families more than is covered by insurance, more than is expected and more than most hospices provide.

Thank you for giving,



Ben Marcantonio



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.

General and Designated Gifts • Tribute Gifts and 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!

Meet Child Life Specialist: *Alex Haarich*

There is one cubicle on the John & Cathy Belcher Campus in Pasadena that catches the eye of anyone who walks by. It is filled with color: A cart carrying Play-Doh, markers and bubble wands. Boxes with brightly hued blankets. Shelves loaded with boxes marked "Joy Jars."

When you see who is sitting in the middle of all this, you understand the reason for all these playful surrounds. The blankets are donations for pediatric patients. The cart supplies the preteen grief support group. The Joy Jars are filled with toys and activities to bring a young cancer patient the kind of happiness that should be normal for a child. These are tools for Alex Haarich, our Chesapeake Kids program's child life specialist.

Haarich's role on our team is to support families who have a child with a life-limiting illness, from diagnosis, through treatment, and in death. She usually sees one or two families a day, and each family is seen at least once every other week, though depending on their needs, it could be more. The week we spoke, she was working with social worker JoAn Monplaisir to schedule a photography session for one family. The team effort allowed her to spend extra time with the family of a patient who was dying, supporting the parent and helping to explain to the other children what was happening to their sibling.



A Marylander, Haarich earned her bachelor's degree in family studies with a concentration in child life and her master's degree in child life at Towson University. Her first job was at Children's Hospital in Philadelphia before working at the University of Maryland Medical Center in the Pediatric Emergency Department. She first became interested in hospice and palliative care after spending time with a hospice child life specialist while interning at Cincinnati Children's Hospital which she said boasts the largest child life program in the U.S.

This year, Haarich is taking part in a continuing education program for palliative care professionals in the Capital region through the PANDA Team, Children's National Hospital's pediatric palliative care program. While learning more about family-centered care, she'll also contribute by completing a project that can be used by other pediatric programs. Last year, Monplaisir participated in the program, and presented a memorial project that included a small set of wind chimes that came with a poem which was given to families after a child passed away.

Haarich is grateful for all the support she has received from donors and the team, adding that it is reassuring that the organization sees that what she does is vital. "The majority of my position is donor-funded, and without that support, I couldn't do what I do, and the families wouldn't get the support that I'm able to give them every day."

Help Child Life Specialist Alex Haarich and the Chesapeake Kids team provide the support families need to help a child with life-limiting illness or grieving the loss of a loved one.

To make a donation, please contact foundation@hospicechesapeake.org or 443-837-1527.

What's in a Name?

Rebranding from palliative to supportive care



January 1 of any year is known as a date people choose to make big changes for the better. We chose that date to finalize a change we had been working on for some time, demonstrating our commitment to make palliative care more accessible to everyone who needs it. Signs were changed, brochures and forms updated, new business cards and identification badges distributed. And when the sun rose on the new year, Chesapeake Palliative Medicine became Chesapeake Supportive Care, rebranding the care we provide to those living with advanced, complex illness.

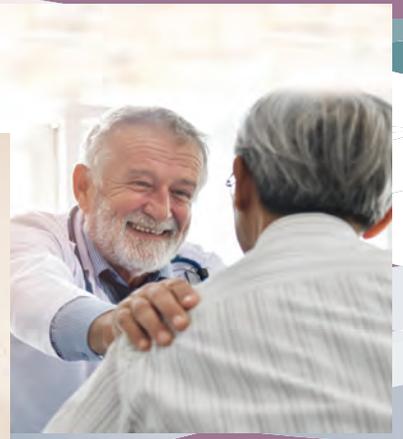
Much thought, research and consideration went into this decision. While the medical specialty remains palliative medicine, we rebranded the program under the term "Supportive Care" in the hopes this term will better define for patients and families the care we provide. The change is primarily a branding change and will not in any way change the focus of our patient care team or the level of customer service for which it has built a highly esteemed reputation.

Our palliative/supportive care team encounters a tremendous amount of misconceptions and hesitation to receiving the much-needed additional support that this type of care can provide.

"We are following the lead of many national palliative care programs, including MD Anderson Cancer Center, who have changed their program names," said Dr. Eric Bush, Chief Medical Officer. "Like those organizations, we hope to increase understanding and acceptance so that everyone who can benefit from palliative medicine will no longer hesitate to access it."

Beyond the name change, we have been aggressively reaching out into the medical community to develop new avenues to supportive care so more patients and families have access beyond our referral partners in assisted living and skilled nursing facilities and the Hussman Supportive Care Center on our John & Cathy Belcher Campus. Two notable examples are partnerships formed with UM Capital Region Health and Doctors Community Hospital to provide inpatient palliative care to patients in their facilities.

chesapeake
supportive care



The Chesapeake Supportive Care team

To make a gift to Chesapeake Supportive Care, please contact us at foundation@hospicechesapeake.org or 443-837-3385.

As Shakespeare's Juliet once asked, "What's in a name?" According to statistics, the name "palliative" comes with societal baggage that betrays its powerful purpose. As reported in a recent *Hospice News* article, "Many patients who would benefit from palliative care do not receive those services. An estimated 71 percent of adults in the United States are unaware that palliative care exists, studies have shown, even though nearly 80 percent of consumers who received background information on palliative care say they would choose it for themselves or their loved ones.

"Other research shows that close to 60 percent of patients who would benefit from palliative care do not receive those services, despite the availability of community-based palliative care as well as hospital-based palliative care."

"We really want to try to reach all the patients that we feel could really benefit from palliative or supportive care," Bush told *Hospice News*. "You can have that academic debate about that, but we felt like changing to 'supportive' would allow patients to get rid of one more barrier to receiving that care."

New name, new brand, same great care team. As we have done for the past seven years, Chesapeake Supportive Care will continue to help patients and their families make sense of what's happening, no matter the illness.

Volunteer Spotlight:

Alice Jo Weaver

If you look closely at Alice Jo Weaver, you might recognize her from pictures we have shared on brochures, mailings and social media. Is that Mrs. Claus?

Weaver is a bit of a celebrity to our pediatric families and team who know her as the First Lady of the North Pole when she dons the iconic red dress to help deliver gifts donated to our Chesapeake Kids families. It's a joyful role she loves to play, but only a very small portion of what she has done for our families and teams.

The Glen Burnie woman started as a volunteer in 2012 at the Mandrin Inpatient Care Center after retiring from her job as an office manager for an elevator company. She helped with clerical tasks, and even worked part-time in the position while still volunteering. But she had become interested in the healing arts, something she could not offer patients while she was on the clock. She stopped working part time as an employee and focused on volunteering.

A reiki master who also practices aromatherapy and Comfort Touch, she served as a patient care and vigil volunteer. Then, she acquired the Mrs. Claus costume so that she could play the jolly man's wife for a friend's daughter's party. When she learned about our Holiday Giving project, she offered to suit up. That is also how she got interested in volunteering for the children. "These babies and their families, they need everything we can give them," she said. "This is where I need to be."

She and her husband Chuck have two grown children – a son and a daughter. Their son was born with serious health problems, and she thinks that's what helps her to understand the needs of the families she serves. Weaver is honored that the parents trust her to care for their children so they can do the things we all take for granted, like yard work, dishes or taking a shower. "It's so important to have as normal a home life as you can. They can depend on that time I spend with them to do whatever they need."

When the young patient dies, it is a huge loss for Weaver, too. She is wise enough to take time to care for herself and may step away from volunteering for a short time to regain that balance. Through the journey as volunteer and griever, she seeks support from her husband and her church community. "I have a huge faith. I speak with God through all of it," she said.

Weaver is rewarded by getting to love a family and a child who face daily struggles. "Connecting with that baby. Singing with him and looking in his eyes. Boy, when we make that connection!" Then she knows she is part of this family. "You belong to them and they belong to you. They are all angels."



Have fun while raising money for our Chesapeake Kids program on June 4. Call Megan Lawton at 443-837-1531 and get your tickets for Fashion for a Cause.

The Chesapeake Kids Committee: *Focus on the Families*

As you read earlier in this newsletter, much of the important work our Chesapeake Kids team does is supported by donations and grants. A great deal of those funds are generated by events and outreach led by the members of the Chesapeake Kids Committee. Their work, most notably on our annual Fashion for a Cause event, helps to fund pediatric hospice care for children living with advanced illness, support for the families of children while living with illness and grief support for children and teens who have lost a loved one due to illness or sudden/traumatic loss.



We would like to thank them by name: Gina Baldwin, April Boera, Jeanne Campbell Poole, Jason Cherry, Georgie Clark, Monica Coleman, Gene Deems, Holly Frye-Atcherson, Cara Horner, Scott Hymes, Mary Frances Isakov, Elizabeth Liechty, Bill Love, Summer Marr, Ashley Marshall, Stacy Martin, Tim McDonough and Cary Melnyk.

We are so grateful for your enthusiasm, creativity and generous gifts.

An Evening Under the Tuscan Sky

WE WISH TO THANK THE LEADING SPONSORS OF OUR UPCOMING GALA

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Annapolis Dermatology Associates • The Wilburn Company

GOLD

Greenberg Gibbons • John & Terri Hussman

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Anne Arundel Dermatology • Reliable Contracting Company, Inc.
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Exelon Power • Gilligan Design Group • Liquified Creative, LLC • Moran Insurance
Whiteford, Taylor & Preston, LLP • Zachary's Jewelers



THE GIFT OF FAMILY

We are so grateful for the wonderful care you gave Jasmine, always keeping her comfortable and being there for her every need. You were there also for the family, helping us navigate through this difficult time. We thank you!

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Save the Date

HOPE & HEALING FOR HEROES: A WELCOME HOME VIETNAM VETERANS EVENT

Monday, March 30, 2020 – 9 a.m. to noon
American Legion Post 226, Edgewater

AN EVENING UNDER THE TUSCAN SKY ANNUAL GALA

Saturday, April 4, 2020 – 5:30 to 11 p.m.
The Hotel at the University of Maryland, College Park

TAKE CHARGE OF YOUR HEALTHCARE DECISIONS ON NATIONAL HEALTHCARE DECISIONS DAY

Thursday, April 16, 2020
11 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Arundel Mills Mall in Hanover
Noon to 3 p.m. at the Westfield Annapolis Mall

15TH ANNUAL EMILY SCHINDLER MEMORIAL LECTURE

Wednesday, April 29, 2020 – 9 a.m. to 12:15 p.m.
Owen Brown Interfaith Center, Columbia

12TH ANNUAL FASHION FOR A CAUSE BENEFITING CHESAPEAKE KIDS

Thursday, June 4, 2020 – 6:30 to 9:30 p.m.
Porsche Annapolis

For tickets or sponsorship opportunities, please contact Megan Lawton, at 443-837-1531 or mlawton@hospicechesapeake.org.