

As we look back on 2019 we can't help but be incredibly grateful for the support from our generous community. We simply cannot do this work without you.

2020

happy new year

Your gifts are making a difference in the end-of-life experience for patients and their families. Over 14,133 total days of hospice care have been provided for 274 patients. This care includes medications, medical supplies, oxygen and equipment, an RN case manager, aide visits, social work services, spiritual and bereavement services. All of these may help a patient have a better quality of life during their last days, months or years. The Wings Home will continue to be an end-of-life care option for those no longer able to be cared for in their own home. Journeys Palliative Care will continue to be available for those with chronic illness and who need an extra layer of support. We are looking forward to providing the utmost level of care with your support in 2020.

HAPPY NEW YEAR
TO YOU & YOURS!

The Chrysalis

A New Journey Begins...

A publication of Wings of Hope Hospice & Wings Home

Winter 2020 | Issue 12

Dear Friends,

Part of the Vision Statement of Wings of Hope includes helping people "benefit from the gift of their own mortality." That phrase may sound paradoxical, but I believe with all my being that our mortality is a great gift. Knowing I will die someday makes me appreciate life, rollercoaster that it is sometimes. When a loved one dies and I walk on the path of grief, my fragility reminds me to be kind to others. When I am sick, I think about the people we care for as patients and how they are not going to get better, and I am grateful for my health. When I learn something because of a loss I have encountered, I can pass that knowledge on to others who may be having a similar experience.

Death is sometimes thought of as a hole, a void, an emptiness. But it is also part of what makes us *whole* as a human being. Because we live, we will die. If we want to avoid death, then by definition we do not get to live life. We cannot have one without the other.

Because we die, we will live. How well we live is up to us. And that is the gift of our mortality – if we are willing to accept it.

Warmly,

Theresa Lynn, PhD, RN, LMSW
Certified Thanatologist*
Executive Director

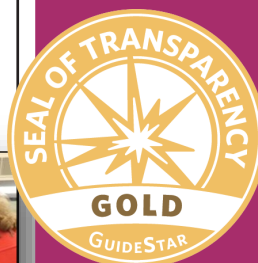
Wings
of Hope

Wings Home

*Thanatology is the study of death, dying and bereavement.

294 plates of cookies prepared with love for our patients and families! THANK YOU students, families and staff at Otsego Public Elementary Schools for making *The Great Cookie Caper* so special once again this year. You definitely made spirits brighter.

Also, a very big thank you to Wings of Hope & Wings Home volunteers for delivering all those cookies!



Our organization earned a 2019 Gold Seal of Transparency from GuideStar.

By adding information about our goals, strategies, capabilities and vision, we are highlighting the difference we help to make in the world.
GuideStar

Wings
of Hope

Wings Home

ACCREDITED
CHARITY
bbb.org/western-michigan

Allegan County
Community
Foundation
Impacting Community. For Good. For Ever.

A Partnering Agency of

United Way

MISSION MOMENT

Won't You Please Take Me Home?

By Greg Carlson

Many of the people we serve at Wings of Hope believe the Christian teaching. While we honor and arrange care for people of all faiths, there is often opportunity for helping folks to feel more secure in their Christian faith at the end of life. Here's the story of a family whose spirits were lifted in our care.

As I raised my hand to knock on the door to the patient's room, I heard crying. Fred* had been transferred from his own home to the Wings Home earlier in the day. Now Fred and family were tearful and sighing with great waves of grief. I asked them the reason for their distress. His sweet wife explained that they recognized Fred's decline and that he would soon no longer be there with them.

I took Fred's hand in mine. He looked up through tear-filled eyes and asked, "Pastor, won't you please take me home?" Because of his move that day to the Wings Home, I was thinking he wanted to be moved back to his own home. I explained to him how the Wings Home could give him the level of care he needed during this stage of his illness.

But as the conversation went along, Fred's wife kindly corrected me, "I think he wants to go to his home in heaven." When I asked Fred directly, he confirmed that he was ready for the Lord to take him to his heavenly home.

We talked a little about how many have struggled in earth's final hours with saying goodbye to their loved ones. Fred began to calm in getting that into the open. I reminded him of what was just around the corner for him in heaven. Having a strong Christian faith, the family took hold of this and encouraged their cherished husband, father and grandfather. Fred then had a most eager expression of wanting to see Jesus and relatives already home. He began to smile. He wanted us to sing his favorite hymns together. When some of the family needed to leave, there were tearful hugs. Fred said joyfully, "See you in heaven!" This was an intensely beautiful time for them as they affirmed their love for one another with anticipation of a future reunion.

As family members came and went, Fred returned to "normal" conversation about things we commonly discussed in previous visits. His family told me that Fred did not revert to a tearful place of distress for the rest of his life. He breathed his last on earth at the Wings Home a few days later – in peace. His Christian faith provided reassurance for his family as well. This was Fred's dying wish when he said, "Pastor, won't you please take me home?"

*Pseudonym

Grief Support Groups & Luncheons

Support Groups

Dorr/Wayland	3 rd Monday at Dorrr Library 1-2:30pm
Plainwell/Otsego	4 th Monday at Ransom Library 6-7:30pm 3 rd Thursday at Otsego Library 1-2:30pm
Allegan	2 nd Monday at Wings of Hope Office 6-7:30pm 2 nd Tuesday at 1 st Congregational 11-12:30pm

Social Luncheons

Dorr/Wayland	1 st Thursday at Wayland Salvinos 11-1pm
Plainwell/Otsego	3 rd Tuesday at Applebees 11-1pm
Allegan	4 th Thursday at Allegan Hospital 11-1pm



2020 Wings of Hope Board of Directors

Diane Barton
Jim Connell DVM
Sara Decker
Jenifer Garcia
Richard Godfrey
Pablo "Paul" Martinez
Cheri Schulz
Dawn Sherman



2020 Wings Home Board of Directors

Jim Connell DVM
Lisa Kokotan
Cheri Schulz
Mallory Smith
Julie Sosnowski



The Gary & Bonnie Funk Memorial Golf Outing was held August 24th and a portion of the amazing proceeds were donated to Wings of Hope. Golfers also donated items from the Wings Home wish list. Special thanks to Marie Cook for spearheading this awesome event and for being a champion for Wings of Hope.

The very special Diekema Family held an event to honor their parents/grandparents and also raise money for Wings of Hope. A sincere thank you to all of them for sharing their time, space, generosity, talents and love with us. It was such a great night with even greater people!

Thank you to the Shook Family and everyone who came out to support their annual cornhole tournament benefiting Wings of Hope. It was such a fun & beautiful day spent with some pretty fantastic people!

Employees from Perrigo Company plc recognized *Live United Day of Caring* at the Wings Home this fall. Thank you so much for your help raking leaves and with fall clean-up!

Hopkins JV & Varsity Volleyball teams and their amazing community raised money for Wings of Hope at a game this past fall.



Allegan & Gobles Girls Volleyball programs together raised money for Wings of Hope at a recent game and had a lot of fun doing it.

Thank you all! You have made a difference in our patients' lives.



Thank you West Shore Aware!
Your generous grant provides support and care to hospice patients and their families when they need it most. You go above and beyond for our community.



Perrigo Company Charitable Foundation presented Wings of Hope and Wings Home with an incredibly generous grant last month.

This money will be put towards pain and symptom management for Wings of Hope patients and will also help pay for caregivers at the Wings Home. We're so grateful for the support that Perrigo has given both organizations over the years.



Congratulations Dr. Jim Connell! Well deserved! Wings Home and Wings of Hope are lucky to have your support. Dr. Connell serves on both boards and was awarded the **Fox 17 Pay It Forward Person of the Month** this past August.

You may remember his dancing debut in Dancing with the Docs or his fundraisers, 'Ice Cold Splash for Cash', the 500K OFG Bike Challenge and this year's 150K in 30 Days Walk Challenge. The man can't stop! He loves his community...and his health. And we are forever grateful. Thank you Dr. Connell!

The Mignon Sherwood DeLano Foundation granted Wings of Hope and Wings Home money for patient care. Their continued generosity means so much. Thank you!

The West Michigan Wanderers Chapter 99 were spreading that holiday cheer over the holiday season. Thank you to this generous group of people for their donation and for making a difference in their community. We appreciate you!!

Night of HOPE

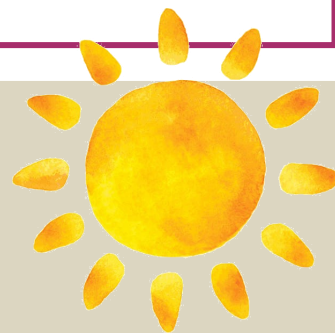
Annual Auction

SAVE THE DATE!!!

**Join us at the 23rd annual
Night of Hope Auction
Saturday, May 16, 2020!**



Congratulations to Matt Johnson, winner of our first ever *Winner's Choice Raffle!* He will be jet setting off to Riviera Maya in Mexico. Thank you to everyone who supported this fun event and helped raise money for Wings of Hope and Wings Home.



530 Linn Street
Allegan, MI 49010
269-686-8659
800-796-2676

Email: wings@wingsofhopehospice.com
Website: 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 &
Palliative Care, Inc.
530 Linn Street
Allegan, MI 49010**

Nonprofit Org
U.S. Postage Paid
Allegan, MI 49010
Permit #378

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

Website: 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.