

# Celebrating Life's Stories<sup>®</sup>

A NEWSLETTER FOR OUR FRIENDS

VOL. 5 | ISSUE 4 | FALL 2022

## Ribbon Cutting Celebrates Official Opening of Center for Supportive Care

**Ohio's Hospice LifeCare held a ribbon cutting on July 14 to celebrate the opening of the Marilyn B. and Mark E. Gustafson Center for Supportive Care on the Wooster campus of Ohio's Hospice LifeCare.** A Business After Hours event followed with the Wooster Area Chamber of Commerce.

The ribbon cutting is the culmination of a \$2.5 million campaign launched in March 2021.

The center was named after Marilyn and Mark Gustafson, volunteers with Ohio's Hospice LifeCare, who made a transformational gift to the campaign.

"Marilyn and I both recognized what a great organization and team that is Ohio's Hospice LifeCare — the wonderful services it provides; the way it's run; the great people who are involved in it; and the valuable and excellent training that we have received," Mark said. "Like everything else we do here at Ohio's Hospice LifeCare, it takes teamwork."

The not-for-profit hospice repurposed an existing building on the Akron Road campus in Wooster to expand its Volunteer Services, the Pathways of Hope<sup>SM</sup> Grief Counseling Center, and transportation service and support.

Dr. David Reynolds, chair of the board and a volunteer physician at Ohio's Hospice LifeCare welcomed attendees. Katherine Ritchie,

development director of Ohio's Hospice LifeCare, thanked members of the community who supported the campaign. "Marilyn and Mark's gift and the gifts from throughout the community allow Ohio's Hospice LifeCare to expand our services to our patients and families, as well as members of the community," Ritchie said.



Ribbon Cutting celebrating opening of Marilyn B. and Mark W. Gustafson Center for Supportive Care

Ohio's Hospice LifeCare partnered with BSHM Architects and Bogner Corporation for the transformation. Tim Bogner, partner with Bogner Corporation, expressed thanks for the renewal of a partnership between Bogner and Ohio's Hospice LifeCare. He also thanked the many subcontractors who contributed expertise and talent to this project.

Kurt Holmes, executive director of Ohio's Hospice LifeCare, also expressed his appreciation for the ongoing partnership between the two organizations. "We appreciate their expertise and talents as they worked diligently over the past year to repurpose this building, creating a state-of-the-art center," he said.

# Time, Talent and Treasure



Katherine Ritchie  
Development Director  
Ohio's Hospice LifeCare

**In the world of giving, we often speak of the Three T's: time, talent and treasure.** You can support the mission of Ohio's Hospice LifeCare with your time — attending our signature events or workshops, liking and sharing our posts on social media, or taking the time to read our newsletter.

Donors also may offer their talents —

volunteering for a task that best fits their skill set or passion, including helping with office administrative work, stitching comfort quilts, delivering medication, or reading to a patient at their bedside. In addition, you can support our mission with your treasure — making a donation.

A treasure or donation can be made in many different ways. You can make a one-time gift in memory of a loved one, or a monthly donation that spreads your generosity out over the course of the year or annual giving through a gift to the Hope Society.

There are other unique ways to contribute your treasure to our mission — a planned gift through your IRA; a gift of stock from an investment portfolio; or designating Ohio's Hospice LifeCare in your will or with a life insurance policy. This can be an effective way to support a not-for-profit organization while receiving a tax benefit.

If you have questions about making a charitable distribution from your IRA, first meet with your financial advisor. Your advisor may want to meet by phone or in person with me, and I welcome that opportunity.

Thank you for exploring the possibilities of how your time, talent and treasure can impact the lives of patients, loved ones and community members in the future.

**Thank you for exploring the possibilities of how your time, talent and treasure can impact the lives of patients, loved ones and community members in the future.**

For more information about how you can support our mission, please contact Katherine Ritchie at [KRitchie@LifeCareHospice.org](mailto:KRitchie@LifeCareHospice.org) or 330.264.4899.



## 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.



# A Legacy of Volunteer Impact: Rebecca McCurdy Retires After 30 Years



**Training classes, matching volunteers with patients, and creating new and inventive ways for volunteers to connect during the pandemic** are just some of the memories Rebecca McCurdy has after three decades of service as volunteer manager at Ohio's Hospice LifeCare. She retired on July 1.

"We're grateful to Rebecca for her service to Ohio's Hospice LifeCare. We appreciate her dedication and support of our mission," said Kurt Holmes, executive director of Ohio's Hospice LifeCare. "Because of Rebecca's efforts, our volunteer team is an integral part of our organization."

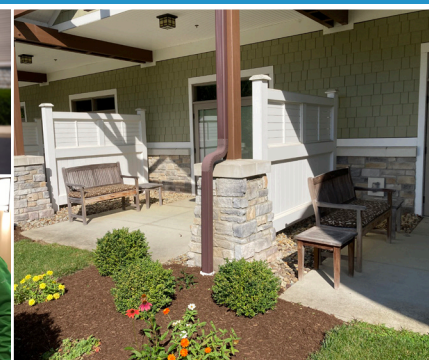
Throughout her career, Rebecca was honored to work alongside the not-for-profit organization's volunteers. "What I enjoyed most about my role was the privilege of sitting between all the patients we serve in the last season of their lives and all the incredible people of our communities who are willing to provide support to those patients and their families," Rebecca said. "So many patients' lives have been enhanced by our gifted volunteers."

She found extraordinary joy in her hospice work every day. She treasured the moments when a perfect match had been made between a specific patient need and a volunteer. One important highlight of her career with Ohio's Hospice LifeCare was the establishment of the Being There Team, a volunteer team tasked with providing bedside presence to patients in the last hours of life. The program has been in place for about 15 years and is now a part of a team-wide response to the special needs of a patient and family in the last seven days of life.

Rebecca was honored at a gathering in early June in the newly opened Marilyn B. and Mark E. Gustafson Center for Supportive Care, the new home for volunteer services. Family members were in attendance, along with staff, board members and volunteers. The outpouring of heartfelt cards, hugs and expressions of her impact was evident. A legacy of care and community is what has been shaped by Rebecca's dedication to Ohio's Hospice LifeCare.

Elisa Stoye, who has served as the volunteer coordinator under Rebecca, was named manager of Volunteer Services. "We are extremely fortunate to have Elisa step into this position," Rebecca said. "She is a deeply compassionate and capable person, and the volunteers love working with her. I cannot imagine a better person to lead our volunteer team."

For more information about volunteering, call 330.264.4899.



## 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.

# Help Us Reach Every Patient and Family Through Monthly Giving

**Ohio's Hospice LifeCare was established 40 years ago because a group of volunteers believed our community deserved superior end-of-life care.**

Now, more than ever, we need your support as we continue to nurture and care for individuals facing life-limiting illnesses.

Monthly donations made by community members provide ongoing support to sustain our mission. Through this giving option, members donate monthly, rather than annually, spreading their generosity over the course of a year and creating a continuous impact on our programming and patient services.

In celebration of our 40 years serving the community, would you consider donating the following?

- \$1,982.00 annually – with a donation of \$165 per month
- \$198.20 annually – with a donation of around \$16.50 per month
- \$19.82 a month – to celebrate our founding year

Your monthly donation will be put to immediate use towards services that Medicare does not cover, such as art and music therapy, occupational therapy, grief and bereavement counseling for the entire community, and other donor-funded programs.

For more information about joining our community of monthly donors, please visit:  
[www.OhiosHospiceLifeCare.org/Monthly-Giving](http://www.OhiosHospiceLifeCare.org/Monthly-Giving)

## Thank you

## for Supporting Our Inaugural Golf Classic

**The Pines Golf Club in Orrville was the setting for the inaugural Golf Classic for Ohio's Hospice LifeCare.** We are grateful to the golfers and sponsors who made our August 26 event a success and raised funds for our mission.

**Gold Sponsors:** Netsmart, Wooster Glass, Amera Wood Products, Charm Builders

**Silver Sponsor:** Pomerene Hospital

**Lunch Sponsor:** Dave's Plumbing

**Beverage Cart Sponsors:** Wooster Color Point, McElroy Packaging

**Bronze Sponsors:** McGohan Brabender, Park National Bank – Loudonville, Pallotta Ford, Dunkin' Donuts

**Driving Range Sponsor:** Friends of LifeCare

**Team Sponsors:** Wooster Brush Company, Seaman Corporation

## Join Us

## for the Charm Days Benefit Raffle!

**Be sure to join us on October 7 and 8 for the Charm Days Benefit Raffle in Charm, Ohio.** Fifteen items will be raffled off in support of the Amish Care Fund at Ohio's Hospice LifeCare. We will be selling raffle tickets at our Wooster office beginning in mid-September. Charm Days also features the Woolly Worm Derby, volleyball tournament, pie baking contest, chicken barbeque, auctions, a flea market, merchant sales events, music and lots of fun! For more information, please call Katherine Ritchie at 330.264.4899.



*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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[www.OhiosHospiceLifeCare.org](http://www.OhiosHospiceLifeCare.org)  
330.264.4899



# Friendtique

shop • donate • volunteer

[www.Friendtique.org](http://www.Friendtique.org)

**330.262.2012**

**223 West Liberty St., Wooster**

Friendtique, a not-for-profit boutique located in downtown Wooster, and its sister store, Nest, have donated more than \$1 million to Ohio's Hospice LifeCare's Community Care Fund over the past 16 years through the sale of donated furniture, jewelry, clothing, artwork, rugs, lamps, and other home items.

*Donations are accepted during business hours in the alley to the left of Friendtique.*



[www.Friendtique.org/nest](http://www.Friendtique.org/nest)  
**132 N. Walnut St., Wooster**

**25% off**  
***of your entire purchase.***

*This coupon must be submitted during purchase.  
Not valid on clothing, windows or locked cases.  
Cannot be combined with other sales or offers.  
This offer is valid until Dec. 31, 2022.*