

# HOSPICE HAPPENINGS



Summer 2014

Compassionate care for the terminally ill, their caregivers and their family



**Robert Lewis, MD:  
Port Angeles' Delivery Team Coordinator  
By George Beier**

Bob Lewis and his wife, Jeanne, came to the Northwest from Missouri in 1962 to complete Bob's medical education and internship. Like so many residents here, they simply did not want to leave the Northwest and never returned to Missouri when Bob finished his education. Instead they made their long-term home in Oregon, where he worked as a Doctor of Emergency Medicine for the bulk of his career.

When he retired, Bob traveled with Jeanne throughout the West, trying out various possible places to live, but he says he knew all along that they would return to the Northwest where their children live and they feel at home. Coincidence brought them to the Peninsula. A friend, a dentist by trade and an avid sailor, had found Sequim and the John Wayne Marina and he settled here after retirement, building a home not far from the marina. Bob and Jeanne visited and liked the area. About eight years ago they settled in a home they built on the steep slopes high above Port Angeles amidst the big rocks and trees. A lovely place!

About six years ago, Bob started volunteering with VHOCC as a mover of beds and home medical equipment. At the time, ownership of a pickup truck was a necessary qualification for a mover, and he owned a pickup. In the past few years hospice has gotten better equipped and more formally organized. Hospice now owns a van for making deliveries in Port Angeles. And instead of delivering beds in his pickup, Bob now coordinates seven teams of volunteer movers, typically one driver and one helper per team. Each team is responsible for one day of the week. For example the Monday team will meet all of the demands for equipment that happen to occur on Monday, and so forth. Each team also cleans and maintains the hospital beds and attachments after every loan. A separate team of two cleans and maintains the other equipment in the warehouse. With seven teams and unpredictable demands, somebody has to watch to see that the required work does get done, even when there is a glitch in the system. Bob is that guy. He clearly feels responsible and takes his responsibility seriously.

Bob's teams (to use a convenient shorthand) also deliver home medical equipment on loan to members of the community who need equipment that hospice has in surplus, even though they are not under hospice care at the time. Typically hospice accumulates surplus equipment when surviving caretakers donate used but usable equipment after the death of a hospice patient. (See pg. 2)

**Volunteer Hospice of Clallam County  
540 E. 8<sup>th</sup> St. Port Angeles, WA 98362**

360 - 452-1511

Website [www.vhocc.org](http://www.vhocc.org)

Email [office@vhocc.org](mailto:office@vhocc.org)

## Calendar of Events

### BOARD MEETING

(open to visitors)  
2<sup>nd</sup> Tues - 10:00 AM

### MONTHLY IN-SERVICE

3<sup>rd</sup> Monday @ 11:00 AM

Alternates monthly in Sequim at Trinity United Methodist Church and Port Angeles Hospice House (Dark in June & July)

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**Grief Support Series  
@ Port Angeles Hospice House (Behind 8<sup>th</sup> Street office)**

**\*Monday 6:30-8:00 PM  
@ Sequim Trinity United Methodist Church  
\*Monday 1:00 PM 5-week series**

**\*Call office for dates**

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### **Grief Support Groups**

For those who have completed the Grief Support Series

### **Port Angeles Support Group**

Twice a month @ Hospice House  
Wednesday 6:30

### **Sequim Support Group**

3<sup>rd</sup> Monday @ 1:00 PM  
Trinity United Methodist Church

### **One-on One**

### **Bereavement Support**

Call office for details

Bob is pleased that he has about the right number of delivery volunteers. Nobody is overloaded, but nobody volunteers and then has to sit around doing nothing.

Somewhat remarkably, Bob never encountered hospice in his career as a medical emergency doctor, nor did he know anything about it. He met hospice for the first time when he first volunteered at VHOCC. He thinks that, by now, everybody in need of hospice services in our community knows enough about VHOCC to get whatever additional information they need. Of course the medical community is very well acquainted with hospice and can give needed advice and information.

Bob clearly misses the contact with patients and caregivers that he used to have when he delivered beds in person. He says that when he entered a home to deliver equipment, he got a feeling that both hospice patients and their caregivers were on the happier end of the spectrum of persons going through the inherently sad and stressful end-of-life times. Bob thinks that this has something to do with having made their decision to end attempts at curative care. And Bob is certain that the strength and compassion of volunteers who work in the homes of patients also contributes greatly to the relative wellbeing of those under hospice care. In fact he considers these in-home volunteers to be one of the most special gifts that VHOCC has to offer.



**To Chestnut Cottage Restaurant in Port Angeles and The Oak Table Café in Sequim** for donating gift certificates to our Volunteer of the Month program.

**To our Volunteers of the Month:** March, Soyangkoon “Noi” Bulyalert (Respite); April (dark); May, Paul Martin (Bereavement); June, Steve Lovik (Equip. Maint).

**To Diane Schoftak, Executive Director of Olympic Peninsula Visitors’ Bureau,** for donating her consultation services.

**To the Port Angeles Community Players Board of Directors** for donating use of the Port Angeles Community Playhouse on May 18 for “Tell Me a Story, Play Me a Tune: An Afternoon of Storytelling and Music.”

- To the wonderful storytellers and musicians who made this event such a success!
- To Heather Elms, PenPrint Incorporated, for printing the Programs for the event.
- To Donna Maclean for photographing the event. (See pg. 4)

## COMING EVENTS

**August 14 - 17, 2014: VHOCC Clallam County Fair Booth. Come visit us!**

**TBD: GTWTA TAZ Run & Camp Out**

**August 30 -31 (Labor Day Weekend): Sequim & Port Angeles Remote Controlled Club Fly-in with the Sequim Valley Air Affair**

**TBD: September/October - Community & Volunteer Education Series (CVES), Port Angeles**

**TBD: September - Grief Support Group, Sequim**

**TBD: October - Grief Support Group, Port Angeles**

### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

<b>President</b>	<b>Ed Hopfner, M.D</b>
<b>Vice-President</b>	<b>Dave Gilbert, PE</b>
<b>Secretary</b>	<b>Joe Cress, PhD</b>
<b>Treasurer</b>	<b>Nancy Bargar</b>
<b>IT</b>	<b>Ken Brown</b>
<b>Personnel</b>	<b>Mary Sherwood, RN</b>
<b>Member-at-Large</b>	<b>David Olson, PhD</b>
<b>Member-at-Large</b>	<b>Bonny Hurd</b>

### STAFF

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



## *A VERY SPECIAL DEDICATION!*

On June 17<sup>th</sup>, 2014, friends of Rose Crumb honored her years of service and dedication to our community with the installation of a plaque at Volunteer Hospice of Clallam County. Rose established the Peninsula's first hospice program in 1978. The mother of ten, she was initially the sole provider of services including hospice nursing, counseling, administration, and community outreach. In the early years Rose even held garage sales to fund services and equipment. She donated her time, expertise and love of community openly to anyone requesting assistance. As the

Director of Volunteer Hospice of Clallam County, Rose was a generous mentor and guide to volunteers and professionals who joined and supported the goals of the organization.

Before she retired in 2009, Rose grew her one-person mission into a community organization that included hundreds of volunteers serving countless Clallam County families in their times of greatest need.

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## *VHOCC CLALLAM COUNTY FAIR BOOTH AUGUST 14 THROUGH AUGUST 17, 2014*

Jan Canale, a very talented VHOCC volunteer, is donating one of her lovely watercolor paintings as a raffle prize for our Fair booth this year. There will be other great prizes, so be sure to stop by and see them! And while you're there, you'll want to pick up our latest VHOCC brochures which feature these lovely butterfly images by Jan.



*Look for us in the Merchants' Building, Space 15!*



*"Tell Me a Story,  
Play Me a Tune"*

*Photos of the Event!*

*May 18, 2014*

*An Afternoon of Storytelling and Music*



The storytellers and musicians in alphabetical order: Pat Ferris, Dean Hodgson, Ingrid Nixon, Lisa Turecek and Rosie Sharpe, Jan Yates & Carlos Xavier. Photos courtesy of Donna Maclean, Carlsborg.