

Voices from the Heart

A Newsletter of the Hospice Memorial Fund

Fall 2002

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“A Day of Remembrance and Reflection”

“A Day of Remembrance and Reflection for Grieving Adults”

Heartland Home Health Care and Hospice of Fort Wayne, Indiana sponsored an adult grief day on September 21, 2002 called, “A Day of Remembrance and Reflection.” The day camp experience was offered to any adult in the Fort Wayne community who had experienced the death of a loved one within the past two years. “A Day of Remembrance and Reflection” was held at Camp Lakewood in South Milford, Indiana.

The event enabled individuals to gather in a lodge surrounded by a peaceful lake setting for nurturing, honoring memories, grief teaching and

validation, group sharing and reflection through writing and art.

The “Day of Remembrance and Reflection” included a gathering time with introductions, an overall review of the day, shared meals and three large group sessions followed by smaller group sessions led by trained facilitators. Recreation time offered canoeing, hiking or relaxing on the lake. The day concluded with a service of remembrance with music, readings and a candle-lighting ceremony in memory of those who have died and of those who carry on in life.

“A Day of Remembrance and Reflection” was coordinated by Nancy Hauptert, Bereavement Coordinator at Heart-



land Home Health Care and Hospice in Fort Wayne. Nancy can be reached at 877-484-7622 if you would like more information. “A Day of Remembrance and Reflection” was made possible through financial assistance from the Hospice Memorial Fund.

Heartland Hospice Helps to Say “I DO”

Heartland Hospice of Westchester, Illinois used its motto, “it’s about life,” as a guide when they recently assisted a patient and his fiancée to marry. The Heartland Hospice patient has been suffering from terminal lung cancer, but he has

not been doing it alone. His fiancée has been standing by his side throughout his battle with cancer. During the initial contact with the couple, the patient’s fiancée asked the Heartland Hospice representative if they could “have some-

one come out to the house and marry us.” The couple had already secured their marriage license and only the ceremony remained to make their marriage official. The patient’s

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How to Apply for a Grant:

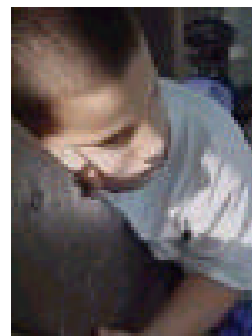
- Submit a completed grant application via fax to Hospice Memorial Fund at (419) 252-5521. Applications are available on the company’s intranet or from the Hospice Memorial Fund office.
- Include detailed financial need information (if asking for individual or family assistance)
- Grant approvals are provided in one week or less.

A “Headache” in my Heart

On April 9, 2002, Heartland Hospice of Cleveland sponsored “A Headache in my Heart,” a community service program for parents and others concerned with children who have experienced a death in their lives. The program was created by Hope for the Grieving Heart, Inc., a community organization that provides low-cost, quality education to people in the community who work with bereaved individuals, including school personnel, community counselors/therapists, social

workers, clergy, funeral directors, nurses and other professionals, as well as parents and laypersons. The program featured Dr. Sally Downham Miller, a noted speaker, author and nationally recognized expert on grief and loss. The focus of the program was the exploration of the ongoing effects of grief on children and adolescents. The program focused specifically on the needs of children because of the fact that dealing with grieving children is a lot different than dealing with

grieving adults. The event was held at a local middle school. Thanks to the Hospice Memorial Fund’s sponsorship of the event, the program was offered at no cost to attendees.



A Chance to Say Goodbye

Heartland Hospice of Santa Rosa, California recently had an opportunity to fulfill one of the final wishes of a dying patient, and enable her to say goodbye to her mother. The patient had been living at home with her elderly mother. Her mother then suffered a fall in the home and had to be hospitalized. The patient’s mother was fearful that she would not be discharged from the hospital in time to

see her daughter once more. Through an incredible collaboration of efforts, team members at Heartland Hospice of Santa Rosa contacted the ambulance company, the physicians, the family, the hospital and the Hospice Memorial Fund, to coordinate a final meeting for the two. Later that same day, all of the pieces fell into place. An ambulance transported the dying daughter to the hospital, and with

the oversight of the hospice care manager, a frail mother and a dying daughter spent two final hours together.

“...a frail mother and a dying daughter spent two final hours together.”

Beginning a Path to Healing

Heartland Hospice of Virginia Beach recently had the chance to assist the family of a patient who passed away due to lung cancer. The patient had been the primary bread-



winner in the family. Following his death, the family was faced with extreme financial distress. There was a threat of eviction from their house, as well as having their utilities turned off. The widow had always been a homemaker and needed some time and assistance in planning for the future and seeking employment. Heartland Hospice of Virginia

Beach requested assistance from the Hospice Memorial Fund in order to provide the family with one month’s rent and utilities. This financial assistance, along with caring bereavement counseling from Heartland Hospice, enabled this family to look towards the future and begin their path to healing.

Between Now and Forever

Heartland Home Health Care and Hospice of Grand Rapids, Michigan sponsored a multimedia exhibit on death, bereavement and transcendence called "Between Now and Forever." The touring exhibit included a wide variety of personal perspectives on death, bereavement and transcendence including entries related to the September 11, 2001 terrorist attacks. The week long exhibit was presented by the Grand Rapids Community College Older Learning Center in

partnership with Heartland Hospice, Hospice of Michigan, Hospice of Holland, Visiting Nurse Hospice, the Area Agency on Aging and Pine Rest Christian Mental Health Services. Grief workshops, films, and opportunities to talk to hospice staff and volunteers were available during the exhibit. "Between Now and Forever" was held from September 9 through September 13th at the Grand Rapids Community College Applied Technical Center. Through sponsorship support of the

Hospice Memorial Fund, along with others, admission to the exhibit was free. For more information on the exhibit, including the schedule of events, contact the Older Learning Center in Grand Rapids, Michigan at (616) 234-3483.



Little Boy Granted Dying Wish

Heartland Home Health Care and Hospice of Baltimore, Maryland recently had the opportunity to fulfill a dying wish of a 10-year-old patient who was suffering from terminal cancer. The social worker in the Baltimore hospice office had learned that the little boy had been praying for a computer so he could connect with other children through the Internet, play games and watch CD-ROM programs. The boy had been "shopping" in

computer catalogs, and marking the pages that contained the computer he wanted. Unfortunately, the boy's family was unable to purchase a computer for him, as they were experiencing financial distress due to the terminal illness. In fact, the family had spent all of their assets on an experimental chemotherapy that their insurance did not cover. The family had tried to contact the Make A Wish Foundation, but was unable to re-

ceive financial assistance. After learning of the situation, Don Kovatch, Director of Operations of Heartland Home Health Care and Hospice of Baltimore, contacted the Hospice Memorial Fund with a request for assistance in fulfilling the boy's wish. Within one day of the grant request, Don was able to deliver the computer to the dying boy. Don described the experience as a "wonderful way to share the hospice spirit."

Camp Comfort Planned for October

Heartland Home Health Care and Hospice of Dallas is planning to hold "Camp Comfort," a children's grief camp on October 12, 2002. The goal of the camp is to provide a one-day camp experience for children ages 6-13 who have experienced the death of a loved one. Under the direction of trained staff, the camp will provide a safe environment for be-

reaved children to express themselves and share with other bereaved children. Through program activities, the camp helps children to recognize and learn appropriate and healthy ways to express grief. Activities include small group sharing times led by trained staff, crafts, art, music, outdoor play and a memorial service. The camp will be held at Camp

Summit, located in Lewisville, Texas. Camp Comfort is offered free-of-charge to bereaved children in the Dallas/Ft. Worth area with the support of the Hospice Memorial Fund. If you would like more information about "Camp Comfort," contact Deidra Enck, Bereavement Coordinator at Heartland Home Health Care and Hospice of Dallas, Texas.

HCR Manor Care Foundation

A Newsletter of the Hospice
Memorial Fund

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The mission of the Hospice Memorial Fund is to honor the passing of loved ones by sharing the caring hospice spirit among those who need assistance. Many terminally ill patients and their families do not have the means to cope with all that is involved in the dying process. Donations to the Hospice Memorial Fund help support a wide variety of community-based services, research and education that can assist patients and their families.

**The Hospice Memorial Fund now
accepts credit card donations.
Please contact the office at 800-
427-1902 x7720 for details.**

Hospice Patient and Fiancée Wed at Home

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energy level had been rapidly declining, and he was no longer able to make the trip to City Hall.

Heartland Hospice wanted to make this patient's end-of-life wish a reality. Heartland Hospice contacted Reverend Dr. Michelle Taylor of St. Mark's United Methodist Church in Chicago. Dr. Taylor had worked in the past as a hospice chaplain. She was eager to conduct the ceremony and enhance the quality of life for the couple.

A wedding bouquet was handmade by a Heartland Hospice nurse supervisor for the ceremony. In addition, flowers, a small wedding cake and a professional photographer were arranged by Heartland Hospice. On August 6, 2002, the

couple was married in their home.

"This event is why we choose hospice work," said one of the Heartland Hospice RNs. "It is a privilege to be in someone's life as it comes to a close; so personal, so private. Now with this wedding, it truly emphasizes that hospice is about living, and we are honored to help make this request happen."

Funding for the wedding coordinated by Heartland Hospice of Westchester was provided through the Hospice Memorial Fund.

