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

Serving our community since 1978

WHERE WE ARE ... A FEW MONTHS INTO THE PANDEMIC

VHOC continues to be committed to its mission of providing hospice services to the community and is adjusting to the phases as defined by state health officials. Current and new patients continue to receive nursing care, with nurses and volunteers following safety precautions for in-person visits.

We entered Phase 1 cautiously, bearing in mind that most volunteers and people coming to our office fall in the high-risk category (due to age and/or underlying medical conditions).

We have geared up for Phase 2, and by the time this newsletter goes to print we hope to be fully open to the public. Regardless, you can reach staff from 9 am – 4 pm Mon-Fri by calling 360-452-1511 or emailing office@vhocc.org.

The Lending Closet is open with "parking lot" pick up for members of the community who need to borrow or return medical equipment. Hours are limited so it is best to call first 360-452-1511 to ensure we can help.

VHOC has expanded its grief support volunteer base, and initiated a Spiritual Care Provider program due to changes in funeral home policies and limitations on holding memorial and funeral services. Grief Support and Spiritual Care volunteers are available to patients and their families via phone. A videoconferencing grief support group pilot program was also offered, well-received, and will be continued in order to reach the bereaved community in this new format.

Now more than ever, VHOC relies on volunteers. In the past 3 years, more than 41,000 hours — the equivalent of 6 full-time employees or around $400,000 annually — was saved. We are so grateful to our volunteers for their commitment and dedication. However, our volunteers are mostly in their 60s or over and need to be careful. Many are simply unable to continue volunteering at this time. VHOC is actively recruiting volunteers, especially for medical equipment delivery and maintenance. We require the person to be able to lift 40 pounds and follow instructions. VHOC also needs volunteers for cleaning medical equipment. This job would have minimal contact with the public. Training is offered.

Call the Volunteer Services Manager at 360-406-4439 for further details. Would you join us?

VOLUNTEER HOSPICE OF CLALLAM COUNTY

More Hospice "Virtual" Hugs

Community members for their generous response to the need for masks and gowns

Clara Camp • Joanna Camp • Steph Casatoll • Barbara Cecil • Nancy Elwert • Linda Hammod • Arlene Havlark • Louise Lemley • Sandi Shields • Michele Soderstrom • Relief Society of the Church of Jesus Christ of the Latter-day Saints, Dungeness Ward (Erika Burton, Marianne Burton, Linda DeMoss, Janell Heintz, Susan Rambert, Christy Rutherford, Sharon Ryan, Melody Van Horn)

Donations of wipes, N95 masks and other supplies

Kathryn Cooper at the Blue Heron Wellness Center • Mickey Sexton • Nevea Smith

We missed thanking you in this issue, let us know so we can thank you in the next publication!

All events and programs are subject to change due to state and county guidelines during the pandemic. Call our office for the most up-to-date information.

EVENTS: INFORMATION AT 360-452-1511

August
Clallam County Fair — cancelled
Air Affair — cancelled
Sept. 19th (Saturday)
Sequim Bay Yacht Club: Reach & Row for Hospice
Oct. 30th (Friday)
Moose Lodge Silent Auction & Steak Dinner
(call 360-452-2157)

PROGRAMS: INFORMATION & SIGN UP AT 360-452-1511

Community Orientation to Volunteer Hospice (Online)
First Thursday every month, 11am-Noon (Sequim)
First Friday every month, 10am-11am (Port Angeles)

Community Education & Volunteer Training Series
Winter 2020, Port Angeles

Grief Support Groups
Groups meet in Sequim, Port Angeles, or online
Monthly Drop-In Support Groups
Available to participants after completion of one of our Grief Support Groups in Sequim or Port Angeles
"LIVING ALONE NOW, Workshops" Focused on practical matters for those who have lost a spouse or partner
One-on-One Grief Support: For anyone in the community grieving a loss, available in person or by phone

Nonprofit Org
U.S. Postage
PAID
Olympic Mailing Services

This support enables patients to live out their final days as fully and comfortably as possible. Ongoing grief support services are also offered to the families and anyone in the community who has experienced the death of a loved one.

Since its inception in 1978, all services have been provided free of charge to patients and their families; VHOC does not bill any government agency for its services.
Dear VHOCC Community,

As we continue to forge ahead in our new reality of weathering the global COVID-19 pandemic, I am humbled by the resilience of spirit, kindness of heart and steadfastness of connection that I witness and experience all around me. It has been inspiring to be part of such a strong and generous community and an honor to lead VHOCC through uncharted territory.

I want to express my deep gratitude to all those who have helped us respond to the pandemic by sewing masks and gowns, volunteering to keep our essential services going, continuing to make donations and doing your part to keep yourself and our community safe. We are able to serve because of you.

I am also excited to announce that we are looking to expand our team of staff and volunteers as well as recruiting new board members! Please continue reading below.

We continue to offer services to individuals and families facing serious illness, death and grief with compassion and dedication. It is our belief that all of us deserve to experience comfort, peace and dignity through these times. We are here for all those who need us. Please reach out to us if we can be of service.

Wishing you and your family health and peace,

JooRi Jun, ND
Executive Director

VHOCC IS LOOKING FOR:

NURSE MANAGER
An experienced Nurse Manager to provide leadership and supervision, a strong team leader motivated by change and thriving on collaboration with several years of nursing leadership experience.

PER DIEM AND PART-TIME HOSPICE RN
Registered Nurses with hospice and palliative care experience to join an interdisciplinary team, with focus on patient-centered care.

DEVELOPMENT MANAGER
A creative and goal-oriented Development Manager to design, implement, and lead VHOCC’s fundraising efforts.

BOARD MEMBERS
We’re looking for people who wish to be part of building the future of VHOCC. If you are passionate about our mission to provide compassionate end of life care for the community, we want to hear from you! We are specifically looking for individuals with experience in Fundraising and Foundation Grants, Nonprofit Governance and Strategic Planning, Community Relations, and Finance.

We seek to have a board that represents the broad diversity of the community we serve.

If you are interested in any of the above positions, please contact us at office@vhocc.org or call Anita Chilton, Office Administrator, at 360-329-7869.

VOLUNTEER CORNER

It was a pleasure to recently talk with Hospice Lending Closet volunteers, Chas Bridge and Frank Finney, regular drivers for the Sequim area, who have also been instrumental in organizing the PA Lending Closet. After many years of volunteering at VHOC, both clearly see the need and enthusiastically embrace any opportunity to be innovative and creative in organizing equipment and supplies, so that they are ready for our clients and the community.

Many volunteers ask, “How can I help?” When talking to Chas and Frank about their volunteering, I came to appreciate a deeper answer than I might have expected. We can, of course, help through all the tasks we do, but at the deep end level, we help through who we are. Everyone brings their personal gifts and talents. We need merely to look for the opportunity to fill a need, many times in ways we don’t expect.

Chas recently created the plexiglass barrier in the reception area in Port Angeles, built shelves for the Lending Closet, and implemented ideas for equipment storing and inventory management in the Sequim and Port Angeles facilities. Thus, he is continuing his lifelong skills and gifts as a finish carpenter, doing finishing work, to the benefit of VHOC.

Frank is known as an “organizer extraordinaire” by coworkers. After an engineering career, with a rich and varied manufacturing background, he turned his focus to organizing and refining the equipment in the Sequim facility.

Teamed with “Super Chas,” they continue their efforts to complete the recent move of the Port Angeles facility, stepping up whenever they are needed. This effort makes the job of the other volunteers so much easier if everything is always ready to go.

Both Chas and Frank agree that working collaboratively with the nurses and staff to make sure everyone is as well prepared as possible is one of the rewards of their volunteering. Seeing the relief and gratitude by clients and caregivers when a bed arrives in a home where the patient has been sleeping in a recliner for months, is uplifting and satisfying. In any organization, volunteering is a two-way street. Each party comes away feeling enriched having made a difference.

During this time of world-wide pandemic, our Hospice Lending Closet, volunteer drivers, assistants, equipment cleaners and others, touch lives by their efforts. Even when you can’t touch or shake hands, the energy, caring, and connection you see and feel is the reward.

VHOC volunteers like Chas and Frank are like fresh air, bringing inspiration and innovation to organizing equipment and supplies, and “who they are,” to each situation called for as they contribute to VHOC’s Lending Closet.

Thank you for who you are!

Sally Lynam

RAFE DAVENPORT
HOSPICE’S NEW TEEN VOLUNTEER

VHOCC’s new teen volunteer is a 16-year-old Port Angeles High School sophomore, Rafe Davenport. His mom, Lauren, one of our nurses, encouraged Rafe to become involved in a meaningful activity during the COVID-19 Stay Home period. Motivated to have a new experience, Rafe responded to his Mom’s suggestion and encouragement.

In April, Rafe volunteered for the training on setting up equipment for hospice patients. His job is to deliver or pick up equipment from patient’s homes; the commitment is for 2 hours once a week. Rafe found the initial experience of setting up the equipment a bit confusing but after his first experience of going to a patient’s home, everything became easy and natural. He is able to set up a bed in five minutes with the help of the adult driver.

Considering a future as an epidemiologist, Rafe finds his volunteer experience very rewarding. He “feels good being of service to the elderly and sick. Patients are very thankful.” He plans on continuing his volunteer work through the summer.

When asked if he would encourage other teenagers to volunteer, Rafe unhesitatingly responded “definitely.” He advises teen volunteers “to not worry about going to patients. You’ll enjoy and love the positive experience.” Without a doubt Rafe has set a model for other teenagers to follow. Be a volunteer.

HOSPICE “VIRTUAL” HUGS

Oak Table Café
ESPRIT
Mary P. Dolciani Halloran Foundation
Jim’s Cares: Charity of the Month
Program at Jim’s Pharmacy
Olympic Mailing Services
Sequim Dungeness Hospice
Guild Thrift Shop

VOLUNTEER OF THE MONTH
April
Richard Asmussen, Sandy Raines, Debbie Trude
May
Burt Foote
June
Tom Herber
July
Cathy Duppenthaler

WE CAN DO WHAT WE DO BECAUSE OF YOU