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As an added convenience for our web visitors, donations can now be made on-line through PayPal on our home page or donation page at vhocc.org



HOSPICE HAPPENINGS

Summer 2013

A Very Special Bequest!

By Bruce Busch
Vice-President, VHOCC Board of Directors



Rose Crumb (seated) shares a special moment with (from right to left) Board President, Dr. Ed Hopfner, attorney, John Rutz, Volunteer Services Manager, Marilyn Nelsen, PhD, Patient Care Manager, Bette Wood, RN, Office Services Manager, Lyn Gilbert, and (not pictured) Board Vice-President, Bruce Busch.

Twenty-nine years ago, Gertrude Colley, a retired nurse, wrote her last will and testament. In it she left her interest in sub-surface mineral rights to acreage in south east Ohio to Volunteer Hospice of Clallam County and her personal property to the Virginia Mason Foundation. At the time of her death, Mrs. Colley was a VHOCC patient. In 1986, her will was probated in Clallam County.

For the next 20 years, a couple of oil companies leased the property rights, but no wells were drilled. However, all that changed when on

June 3, 2013 a check in the sum of \$382,250 was received for the right to explore for oil and gas.

It is the Board of Director's intent that the money will be placed in the VHOCC endowment fund. This gift will be a large help in insuring VHOCC's long term ability to provide around the clock nursing availability for terminally ill patients as well as lending available durable medical equipment for the public and providing grief support for the families, friends and the general public.

VHOCC was founded in 1978 by Rose Crumb and seven very active volunteers as a 501 c(3) non-profit corporate charity. Its mission was and still is to provide free services for any terminally ill patient and loan available medical equipment to our community members who need help.

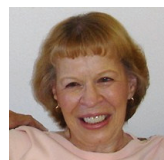
It is interesting to note that both Dr. Ed Hopfner and John Rutz were a part of the early formative years. Ed was a member of the board and is now its President. John volunteered his services to help form the organization and still provides legal counsel.

Mrs. Colley's efforts created a lasting legacy and proves the value of creating an effective estate plan that includes an organization which provides such a valuable service to our community. Everyone should remember that windfalls from an event such as

this or an estate are one-time events. In no way do they stop the need for annual donations that cover our \$500,000 annual budget.

The Changing Face of Hospice

By Marilyn Nelsen, PhD
Volunteer Services Manager



According to the Hospice Foundation of America, there are approximately 468,000 hospice volunteers at work in hospices across the U.S., an amazing testimony to our society's changing attitudes toward death and dying.

Here at VHOCC, we see these changing attitudes reflected in the rising number of individuals volunteering their time and talents to Hospice. These volunteers understand that dying is about much more than just a medical event; they know it's increasingly about personal choice. With the support of Hospice, more and more patients with terminal illnesses are choosing to stay in the comfort of their own homes, surrounded by family and friends.

Palliative care, with its focus on pain management and quality of life, allows patients to live out their final days with dignity and a greater sense of autonomy.

The de-institutionalizing of death represents a major shift in our cultural thinking. Those intrepid pioneers, like our own Rose Crumb, cleared the path for this cultural transformation. We owe them all a debt of gratitude.

VHOCC is privileged to have a wonderful group of dedicated volunteers serving patients, their families and the larger community. These tireless givers reflect the new consciousness that's emerging around end-of-life issues.

Regardless of what motivates them to begin volunteering, most tell us that their work with hospice is gratifying on a deeply personal level. Many were introduced to hospice through the death of a family member, and for them it's all about giving back to the organization that supported them and their loved ones during that critical time. For others, new to hospice, the call to service is in response to the emerging awareness that emphasizes the personhood of the terminally ill.

There are many opportunities available to volunteers, and we make every effort to match talents and skills with appropriate areas of service. Some volunteers come to us with professional degrees and experience, or specific expertise in a given field, but most are just folks who want to help their friends and neighbors while serving the community.

If you would like more information about volunteering with VHOCC, please call me at 452-1511, or e-mail me at vsm@vhocc.org.

I look forward to hearing from you!

Marilyn Nelsen (she prefers "Marilyn" to "Dr. Nelsen") joined VHOCC as Volunteer Services Manager, a part-time, paid position) in May, 2012. She has an MS in Counseling and a PhD in psychology, and has worked as a licensed marriage and family therapist, community educator, and assistant manager in a community mental health clinic. She lives in Sequim with husband, Myron, who is an active volunteer with VHOCC.

HOSPICE HUGS . . .

To Chestnut Cottage Restaurant in Port Angeles for donating gift certificates to our Volunteer of the Month program.

To Our Volunteers of the Month:
March - Debby Smith

April - Walt Blendermann
May - Susan Christianson

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

BOARD MEETING

2nd Tues - 10:00 AM
(Open to visitors)

MONTHLY IN-SERVICE

3rd Monday @ 11:00 AM
Alternate months in Sequim at Trinity United Methodist Church and Port Angeles Hospice House.

Grief Support Series

@ PORT ANGELES Hospice House (Behind 8th Street office)

*Monday 6:30-8 PM 6-week series.

@ SEQUIM

Trinity United Methodist Church

*Monday 1-3 PM 5-week series.

*Call office for dates.

Grief Support Groups

For people who have completed the Grief Support Series.

Port Angeles Support Group

*Twice a month @ the Hospice House

Wednesday 6:30 PM

Sequim Support Group

*3rd Monday @ 1:00

Trinity United Methodist Church

*Call office for dates

St. Luke's Episcopal 525 5th Ave Sequim 3rd

Tuesday 6-8 PM compassionatefriends.org

Barbara Thompson, Facilitator @ 797-0091.

SUMMER EVENTS

AUG. - 2013 CLALLAM COUNTY FAIR!

Thurs. Aug. 15 through Sun. Aug 18

Look for us in the Merchants Building, Space 15. Twenty volunteers have signed up to help, and enthusiasm is high. We're planning some very special features, so be sure to stop by and see us!

SEPT. - COMMUNITY & VOLUNTEER EDUCATION SERIES (CVES)

Classes meet every Thursday evening from 6:30 to 8:30 PM for 6 weeks at Holy Trinity Lutheran Church, 301 East Lopez, Port Angeles, WA, from Sept. 5 through Oct. 10, 2013.

SUMMER FUNDRAISER

SEPT. - FLYING HIGH!

Radio Control Show and Fun Fly-In.

September 14, 2013

Sequim Valley Airport

468 Dorothy Hunt Lane

Sequim, WA 98382

10 am to 4 pm

For more info call 360-681-0506 or 360-417-7531

All donations go to Volunteer Hospice of Clallam County.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President	Ed Hopfner, M.D
Vice-President	Bruce Busch
Secretary	Dennis Beguelin
Treasurer	Joe Cress, PhD
Chair, IT Services	Dave Gilbert
Member-at-Large	Mary Sherwood, RN

STAFF

Patient Care Manager	Bette Wood, RN
Vol. Services Manager	Marilyn Nelsen, PhD
Office Manager	Lyn Gilbert

Memorial donations are listed on the VHOCC website. If you know someone does not have access to a computer, please share this information with them. If you would like a printed copy of the donor list, please call the Hospice office. As an added convenience for our web visitors, donations can now be made online through PayPal on our home page or donation page at vhocc.org

If you are receiving both a printed copy and an email copy of the newsletter, notify us at editor@vhocc.org.