

# The Chrysalis

## A New Journey Begins...

A publication of Wings of Hope Hospice & Wings Home

Fall 2018 | Issue 09



Wings of Hope was living it up at the Allegan County Fair this year with two blue ribbons, one for our booth and one for our float. Thank you Linda Deering for all of your help on the booth and to Ann and Jarrod Chestnut for making the float possible! A big thank you to the sponsor of our float Safari Circuits and to our donors. And a special thank you to Teresa Myers for letting us take 'Rocky,' the big chicken, for a ride!



Dear Friends,

Do you believe our mortality is a gift? I do. Because we do not have forever, time is precious. At Wings of Hope, one of the things we strive to do is help individuals become comfortable with their own mortality. Why is it important? Because this level of awareness creates a better quality of life.

I know that one day I will very likely become unable to make my own health care decisions. To plan for that, I have appointed a patient advocate (with first and second alternates if that person is not available). I have had a conversation with each of my patient advocates about what is important to me, and they each have a copy of my advance directive. They will see to it that my quality of life – as I define it – will be attended to.

What exactly does that mean? In plain language, it means if I am not making my own decisions and need to be cared for by other people, I want to be in my own home. I want a soothing environment with people I love and my pets in it. I do not want bright lights or people bending over me. I want it to be quiet. I want soft music and smells of home. I do not want my sheets or blankets tucked in. I want to be kept clean.

My patient advocates know that if it comes to a choice of quantity of life versus quality, quality wins.

Do you have your advance directive in place? If not and you do not know where to start, call Wings of Hope. We have the forms and the people trained to help you complete them in a way that is tailored to your choices. This service is free and confidential. We will meet with you in a place that is convenient for you.

I had the honor of being quoted in Time Magazine (9/17/18 issue) about advance directives. My quote was about the importance of getting advance directives complete before there is an emergency and difficult decisions have to be made in times of high stress and high emotion. Call the Wings of Hope office. 269-686-8659. We can help.

Warmly,

Theresa Lynn, PhD, RN, LMSW  
Certified Thanatologist

Wings  
of Hope Hospice

Wings Home

A huge **THANK YOU** for helping make our Night of Hope Auction our **BEST** yet...raising over \$220,000 for Wings of Hope Hospice! We are so grateful to the team of volunteers & supporters that make this possible!

Save the date & join us for next year's auction  
**May 18, 2019**

Night of  
**HOPE**

Annual Auction



## BEFORE I DIE WALL



As a part of our mission to educate the community on end-of-life topics and to be a helpful community resource, we staffed a booth at the Allegan County Fair and at several farmers markets this summer. Not only did we share information on Wings of Hope services, volunteer needs, advance directives, and Grief Support, we also encouraged our friends and neighbors to write their hopes and dreams on large chalkboards. The "Before I Die" walls are a part of a global art project started on the side of a building in New Orleans by Candy Chang in 2011. Since then, more than 400 walls have sprung up in 60 countries. The walls are a great tool to initiate thoughts and conversations. Here are some of the hopes and dreams that were written:

- *Dive the Great Barrier Reef*
- *Ride horses in the mountains*
- *Visit Ireland*
- *Go to the Kentucky Derby*
- *Take granddaughter to Disney*
- *Jump off a plane*
- *Watch the Detroit Lions win a Super Bowl*
- *Leave a legacy that positively impacts people*
- *Learn a new language*
- *Reconcile with my Mom*

### 2018 Wings of Hope Board of Directors

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Jim Connell DVM  
Richard Godfrey  
Susan Klooz  
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### 2018 Wings Home Board of Directors

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## MISSION MOMENT

### A Man Who Lived His Faith

By Greg Carlson

I had several conversations with Fred\* and his family, but one stands out. His daughter Terry and I sat with Fred who reclined on his bed at the Wings Home. At age 71, he was a smiling man of slight build, quite bald with a few tufts of hair sticking out the sides of his head. It didn't take much for me to imagine him with a ball cap on as he drove a semi-truck – something he did for most of his working years.

He had been in an auto accident about a month previous. An exam at that time showed he had esophageal cancer that had spread throughout his body. Within a few short days he came to Wings of Hope and the Wings Home.

I think Fred was the most humble man I've known. Truly humble. When I asked if he would like our volunteer writer to come and write up his life story, he declined, saying he would not like to have himself be the center of attention; he would rather God get the credit for his life. Everything about him was humble: his demeanor, voice, eyes and words.

He was concerned that he always do God's will. One example of his life of faith was that he was a giver. He didn't tell me about this; Terry spoke humbly about her father's life of giving to those in need. She had come across some receipts mailed from several organizations that helped people in need. She told me how her dad had chosen to live his whole life without much material things in order to bless those who had needs. Just before his auto accident, he had been living with a brother in a small trailer – not a mobile home, but a small enclosed trailer. At that time, a friend had needed a coat. Fred had given him his coat – the only coat he had. He was glad it was a relatively warm autumn.

Now Fred lay dying. He was content with his lot in life – "the Lord has numbered my days," said he in a slight whisper – all he could muster as he spit up phlegm and blood from his esophageal cancer. As Terry and I leaned in to hear his words, he communicated with great effort: "All my life I have been able to give with great joy." I asked, "What brought you joy in your giving?" He said, "Mostly because I learned that no matter how much I gave, God always supplied more for me to give again."

He continued his thought with a smile: "But now I cannot give anymore. It is time for me to receive. I have been blessed by these many people that have given of their time and resources to Wings of Hope Hospice and the Wings Home. I feel loved here."

Terry and I agreed with him. "This is a house full of love."

\*All names are pseudonyms

### Autumn 2018 Community Memorial Gathering

Thursday, October 25, 2018

4-6pm Activities for All Ages

5:30pm Candle Ceremony

Outdoor Event at Wings of Hope Hospice  
530 Linn Street, Allegan





*"Colleen is definitely one of a kind! We are immensely blessed to have her as part of our team."*

Congratulations to our very own Colleen Cupani, Wings of Hope RN Triage

Coordinator, for receiving Langeland Funeral Home's **Hospice Caregiver of the Month Award.**

Thank you for all you do Colleen!



**The Gary & Bonnie Funk Memorial Golf Outing raised \$3500** for Wings of Hope Hospice and numerous items from the Wings Home "wish list" were collected. Thank you to Marie Cook, the golfers and everyone who supported this awesome event!!

Thank you to everyone who supported the **5th Annual Wings Home Golf Outing!** It was a GREAT day spent with even greater people! **The event raised \$14,000!!!!** Words can't describe our appreciation!



Pictured: George Gant, Dr. Theresa Lynn, Tink Blackman

Allegan Eagles 2315 is one amazing group of people. **Their annual golf outing had a record number of golfers and they raised \$6,245 for Wings Home!!!** Thank you!

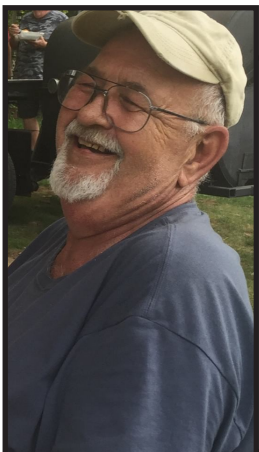
Their support for our community is truly appreciated!

Girl Scout Troop 80021 hosted a **Girl Scout Hospice Help-Out** and "stuff the hearse" event (sponsored by Gorden Funeral Residence.) These special young ladies gathered donated household goods and donations with 100% of the proceeds going to the Wings Home.

**THANK YOU**



Mark Bronson and his wife Sherri celebrated his 65th birthday with a party where the guests brought items for the Wings Home. **Over \$2000 worth of items were graciously donated as well as \$1000 in cash and gift cards!**



**The 5th Annual Shook Family Cancer Benefit** raised \$2930 for Wings of Hope this year. This incredible family and their supporters have truly made a difference in people's lives. It was a fun-filled day including a cornhole tournament, pig roast, raffle & DJ. A big thank you to Max, Kevin, Michelle, Erin and everyone who did their part to support the event!



## WAY TO GO DR. CONNELL

The OFG Wings Home 500 is complete!!

**We'd like to thank, congratulate and applaud Dr. Jim Connell for raising \$12,000 for Wings Home!!**

His passion for his community and his health is impressive to say the least. Thank you also to everyone who supported his incredible fundraiser. The amount raised will support the Wings Home for 60 days.

We are honored to take care of the people in our community. There is no cost to the patient or family to stay at the Wings Home. Fundraisers like this done by amazing people, such as Jim, make all the difference.

If you see Dr. Connell, please be sure to thank him!



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Website: [www.wingsofhopehospice.com](http://www.wingsofhopehospice.com)



### Mission

We provide compassionate care in the later stages of life and support through the grief experience for individuals and families.

### Vision

As we help people live more fully and benefit from the gift of their own mortality, we will increase the comfort level of our culture to embrace life's later stages as a natural phase and we will work to decrease fear and increase knowledge associated with life-limiting illness.

**Wings of Hope Hospice**  
**530 Linn Street**  
**Allegan, MI 49010**

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330 Linn Street  
Allegan, MI 49010  
269-686-9232  
800-796-2676

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



### Mission

The Wings Home is an end-of-life care home that provides compassionate care in a home like atmosphere to Wings of Hope Hospice patients during the last days of their lives. There is no cost to live at Wings Home.

Volunteers and staff provide 24-hour care.