



HAPPENINGS

FRIENDS OF HOSPICE

A Non-profit Organization, supporting the Hospice Patients of the North Penn VNA

MAY 2009

Thirteenth Edition



Friends of Hospice Cocktail Party and Silent Auction a Repeat Success! Cocktail Party Silent Auction: Another Gala Event

On April 4, 2008, Friends of Hospice hosted its largest and most successful fundraiser to date. The Cocktail Party and Silent Auction was held at PineCrest Country Club, and was attended by more than two hundred auction-goers who came to lend support to Friends of Hospice and the patients it serves. Items up for bid at this event included works of art, fine wines, tickets to

sporting events, certificates for fine dining, vacation home get-aways and items for pampering the body, mind and soul.

All items and services auctioned off were generously donated by caring individuals and businesses. A champagne raffle was a fun addition to the evening's festivities and the winner left the event sporting a beautiful green amethyst necklace and earrings!

The occasion offered a night of fun, food and friendship thanks to the many volunteers who worked "overtime" to make it a success. Thanks also to SKF Corporation whose support with this and other Friends of Hospice events has provided valuable assistance for our fundraising efforts. The personnel and software SKF provided for the auction helped to streamline operations. Through the assistance of Friends of Hospice Board Members, auction committees, and the many volunteers, the event was both fun and profitable.

Plans are underway for the next Friends of Hospice Cocktail Party and Silent Auction to be held on April 16, 2010 at PineCrest Country Club. Be sure to mark your calendars now for this fun and worthwhile event! Volunteers are needed to make the 2010 auction and cocktail party another successful event for the hospice patients served by Friends of Hospice. For information on this or any other Friends of Hospice event, call Vicki Rate at 215-262-1594 or visit <http://www.npvna.org/hospice.html> and choose the "Friends of Hospice" link at the bottom of the page.

Annual "Light Up A Life" Ceremony A Moving Tribute

Friends of Hospice held its annual Light Up A Life ceremony on November 5, 2008. Light Up A Life is a memorial ceremony during which lights are placed on the towering evergreen tree on the North Penn VNA property. The lights are lit in remembrance and celebration of the lives of friends and family members who have passed away and remain in our hearts. The tree remains lit throughout the month of November as a beacon of hope and love. The Friends of Hospice organization is hopeful that families, friends and the community derive comfort from its simplistic beauty.

The first Light Up A Life event was held in 1991, organized by Barb Tudgay and Karen Hunter, founders and past presidents of Friends of Hospice. At the first Light Up A Life ceremony, there were sixty memorial lights on the tree. Memorial lights are obtained through donations made in honor of a loved one, and last November, 345 lights were lit at the ceremony.

A special thank you to Dr. Rev. Susan Bertollette for again officiating at this emotional service. The names of those remembered were read individually and, despite the cold, rainy evening, more than sixty participants respectfully attended this solemn event. We are gratified that the community has embraced this program and enabled it to grow each year.

The event raised over \$6,000 for the Friends of Hospice organization to assist hospice patients in need of support. This year's economic downturn in America has increased the number of patients seeking help; that means Friends of Hospice is now in need of your generosity more than ever. Friends of Hospice donors have helped provide respite care for caregivers and ease the burden of minor financial hardships for hospice patients and families throughout the Montgomery and Bucks county area.

Thank you to all for your past and future support. One hundred percent of all funds raised by Friends of Hospice are used to directly benefit patients of the North Penn VNA Hospice and are fully tax deductible. Anyone wishing to make a memorial contribution or to volunteer to assist with future Light Up A Life events, may contact Barb Tudgay at 610-584-5933.





Frames for Friends Will Bowl You Over!

The Frames for Friends inaugural event was a smashing success thanks to the many volunteers and participants who supported it! This bowling extravaganza was held on Saturday, May 9th from 7 – 10 PM at Facenda-Whitaker Lanes in East Norriton and included two hours of bowling, refreshments, raffles and prizes. The event was attended by more than 150 bowlers and including sponsorship, brought in approximately \$8,000 for the Hospice patients of the North Penn VNA.

For information about this or other Friends of Hospice events, visit us on the North Penn VNA's website at: <http://www.npvna.org/hospice.html> or email us at: fohnpvna@verizon.net.

Tea with Betsy Ross: Fun for Both Sides of the Atlantic!

There I was, a stranger in a strange land with an oddly garbed lady in mobcap and gown welcoming me to her tea party. Was I in a time warp? No, this was Betsy Ross and I was attending a fund raising tea party hosted by Friends of Hospice. Who was this dynamic woman of the past and for what was she most famous? While sipping tea and nibbling at delicate sandwiches, I learned of her life and the part she played in creating the first American flag. Hers was a tale every native born American learns early in life. Being born in Great Britain, her story was missing from my childhood history education. From her narrative, I took away many valuable and practical lessons. I can now cut a five-pointed star with a single snip of the scissors!



This interesting afternoon was rounded off with raffles for a multitude of goodies, the star prize being a handmade quilt, expertly designed and donated by Laura Hernandez. The Scarlett O'Hatters, a "Red Hat" group of Lansdale, PA, supported the event, not only by the number of guests they brought, but also by providing several American Girl Dolls for the raffles. Kudos also to Barb Tudgay and her sewing circle for the authentic period costumes they fashioned for the dolls. I'm pleased to say I did not leave empty handed, but sadly not with the quilt. All in all, it was a very entertaining afternoon - what a wonderful way to support the patients of the Hospice of the North Penn VNA.

Gold Medal Supporters

Friends of Hospice would like to extend a special thanks to SKF, a leading manufacturer of ball bearings and related products worldwide. As a successful organization with a proactive socially responsible philosophy, the SKF parent organization encourages all of its employees to find ways and activities through which SKF and its employees can make a positive and lasting impact on the society and the community in which they operate.

Friends of Hospice had the good fortune to be chosen by SKF's Kulpville, PA location as an organization to support. Over the past two years, the time, talent and financial support provided by SKF and its staff has been indispensable; without their assistance, Friends of Hospice certainly would not have been able to provide as much benefit to the hospice patients of our community.

In addition to the numerous hours employees worked to support the efforts of Friends of Hospice, the SKF service group also raised funds to purchase software to improve the efficiency of our fundraisers, sold maroon "hospice" pins, acquired several private monetary donations and have provided invaluable professional insight to assist Friends of Hospice's fund raising endeavors. We wish to offer our friends at SKF our humblest heart-felt thanks!

Debbie Pieri Angel Foundation is a philanthropic organization created by the family and friends of the late Debbie Pieri, as a tribute to her zeal for life, generosity of heart and inspirational dedication. The foundation seeks to champion Debbie's spirit by using foundation resources to touch the lives of those in need of a little help from an "angel". Sharing a similar organizational philosophy as Friends of Hospice, the purpose of DPAF is to improve the quality of life of individuals and families who have been severely affected by terminal disease or life altering catastrophes. In the past, they have donated more than \$2,000 to help bring comfort and respite to our hospice families during the holidays.

Friends of Hospice is thankful for the many supporters that have donated to help to make the lives of the hospice patient's of the North Penn VNA brighter, but wishes to offer special appreciation for the SKF organization and its' employees for their ongoing support and to the Debbie Pieri Angel Foundation for its past support. To become a donor to Friends of Hospice, please use the form included with this newsletter, or contact us by email at: fohnpvna@verizon.net.

The Show Must Go On!



Friends of Hospice has started a new event that's putting the "fun" in fundraiser, with the popular Theater Night at Montgomery Theater in Souderton, PA. The past two events included an entertaining evening of theater coupled with a casual pre-show cocktail party in a private room at the theater.

Party participants enjoyed delicious hors d'oeuvres and wines while mingling with the other theatergoers. Montgomery Theater's eclectic schedule allowed us to see two very different, but equally entertaining plays - The classic *Seven Year Itch* and the hysterical *Reefer Madness, the Musical*. All in all, both theater night events were wildly successful, making for a truly memorable evening. We hope you'll join us for the next theater night October 2, 2009 when we will see *Bus Stop*, written by William Inge. For questions or tickets for this play and pre-party, contact Gay Hoyle at 267-357-2550 or Kathy Billitto at 610-454-7988. Don't miss the opening curtain - tickets go on sale soon.

Understanding Hospice

What is hospice?

Hospice is a concept of healthcare that provides services for the physical, emotional and spiritual needs of the terminally ill and their families. Hospice care is designed to alleviate pain and manage symptoms with expertise and compassion. Families and caregivers are closely involved in decision-making. Along with specialized nursing care, hospice provides counseling, education, short-term respite care, and bereavement support to those close to the patient.

The following are common misconceptions about hospice and should provide you with the facts surrounding these myths.

Myth: Hospice is a place.

Fact: Hospice is a philosophy of care and not a specific place. Hospice care can be given in any setting, but usually takes place in the comfort of the patient's home. Other settings in which hospice care is administered include nursing homes, assisted living facilities, and residential care facilities.

Myth: Families have to pay for hospice care.

Fact: Hospice care is a Medicare benefit. Most private insurers also cover hospice care.

Myth: Hospice's only concern is the patient.

Fact: Hospice focuses on comfort, dignity, and emotional support of not only the patient, but also their families and all others who provide care for the patient.

Myth: Hospice is only for cancer patients.

Fact: Hospice cares for patients with any terminal illness, regardless of their diagnosis.

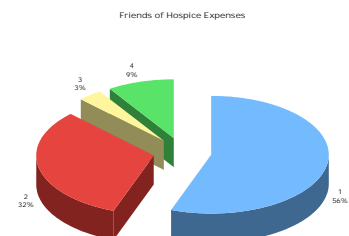
Myth: Hospice means that the patient will die very soon.

Fact: Receiving hospice care does not mean that death is immediately imminent or that you are giving up on the life of the hospice patient. The earlier an individual receives hospice care, the more opportunity there is to stabilize medical conditions and address other needs. It also allows the patients and their caregivers to have access to the wonderful and unique services that only hospice is able to provide. It is also important to note that patients may discontinue hospice benefits and resume active treatment at any time.

Making the Most of your Gift

Thanks to your generosity, Friends of Hospice was able to offer assistance to hospice patients and their caregivers in a number of different ways. The following chart illustrates how your gifts were utilized:

1. Home health aids who provided respite care
2. Personal care items: protective bed pads, specialty wheelchair rental, etc.
3. Medications not covered by insurance
4. Miscellaneous items





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Friends of Hospice



Friends of Hospice Upcoming Events

Mark your calendars today!

2009

May Sat., 5/9/09 Bowling Night - "Frames for Friends"
Strike it big with this charity event by participating or becoming a sponsor

October Fri., 10/2/09 Theater Night – *Bus Stop*
Don't miss the bus, join us for this entertaining night at the Montgomery Theater

November Wed., 11/4/09 Light Up A Life
Celebrate the lives of lost loved ones by dedicating lights in their memories

2010

April Fri., 4/16/10 Cocktail Party Silent Auction
Join us for fun, food and friendship at PineCrest Country Club

Monthly Meetings: All are welcome to attend Friends of Hospice Board Meetings held the *second Wednesday monthly* at 7:00 PM at the North Penn VNA located on the campus of the Lansdale Hospital, 51 Medical Drive, Lansdale, PA.

To help make a difference by improving the lives of hospice patients in our community or to learn more about Friends of Hospice, email us at FOHNPVNA@verizon.net or visit our website at: <http://www.npvna.org/hospice.html> and scroll down to the *Friends of Hospice* link at the bottom of the page.

Friends of Hospice is a fully volunteer philanthropic organization with 501 (c) (3) non-profit status. Our mission is to generate funds to cover unmet needs and expenses of hospice patients of the North Penn VNA in Bucks and Montgomery counties.

*Thank You! Merci!
Mucho Gracias! Toda!
Danke! Dhanyavad!*

Thank you to all for your support over the past two years. Your generosity has improved the quality of life for many hospice patients and their loved ones.

Additionally, Friends of Hospice wishes to thank real estate developer, **David Cutler Group**, and **Central Schwenkfelder Church** for their additional support as large donors. Special thanks also to **PineCrest Country Club**, **Church of the Messiah Outreach Committee**, **The Scarlett O'Hatters**, **Direct Mail Alliance**, **Yvonne Arano**, **Laura Hernandez** and to the many friends who have enabled Friends of Hospice to ease some of the burden experienced by hospice patients in very difficult circumstances.