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# HOSPICE *Happenings*

Providing physical, emotional and spiritual support to terminally ill patients and their families with free around the clock registered nursing availability and trained volunteers.

## Volunteer Spotlight: John Temple

When hospice volunteer John Temple and his wife Candy moved to Port Angeles from Seattle two years ago, John wanted to continue volunteering. He arrived in the Olympic Peninsula with over 30 years of experience working internationally in the telecommunications field doing what he loved most, emergency preparedness. Originally, John became a volunteer at VHOCC because he was interested in finding an opportunity for his dog to help patients, but VHOCC does not currently offer a pet therapy program. Therefore, John donates his time to respite service. He also serves on the Ambassador's Committee because of his skills and his compassion for others.



John's dog Nemo brings joy to the community with his smile! The 5-year-old small-bred French Bulldog and King Charles Spaniel stays active at home, ready to help in an emergency. Nemo is also a caregiver to John and his wife. He is a certified therapy dog with four years of skills and experience.

Before volunteering at VHOCC, John developed a command center and organized volunteers to cover 1,700 homes in his community of Laurelhurst, organizing clusters to ensure that everyone had access to resources. John encourages residents to be ready for emergencies, especially those vulnerable and isolated at home like he and his wife. They are prepared for emergencies because he believes in the adage that "failing to plan is planning to fail" and he recommends resources such as DisasterReadyWashington.com and redcross.org.

## Clinical Corner: **New Nurse Team Manager**



A Port Angeles resident of 20 years is now leading the clinical team at VHOCC! Nurse Team Manager Betsy Wharton, RN, MSN has been on the frontline of community service in Clallam County, including being an entrepreneur, city council member, teacher, author, and advocate for nutrition as a cornerstone of good health. Early in her nursing career, she worked in hospice and home

health, so she was motivated to return to hospice. She especially appreciates working at VHOCC because of how the nurses work together to address patient and family needs. Betsy said, "People we serve have the benefit of a team of nurses, and not just one nurse for one patient. Nurses feel responsible and involved in patient care, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, sharing their role, balancing their work time and replenishment." Additionally, Betsy says, "Most importantly, many communities, including Clallam County, are experiencing a shortage of healthcare workers. A growing census and an increasing need for our work contribute to the challenges ahead, so we need the continued support of the community and healthcare providers."

In her new role, Betsy looks forward to connecting with healthcare providers because "Reaching out to any resources can benefit patients and families, and it is the key to fulfilling our mission. On behalf of my clinical team, we are grateful for the kindness from the community in the form of donations and supplies to our Lending Closet so our work can continue."

*To donate, contact Julie Kramer, the VHOCC Development Manager, at [julie.k@vhocc.org](mailto:julie.k@vhocc.org).*

**Volunteer Hospice of Clallam County is accepting new patients now!**



## Volunteer Recognition

**April**—The delivery team volunteers were recognized with lunches in Sequim and Port Angeles to acknowledge their support. The twenty-five volunteers do not let a pandemic stop them from helping people while keeping safety a priority.

**May**—VHOCC recognized **Chas Bridge, Frank Finney** and **a volunteer** who prefers to remain anonymous for their work on the VHOCC truck in Sequim.

**June**—VHOCC appreciates **Dana Doss's** relentless enthusiasm at the Front Desk and the Lending Closet. Dana supports respite, reception, and the Lending Closet. She improves processes and she brings a big smile to VHOCC every week!



**July**—**Deane Cook** was recognized for his work and ingenuity storing four wheel walkers in the Lending Closet. Deane also assists with deliveries. He says he is “paying back” for the care that his mother received from VHOCC. “I get paid with the satisfaction of helping someone.”



## Fall Program Calendar

### Community Orientations

#### Zoom

Monthly, first Thursday from 11:00 a.m.–12:00 p.m.

Register at [vsm@vhocc.org](mailto:vsm@vhocc.org).

### Grief Support Groups

#### Zoom

Wednesdays, September 8 - October 13, 1:00 p.m. -3:00 p.m. Port Angeles

Register at 360-452-1511 or [vsm@vhocc.org](mailto:vsm@vhocc.org).

## Winery Benefit for VHOCC

On August 7, Olympic Cellars Winery held a benefit to raise funds for VHOCC through ticket sales and a dollar dance. Participants enjoyed live blues music from Lady A, and savored delicious wine and artisan cheeses. VHOCC thanks the sixteen volunteers for their help and VHOCC Board President **Peter Raiswell** for speaking at the event.



VHOCC clinical team member Haley Blackburn-Jacobs, RN, BSN



VHOCC Board President Peter Raiswell



Lisa Martin of Olympic Cellars Winery

### New Campaign

Thank you to Country Aire Natural Foods, Jim's Pharmacy, Thomas Lumber,

Thurman Supply, and Swain's General Store for helping VHOCC raise over \$1,575 through the new stores campaign. The businesses encouraged customers to give during VHOCC's new Stores Campaign. The campaign was extra special because Jim's Pharmacy selected VHOCC through Jim's Cares as the Charity of the Month, too. A special thank you to Country Aire Natural Foods for continuing to ask individuals to help after the campaign and donating twice!



Executive Director JooRi Jun, ND and Molly Wallace, RN are presented with a check for \$700 from Jessica Thompson and Lori Ambrose of Jim's Pharmacy

### Why Donate?

“VHOCC provides skilled, compassionate care for patients nearing end-of-life and their families, including nursing visits, respite and bereavement visits, medical and home care equipment, classes and support groups for those who have lost spouses or other family members. All the services are gifted free-of charge, something that is a rarity among hospice organizations and is fully worthy of your support.” - **Penny Burdick, volunteer** [DONATE AT VHOCC.ORG](https://www.vhocc.org)



## Raising funds for the Respite Care Fund through the SBYC Regatta and the Reach and Row events



Since Sequim Bay Yacht Club's (SBYC) first event in 1991, SBYC has donated over \$400,000! To support our SBYC family and

cheer on the new VHOCC rowing team, please attend the **SBYC events at the John Wayne Marina in Sequim. The sailboat races start at noon on September 18, and the rowing competition starts at 9:00 a.m. on September 19.** Or, please donate online at [vhocc.org](http://vhocc.org) or mail your gift to "VHOCC," and include "SBYC" in the memo section of your check.

VHOCC greatly appreciates **Jean Hordyk and Marca Davies, RN** for serving on the VHOCC Board of Directors and for their continued support. They always have the VHOCC mission in their heart and find ways to help. A special thank you to Marca for her service as Vice President and Secretary and now a part of the clinical team and Jean for continuing to volunteer.

### Sending Hospice Hugs

Thank you to **Swain's, First Street Haven, and Chestnut Cottage Restaurant** for supporting VHOCC.

Thank you **Commodore Jerry Fine, Susan Sorensen, and SBYC members** for their extraordinary efforts to raise funds for the Respite Care Fund every year!

VHOCC appreciates **Terry Blackburn** for organizing the painting project at VHOCC's Carlsborg facility.

**VHOCC appreciates Bette Wood's stunning portrait.** The Spring 2021 issue of *Hospice Happenings* included an article about the new newsletter design being dedicated to founder Rose Crumb. A painting of Rose Crumb was included with the article. The name of the individual who painted the portrait was not included. VHOCC is grateful to Bette Wood for the portrait that is displayed in the Port Angeles office.

## Volunteer Appreciation Walk

Volunteers are the heart of VHOCC and the hours that volunteers donate to respite, grief support, deliveries, office tasks, and the Lending Closet is a key reason why VHOCC can continue to support the community with free hospice services. This year, to honor volunteers, Astrid Raffinpeyloz, Volunteer Services Manager, created an opportunity for volunteers to be with one another in a safe, socially distanced way. On April 15, volunteers walked together in Port Angeles on the Olympic Discovery Trail Waterfront, and on April 21 on the Olympic Discovery Trail at Carrie Blake Park. Astrid said, "The volunteers felt appreciated and connected, and they loved being outside together in the sunshine." Additionally, volunteers participated in a meet and greet through Zoom on April 19. Volunteers had a great discussion about what motivates them, recognition, and why they volunteer.



Shirley Messick, Betty Conger, Gale Emigh, and Penny Burdick

### Why I Donate My Time as a Volunteer

"I felt the need to give back the love and support I received from the community after my husband's passing. It is a joy to see people utilize VHOCC's exceptional FREE services during their most challenging time. I have been volunteering at VHOCC for almost seven years." - *Rosalinda Castiglioni, volunteer*

### The Lending Closet

VHOCC needs wheelchairs to support the community's needs. Please let us know if you can help by calling (360) 452-1511.



### HELP VHOCC SAVE MONEY

To request electronic newsletters: [editor@vhocc.org](mailto:editor@vhocc.org)



VOLUNTEER HOSPICE OF CLALLAM COUNTY

829 E. 8th Street, Port Angeles, WA 98362

Nonprofit Org  
U.S. Postage  
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& Printing Services

### Clinical Staff

- Betsy Wharton, RN, BSN—Nurse Team Manager
- Haley Blackburn-Jacobs, RN, BSN
- Trish Buckingham, RN
- Jenn Constable, RN
- Marca Davies, RN, MS
- Tammy Dedmore, CNA
- Cristina Eppers, RN
- Anne L’Heureux, RN, BSN
- Elizabeth Perez, RN, MSN
- Gary Schneider, RN, BSN, CHPN
- Molly Wallace, RN, BSN
- Lynn Whitmore, RN, BSN, MS

### Mission Support Staff

- JooRi Jun, ND— Executive Director
- Anita Chilton—Office Administrator
- Julie Kramer— Development Manager
- Astrid Raffinpeyloz— Volunteer Services Manager

### Board of Directors

- Peter Raiswell—President
- Michael Bucierka—Vice President
- Nancy Bargar, ret. CPA—Treasurer
- Wendy Brown, RN
- Sally Featherstone, RN, MSN
- David Gilbert, PE
- Ed Hopfner, MD
- Lori Ridgeway
- Ted Ripley

### How is VHOCC different from other hospices?

VHOCC is a local, independent non-profit organization, serving the population of Clallam County at no charge. VHOCC does not bill any insurance company or government agency for services.

### VHOCC History

“The first issue of the HOSPICE INTEREST newsletter in February 1978 featured this article: —The first meeting of the Hospice Interest group was held Tuesday, February 7, 1978 at 7:00 p.m. at the Port Angeles Senior Citizen Center. Those present were: Nan McGoff, Claudia Fox, Jean Hordyk, Rose Crumb, Marge Koch, Laurel Oppelt and Frank Feeley, Jr. So it began—this wonderful organization that did not have a name or money...just 7 enthusiastic volunteers and a vision of care for the terminally ill and their loved ones.” – *Rose Crumb (Founder of VHOCC)*

“End of life care can be challenging, but the care provided by our nurses and other staff is top notch.”  
-*Cecilia Stevens, volunteer*

**PLEASE REMEMBER VHOCC IN YOUR WILL.**

