

Celebrating Life's Stories[®]

A NEWSLETTER FOR OUR FRIENDS

VOL. 5 | ISSUE 2 | SPRING 2022

Making Memories: A Day on the Water

When Angel “Louie” Cruz, a patient of Ohio’s Hospice LifeCare, spoke about his love of fishing with a member of his care team, the team identified Louie’s wish as a quality-of-life goal.

“The care team is always looking for ways to add joy to our patients’ lives,” said Beth Gardner, a medical social worker at Ohio’s Hospice LifeCare. “Our care team works together to meet the needs of each and every patient we are honored and privileged to serve.”

When volunteers Marilyn and Mark Gustafson heard about his wish for one more day on the water, they jumped at the opportunity to help. They volunteered to take Louie and his family out on Charles Mill Lake in their pontoon boat. “Marilyn and I enjoy sharing our lake access and our boat,” Mark said. “I enjoy driving the boat. We were more than happy to say yes.”

Despite it being late in the boating season, Louie and his family were able to get out on the water and had a wonderful time. “It was one of my best days ever,” Louie said. “When I’m out on the water, my mind just clears, and answers come to me. It relaxes me.”

Louie’s daughter, Jessica Collado, enjoyed the fishing trip with her father. “It was a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity,” she said. “I don’t remember seeing him this happy in a really long time.”

Louie’s grandsons caught two fish, and later told stories about “the one that got away” that was “this big” with outstretched hands.

Louie and his family were very thankful to the Gustafsons. “They are just wonderful people,” said Louie who enjoyed reminiscing about his past fishing trips. “They were so kind, and they interacted with the kids.”

Louie was born in Puerto Rico before moving to St. Thomas at two years old and then to the Bronx, New York, at seven. He spent his formative years there before moving to Cleveland with his family. After settling in Ohio, Louie started a moving company, a shipping company, and a scrap metal business.

Ohio’s Hospice LifeCare has been honored and privileged to care for Louie and create memories for his family. Gifts to Ohio’s Hospice LifeCare support patient care and treasured memories like these.



Forty Years of Philanthropy for Ohio's Hospice LifeCare



Katherine Ritchie
Development Director
Ohio's Hospice LifeCare

“You matter because you are you, and you matter to the end of your life. We will do all we can not only to help you die peacefully, but also to live until you die.” - Dame Cicely Saunders, founder of the hospice movement

Ohio's Hospice LifeCare was established 40 years ago, not long after the modern hospice movement began in

the United States. Community members heard about the care of hospice and wanted that for our community.

Ohio's Hospice LifeCare was volunteer driven at the beginning and evolved into the team of staff and volunteers that serve today. We have grown in the areas that we serve.

Yet our commitment to caring for patients and their families in their last season of life, the extensive bereavement services provided, and the ways in which volunteers are woven into the fabric of our care has only become stronger. Our name may have changed a few times, but our services and staff have only been strengthened.

With the expansion of services through the Marilyn B. and Mark E. Gustafson Center for Supportive Care opening this spring, our commitment to the legacy of 40 years ago remains — serving our community where needs exist.

This building will support the nearly 200 volunteers who provide a wide array of services to our patients and their families; dedicated counseling space for community members in need of bereavement support; and a place to grow our transportation services to be able to provide mission-based care throughout a patient's entire experience.

The generous and sustained philanthropic support of the community allows us to maintain this mission. Each day, we receive letters and notes from grateful families and friends. We are grateful that Friendtique and Nest support our mission daily with their stores in downtown Wooster.

Your gift makes an impact. Ohio's Hospice LifeCare is truly grateful for the individuals, organizations, foundations, and corporations that have joined us in this journey of supporting our family, friends and neighbors in our communities when most needed.

For more information, email Katherine Ritchie at KRitchie@OhiosHospiceLifeCare.org or call 330.264.4899.



Celebrating Life's Stories®

Ohio's Hospice LifeCare: Our Milestones Through the Years

1982

Founding year. Served eight patients.

1990

Medicare certification approved.

1992

Moved to 2330 Cleveland Rd. Served 116 patients.

2000

Increased bereavement support services to children through Wooster Noon Lions Club Support. Served 303 patients.

2005

Opened LifeCare outpatient services at Viola Startzman Free Clinic. Served 523 patients.

The Impact of Volunteers at Ohio's Hospice LifeCare



Volunteer Judy Holvey is well known and loved at Ohio's Hospice LifeCare. Judy celebrated her 17th anniversary serving in a

volunteer role. She shared her thoughts on why she has chosen this work and reflected on her years of service.

Q What drew you to the mission of Ohio's Hospice LifeCare?

A For the past 30 years, I have had my own cleaning business. It started when someone I knew was going in for surgery and needed help keeping up around the house as they recovered. When I help someone in their home, I become a part of their family. I enjoy spending time with older people. They tell you about their life and share their stories, and I like to be of help. I live very close to Ohio's Hospice LifeCare. So, it seemed like a natural step.

Q What sort of work do you do when you volunteer?

A Just about everything. I will be there at any hour of the day if I'm available. I sit with patients in their homes, deliver medicine, do office work, play music, and read Scripture to patients. I've done manicures, and I've even taken care of a patient's cat when they couldn't! I like the direct care, and I

like being with someone at the end of life. I hold their hand. People are sometimes afraid, but the fear is avoidable if you have someone with you.

Q What memories from your time volunteering are most special?

A There are so many. Recently, I have been spending time caring for a husband and wife. They celebrated their 62nd wedding anniversary around Christmas this past year. We wanted to make the day as special for them as possible. They got dressed up and we took them to The Pine Tree Barn for a special anniversary lunch. We used the Mobile Care Unit to transport them. I was so thankful for the drivers who helped us get them to the restaurant. The lunch was so special, and the restaurant gave them a free dessert. They had the best time. The joy on their faces is something I'll never forget. It was so worth it.

We are so thankful for Judy's ongoing support, dedication and love. She is an integral part of our mission to provide superior care and superior services to each patient and family.

If you are interested in volunteering your time, there are many opportunities available including administrative, direct care, special events, and fundraising. Please contact Rebecca McCurdy at: RMcCurdy@LifeCareHospice.org or visit www.OhiosHospiceLifeCare.org/Volunteer



2010

Purchased 19 acres along Akron Road for new hospice facility. Served 682 patients.

2017

LifeCare Hospice joined Ohio's Hospice strategic partnership and became Ohio's Hospice LifeCare.

2021

Ohio's Hospice LifeCare broke ground on Marilyn B. and Mark E. Gustafson Center for Supportive Care.

2022

Ohio's Hospice LifeCare celebrates its 40th anniversary.

Marilyn B. and Mark E. Gustafson Center for Supportive Care Is Nearing Completion

Ohio's Hospice LifeCare launched a \$2.5 million campaign in March 2021 to establish the Marilyn B. and Mark E. Gustafson Center for Supportive Care.

Ohio's Hospice LifeCare repurposed an existing building on the Akron Road campus in Wooster to expand Volunteer Services, the Pathways of HopeSM Grief Counseling Center, and the Mobile Care Unit transportation hub service and support.

In partnership with Bogner Corporation and many local contractors who made the transformation complete, we look forward to sharing this building with the community as Ohio's Hospice LifeCare celebrates its 40th anniversary.

We look forward to announcing a dedication and community open house later this spring. This will be announced on our website and social media.



Save the Dates



Sunday
June 26, 2022

Ohio's Hospice LifeCare is holding a butterfly release as a way to remember and honor loved ones who have touched our lives and who live on in our memories. Butterflies are purchased, and a program allows for reflection and a group release of the butterflies on our campus.

When: Sunday, June 26, 2022, 2 pm

Where: Ohio's Hospice LifeCare
1900 Akron Rd., Wooster, OH 44691

How: Call Katherine Ritchie at 330.264.4899 or register online at: www.OhiosHospiceLifeCare.org/Butterfly2022



Friday
August 26, 2022

Golf, lunch, dinner, drinks, and games of chance to support Ohio's Hospice LifeCare and the continued mission of serving patients, families and the community when they are most in need, regardless of their ability to pay. Net proceeds benefit patient care and services.

When: August 26, 2022
Registration begins at 9 am, with tee time at 10 am.

Where: The Pines Golf Club
1319 Millborne Rd., Orrville, OH 44667

How: Call Katherine Ritchie at 330.264.4899 or register online at: www.OhiosHospiceLifeCare.org/Golf2022

Celebrating Life's Stories is published quarterly 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 services 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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