

Celebrating Life's Stories[®]

A NEWSLETTER FOR OUR FRIENDS

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Ohio's Hospice LifeCare Introduces Pathways of HopeSM to Community



Pathways of Hope

Since its founding in 1982, Ohio's Hospice LifeCare has offered grief support services to the community. Now, the not-for-profit organization is expanding its grief support services to offer additional services to patients, families and community members through Pathways of HopeSM.

"We're honored to be able to offer Pathways of Hope to the patients, families and community members that we serve in Wayne, Holmes, Ashland and Medina counties," said Kurt Holmes, executive director of Ohio's Hospice LifeCare. "Through Pathways of Hope, we will be better able to support the ever-growing needs of families and community members."

The Pathways of Hope staff at Ohio's Hospice LifeCare seek to understand what is needed for each individual as they navigate the grief process, and to assist with an effective plan to cope with this life change.

"Grief is a normal reaction to loss. It is a unique experience for each individual," said David Hargrave, LSW, CPT, bereavement counseling professional at Ohio's Hospice LifeCare. "Grief support services can provide a much needed bridge over the difficult days, weeks and months following a loss."

Hargrave and his team offer one-on-one counseling sessions for children, teens and adults by appointment. Often, one session can provide adequate information for the griever to feel they are processing grief normally. Pathways of Hope grief support groups also provide a place where understanding, encouragement and practical suggestions are readily found.

Through Pathways of Hope, Ohio's Hospice LifeCare offers spring and fall memorial services; monthly grief workshops; an adult grief group, Faces of Grief; Camp Waves of Emotion, a grief camp for kids; school groups; and individual bereavement services. In addition, Ohio's Hospice LifeCare provides psycho-education training, grief workshops and individual bereavement counseling for extended care facilities, local businesses, schools and churches.

Pathways of Hope is one example of how Ohio's Hospice LifeCare is continuing to add additional services in the communities it serves. "We're committed to providing superior care and superior services to each patient and family we serve in the communities of Wayne, Holmes, Ashland and Medina counties, as well as in the surrounding areas," Holmes said. "Through exceptional support services, such as Pathways of Hope, we're able to make a difference in the lives of those we serve."

For more information about Pathways of Hope or to schedule an appointment with a Pathways of Hope bereavement counseling professional at Ohio's Hospice LifeCare, call 330.264.4899.

OHIO'S

Hospice[®]
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Providing Superior Care During the COVID-19 Pandemic



Kurt Holmes
Executive Director

Change has been ever present in 2020. The COVID-19 pandemic has brought new challenges, and we are adapting to the “new normal.” Thanks to our dedicated and hardworking staff, we have and continue to weather the storm. Thankfully, our personal protective equipment (PPE) supplies have held up, even with the high demand. Due to ever-changing guidelines arising from the pandemic, we have faced new challenges in the ways we serve our patients and families. But what hasn't changed is the ever-present need for comfort, symptom management and compassionate care at the end of life.

Practices such as face-to-face visits have become virtual in many cases and necessitated the implementation of greater technology. Our care managers are visiting patients through Real-Time CareSM, a telehealth support tool.

As the end of life approaches, too many families are cut off from their loved ones who must face that time alone in a hospital or care setting. Families of patients in the Gault Inpatient Pavilion, our 12-room facility in Wooster, can visit through an open doorway. While it is not the same as holding your loved one, the ability to talk and connect across an open space has been invaluable.

Too many businesses have faced the prospect of closing shop amidst the pressures of this pandemic. However, the need for hospice care doesn't go away. Ohio's Hospice LifeCare has maintained its superior care and superior services for even more patients, and we have done so while maintaining our staff levels. The human component is paramount to the quality of our care. When we come out on the other side of this pandemic, I am confident that Ohio's Hospice LifeCare will be better for the experience.

Providing Patient Care on the Road

Ohio's Hospice LifeCare's mobile care unit has been on the move since January 2020.

Ohio's Hospice LifeCare received a \$10,000 grant from the Laura B. Frick Charitable Trust and a \$20,000 grant from the Wayne County Community Foundation for the mobile care unit. An individual from the community also donated \$10,000 for the mobile care unit.

The unit is the realization of a long-time dream to provide transportation options for patients and allow families to ride alongside their loved ones.

“We want to thank every one of the donors and grant agencies who have made this dream a reality,” said Christy Michaels, director of clinical operations at Ohio's Hospice LifeCare. “We have seen the impact on the quality of a patient and family's experience.”



226 trips
were made in
2019 and 2020
transporting
patients safely.



2,900 miles
have been
driven across
five counties.



310 individuals
have donated to the
purchase of the mobile
care unit. More than
\$100,000 was raised.

Camp Waves of Emotion

Ohio's Hospice LifeCare held its 11th annual Camp Waves of Emotion, a grief camp for children who have experienced the loss of a loved one or an anticipated loss. Eight children attended the camp in early August.

Camp Waves of Emotion is for children, ages 7-12, who have lost a loved one or anticipating a loss and may have difficulty articulating their fears of abandonment, separation, loneliness or emotional pain. Children's coping skills are much more limited than adults, so it is important for children to gather together and express their feelings, have their questions answered, and talk about loss as a normal aspect of life.

During the camp, the children created memorial gardens as part of an art project. Each object in the garden had a significant meaning to them based on their relationship and experiences shared with their terminally ill or deceased loved one.

In addition, bereavement counseling professionals and volunteers at Ohio's Hospice LifeCare utilized music, play and grief curriculum along with visits from therapy



dogs to assist children in identifying their unspoken feelings.

“The kids in attendance were fully engaged, and received invaluable support on their grief journey,” said David Hargrave, LSW, CTP, bereavement counseling professional at Ohio's Hospice LifeCare. “Attendees – even the shy ones – were able to identify and externalize feelings of loss and sadness.”

Ohio's Hospice LifeCare is grateful for the generous support from the community that enables the not-for-profit hospice to

provide superior care and superior services to patients and families.

“A philanthropic gift to Ohio's Hospice LifeCare allows programs like Camp Waves of Emotions to exist and provide a critical outlet to grieving children,” said Katherine Ritchie, gift officer at Ohio's Hospice LifeCare. “Bereavement programs that support our entire community are an integral part of the offerings at LifeCare.”

The camp was held in-person and followed the Ohio Department of Health's state guidelines put forth for day camps.

We Protect our Loved Ones Through Philanthropy



Katherine Ritchie
Gift Officer

This has been an unprecedented year, and it seems like nothing is the same. But there is one thing we know we can count on – autumn will descend spectacularly, and a cool, crisp breeze will whip across Ohio.

Autumn is my favorite time of the year. The

colors of fall are so vibrant, and there is an energy in the air with the promise of a fresh start.

As I see masked faces pass me by in the grocery store, I think about how we are all adding an extra layer of

protection as a way to care for our community. Taking care of each other is in our nature.

I can't help but draw a parallel between the fabric of a mask and the fabric of our giving community. We protect our loved ones through philanthropy and invest in the future of our communities through giving.

One way to protect our community is through continued philanthropic support. Your annual, monthly or memorial gift enables Ohio's Hospice LifeCare to continue providing superior care and superior services. We are so grateful for the support that makes our work possible each and every day. If you have any questions about giving options, please contact me at 330.264.4899 or kritchie@lifecarehospice.org

Thank You for Supporting Our Spring Gala

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, Ohio's Hospice LifeCare postponed the Spring Gala scheduled to be held in March. We are truly grateful for the generosity of the following sponsors and extend thanks for supporting our mission. Our postponed Spring Gala will become an online event October 24-31.

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Ohio's Hospice LifeCare Leadership: Kurt Holmes,

Christy Michaels, Ginger Preston, Katherine Ritchie, Jodi Hannan, and David Lance

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Tailgating for Team LifeCare Goes Online



*Tailgating for Team LifeCare
Goes Online*
October 24-31!

For More Information:

www.OhiosHospiceLifeCare.org/Team2020

Celebrating Life's Stories is published semiannually for patients, families, staff members and friends of Ohio's Hospice LifeCare.

Kent Anderson, CEO, Ohio's Hospice
Kurt Holmes, Executive Director, Ohio's Hospice LifeCare

Ohio's Hospice LifeCare has the privilege of providing superior care and superior service to members of our community. If you would like to be removed from our mailing list, please call us at 330.264.4899.

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