

# SEASONS GREETINGS

– A PUBLICATION OF SEASONS HOSPICE –

## SEASONS HOSPICE

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## SEASONS HOSPICE

*Provides individualized and compassionate care, education and support for the dying and others who have experienced loss.*

### – SEASONS HOSPICE –

1696 Greenview Drive SW  
Rochester, MN 55902  
phone: 507-285-1930  
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## SEASONS HOSPICE

Adding Quality of Life to Each Day

### HOSPICE - QUALITY CARE AT THE END OF LIFE

By Beverly Haynes, Executive Director



Over my many years working in hospice, I have witnessed countless changes. From the days when I was asked on a daily basis, "What is hospice?" to today, when hospice, palliative care and planning for end of life are topics of conversation in numerous areas of society.

Hospice care has seen a substantial increase in regulatory demands: non-reimbursable physician face-to-face visits, mandated quality reporting, and medication reporting, to name a few. While increasing reporting measures are in the best interest of the patient and quality care is always the focus of hospice care, these requirements come at the same time as increased Medicare cuts to hospice reimbursement rates, requiring hospices to do more with fewer resources.

While many Americans are taking advantage of hospice care services, the National Hospice and Palliative Care Organization continues to be concerned about the number of patients who experience these services for a short period of time. In 2012, 35.5 percent of hospice patients died or were discharged within seven days of admission, a statistic consistent with the previous year and 79.9 percent of patients received care for less than 90 days. Seasons Hospice had the privilege of caring for over 400 patients in 2013. Of those patients, over 50% died within 14 days of care and only 4.7% were able to benefit from the full six-month Medicare hospice benefit.

The hospice industry is working to assess why this trend is occurring and to reverse this course. One of the ways to accomplish this is to increase outreach and education to medical professionals, as well as to the general public. The hospice benefit is funded by Medicare and most private insurances provide a hospice component as well.

Hospice is an essential service provided to persons with a terminal diagnosis when

pursuing a cure is no longer a viable option. The longer a patient can receive hospice care, the more beneficial it is for them and for their family. A short length of stay deprives the patient and family from realizing the full value of hospice care. It is the very nature of hospice care that makes it so valuable: a holistic, comprehensive and compassionate approach to caring for dying individuals that focuses on the physical, emotional, spiritual and psychosocial aspects of the patient. Hospice utilizes an interdisciplinary team of healthcare professionals and trained volunteers that address symptom control, pain management, and emotional and spiritual support expressly tailored to the patient's needs and wishes. Hospice care supports patients and their families through this very important, intimate and natural time of life.

Everyone deserves quality care at the end of life – it's a fundamental part of living. It also is the model of care that most people say they want, even if they don't identify it by name. A Gallup poll reveals that 88% of adults would prefer to die in their homes, free of pain, surrounded by family and loved ones: Hospice works to make this happen. Hospice care is the standard for high-quality, compassionate end-of-life care that helps patients and families live life as fully as possible during the last days or months that remain. More than 1.65 million Americans choose hospice care every year and this number continues to grow.

Seasons Hospice is dedicated to ensuring that anyone who wishes to have hospice as their end of life choice, should receive it. It is our goal that through increased information and education, more people will choose hospice sooner in the course of their terminal diagnosis, rather than later, in order to receive the full benefit of hospice care. After all, hospice is about enhanced quality of life at the end of life and how one chooses to live life to the very end. -SG-

**ALSO INCLUDED IN THIS ISSUE:**

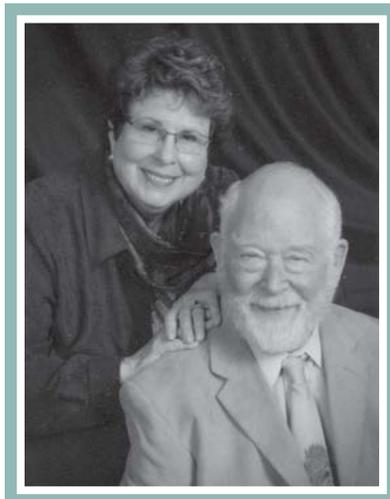
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**PLEASE NOTE:**

Visit our website at [www.seasonshospice.org](http://www.seasonshospice.org) to view our video, learn about Seasons Hospice programs, employment or volunteer opportunities, request a speaker through our Speakers Bureau and more.

# FACES OF HOSPICE: *A Tribute to Dr. Fred Banfield*

*Gilda Banfield writes of her journey through her husband Fred's illness and death and how she is rebuilding her life in the aftermath.*



As I write this, I am about 1 1/2 years into my journey without my husband Fred. For Fred the journey began 23 years ago when he was diagnosed with Chronic Inflammatory Demyelinating Polyneuropathy (CIDP). I was told that CIDP is a progressive disease that affects the

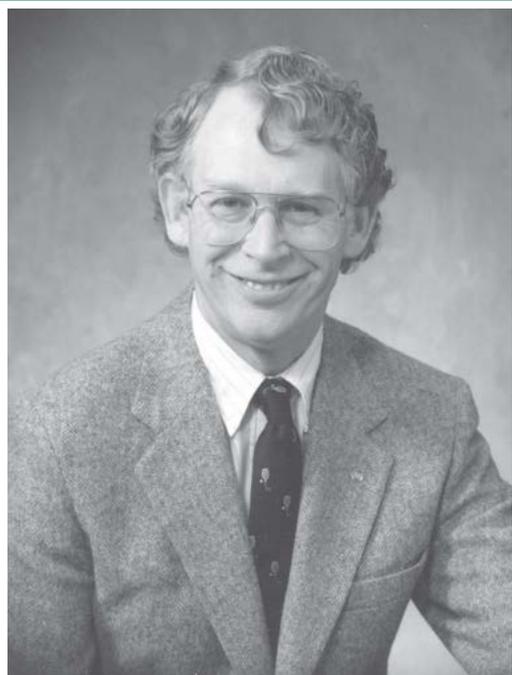
covering to the nerves in his arms and legs.

Fred was an accomplished and enterprising physician. After 15 years in a group practice, he opened his own office, first in Chatfield and later in Rochester. Family practice was his passion. He loved treating mom, dad, the kids as well as grandma and grandpa. He was the Medical Director for the Chosen Valley Care Center in Chatfield for over 30 years. He was also a gifted athlete and an intense competitor. At the time of his diagnosis he was ranked the #1 racquetball player in the state of Minnesota for his age group. It was very difficult for him to no longer be able to play the sport that he loved. With weekly infusions of Intravenous Immune Globulin ( IVIG ), he was able to continue to practice medicine.

Our family life took on a different dimension. We have five grown children and we were able to keep up with our three sons and two daughters and the activities of their growing families. Our favorite place to be was at our lake home in Wisconsin where we gathered often with family and friends. Our grandchildren called Fred "Dubby ". He adored them and took a great interest in their schooling and activities.

As Fred got progressively weaker he needed a walker and eventually a wheelchair. We had ramps built to make our lake home more accessible for him. As his needs increased, so did my role as his caregiver. There were many challenges, not the least of which was his independent spirit. Finally his physician, Dr. Angela O'Neil, said it was time to bring in Seasons Hospice. What a blessing this was for both of us. For five months they helped with things like bathing, medications, pain control and medical equipment like a lift chair and oxygen. The nurses were amazing and their presence helped me be comfortable taking care of Fred when they were not there. If something worrisome happened at night, they were only a phone call away.

As Fred's condition worsened, he became too weak to transfer to and from his wheelchair. That is when we, as a family, and his physician, Dr. Charles Rohren, decided I could no longer care for him at home and it was time to go to the Seasons Hospice House. At first he was reluctant to go, but agreed with the understanding that there he would get respite care until he got stronger. That was not to be.



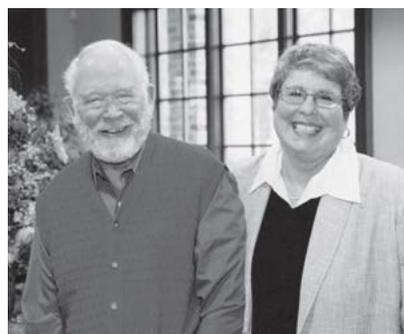
*“Not only did Seasons provide the means for Fred to die with dignity, they enabled me to be at peace and be with him to hold his hand and whisper my parting words as he breathed his last.”*

GILDA BANFIELD

The Hospice House is so homelike and in such a beautiful setting. I can't say enough about the wonderful staff and the care he received, which was done in a cheerful, sensitive and compassionate way. In the three weeks he was at the house, our children, grandchildren and friends visited and phoned often. We enjoyed our alone time as well. Our Sunday brunches together were very special. We had had our discussions about the future long ago so we talked about everyday things, just as we always did.

I am so thankful for the guidance and insights that the staff at Seasons gave me. One of the best pieces of advice I got was to "be in the moment". Ultimately, knowing what to expect as the end drew near gave me the courage and confidence to face what no spouse is ever prepared for. Not only did Seasons provide the means for Fred to die with dignity, they enabled me to be at peace and be with him to hold his hand and whisper my parting words as he breathed his last. To this day I continue to be ever grateful.

The year that followed can only be described as an emotional roller coaster. The love and support of the children, family and friends was so gratifying. The staff at Seasons regularly sent thoughtful notes of encouragement. I soon felt comfortable attending the Newly Bereaved Group at the Seasons Hospice Center for Grief Education and Support. There I was able to connect with others who were on the same journey. It was a safe environment where I could say what I needed to say; I cried when I needed to and I listened to what the others had to say. Hearing from those who lost a parent helped me understand what my children were feeling.



The one year anniversary of Fred's passing fell on Memorial Day weekend and the entire family, 21 of us, gathered at our lake home to remember him. There on the pristine lakeshore

we laughed together, cried together and prayed together, knowing that Fred's spirit will always be with us at this very special place.

Now I am attending the Adult Grief Support Group through the Center for Grief Education and Support. We will be discussing things like the changes in our lives, the value of memories and coping with feelings. We also share how we are doing at this point. This is especially important to me as I still get episodes of really not liking what has happened. This is not what I imagined doing at this stage of my life or that I would be doing it without Fred. Even though I accept the reality, I miss him terribly. I have learned that if we didn't love we wouldn't grieve and Fred's love is his greatest legacy.

So the journey continues, and it is reassuring to know that in addition to my wonderful family and friends, the staff at Seasons Hospice is walking with me. -SG-

Written by: Gilda Banfield

Pictured above: Fred Banfield, The Banfield Family  
Fred and Gilda Banfield

Pictured opposite page: Gilda and Fred Banfield

# – SUSTAINING SEASONS HOSPICE: –

## *Now and in the Future*



Implementing a planned giving program for Seasons Hospice has long been a goal of the organization, but after receiving a major six-figure estate gift in December 2013, the Board of Directors and staff decided to make this a top priority. Recently, Seasons announced the creation of the “Seasons of Life Society” designed to acknowledge and honor individuals who have named Seasons Hospice in their financial and/or estate plans.

Long before Seasons Hospice received the generous gift from the estate of Mr. and Mrs. McKenna, Seasons Hospice board member and volunteer Jim Clausen designated Seasons Hospice as a recipient of a charitable remainder trust he created at the Rochester Area Foundation in 1998. Jim retired from IBM in 1997 after a rewarding thirty-two year career as an engineer and manager. Following retirement, Jim began volunteering in earnest on several nonprofit community boards and committees. From 2006 - 2013, Jim worked part-time as a project management consultant, supporting higher education initiatives at the

University of Minnesota Rochester and on the Greater Rochester Advocates for Universities and Colleges (GRAUC).

Jim’s devotion to Seasons Hospice came after experiencing hospice in a very personal way through the death of his first wife, Sharon, in 1993. Sharon received hospice care through Mayo Hospice and Jim found this experience to be so valuable that when he was approached several years later to be one of the first members of the Board of Directors of the newly formed Seasons Hospice, he accepted without hesitation. “Having shared in a hospice experience, it was easy for me to accept a position as a member of the Seasons Hospice Board of Directors,” Jim said.

Seasons benefited tremendously from Jim’s leadership. While serving as president of the board from 1997-1999, Jim led the successful capital campaign that raised \$400,000 to renovate the Seasons Hospice House, establishing it as the first independent Medicare-certified hospice facility in Minnesota.

Making a substantial planned gift to Seasons Hospice was a natural outgrowth of Jim’s overall philosophy about philanthropy. “I believe donors should support charitable organizations that are of personal interest to them; it can be based on background experience. The agency should also provide a needed, valuable service to the community with a proven track record of meeting community needs,” Jim added.

Timing also is an important factor for planned giving. In Jim’s case, he was approaching retirement and had appreciated stock. He was looking for a way to make a meaningful gift in perpetuity to organizations which he supported while minimizing capital gains from his stock. After meeting with his financial advisor and the Rochester Area Foundation, he determined that the charitable remainder trust would best meet his goals. “Contact the organization you are interested in supporting,” said Jim. “They may not have all the details, but they have contacts to help set up these instruments.

Jim has come full circle, serving once again on the Seasons Hospice Board of Directors, and is in fact, chair of the Development Committee which oversees the planned giving program. Seasons Hospice once again is benefiting from Jim’s expertise. And so it is a great honor for Seasons to enroll Jim Clausen as the first charter member of the “Seasons of Life Society.” Thank you Jim, for all you have given to this organization and to other nonprofit agencies in Rochester, quietly and without fanfare. We are grateful.

*For more information about making a planned gift to Seasons Hospice or joining the “Seasons of Life Society,” please contact Carolyn Piepho at 507-285-1930 or at [cpiepho@seasonshospice.org](mailto:cpiepho@seasonshospice.org).*

*The meaning of life is connected, inextricably, to the meaning of death;  
...mourning is a romance in reverse, and if you love, you grieve  
and there are no exceptions....*

*~ Thomas Lynch, The Undertaking*

# reflections

CENTER FOR GRIEF EDUCATION AND SUPPORT

## SEASONS HOSPICE

1. **The First Holiday Without Them**  
Online Resources

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2. **Helping Grieving Children Through The Holidays**  
Disenfranchised Grief

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3. **Tree of Memories**  
Memories of the Heart

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4. **Calendar of Events**  
Seasons Hospice Bids Farewell to Marianne Maruca

*The only people  
who think there's  
a time limit  
for grief,  
have never lost  
a piece of  
their heart.  
Take all the  
time you need.*

~ Unknown

## THE FIRST HOLIDAY WITHOUT THEM – COPING WITH LOSS

*By Courtney Hutchinson, ABC News Medical Unit via Good Morning America*

For those mourning the loss of a spouse, child, parent, pet or other loved one, that first holiday season can be an emotionally trying time. Between the memories that are stirred up by the festivities and the expectations to be jolly and full of holiday spirit, the season can mean slipping back into grief and sadness for those coping with loss.

While there's no right or wrong way to celebrate that first holiday after the death of a loved one, there are ways to ease the pain of the holiday and things that you can do to help yourself.

### PLAN AHEAD

Recognize that the holidays may be difficult.  
Have a family meeting where, together, you can decide what is important for each of you.

### SLOW DOWN

Give yourself permission to take on

obligations as you have the energy to do so.  
Build in time to relax.

### LISTEN TO YOUR SOUL

Celebrate your culture/heritage  
Eliminate unnecessary stress

### FEEL YOUR FEELINGS

Recognize that the holidays won't be the same.  
Accept that your moods may fluctuate a lot.

### ASK FOR HELP

Recognize that family and friends cannot read your mind.  
Be specific in your requests for help.

### SAVOR MOMENTS OF PLEASURE

Give yourself permission to have fun.  
Recognize that having fun does not mean that I do not love and miss my loved one.

## ONLINE RESOURCES

*Collected here are some of the best online resources for coping with grief and bereavement as suggested by Goodtherapy.org.*

National Alliance for Grieving Children (<http://www.childrengrieve.org/>)  
TAPS – Tragedy Assistance Program for Survivors, Inc. (<http://www.taps.org/>)  
Resources for Survivors of Suicide (<http://www.suicidegrief.save.org/>)  
The Grief Recovery Method (<http://www.griefrecoverymethod.com/>)  
Unspoken Grief (<http://unspokengrief.com/>)  
The Dougy Center (<http://www.dougy.org/>)  
The Grieving Center for Children, Teens & Families (<http://www.grievingchildren.org/>)  
Tom Golden's Crisis, Grief & Healing (<http://www.webhealing.com/>)  
Losing Your Parents (<http://www.losingyourparents.org/>)  
Passages Through Grief (<http://passagesthroughgrief.com/>)  
Footprints Ministry (<http://footprintsministrycharlotte.com/>)  
Center for Grief, Loss and Transition (<http://www.griefloss.org/>)  
GriefShare (<http://www.griefshare.org/>)  
Grief Watch (<http://www.griefwatch.com/>)  
SHARE Pregnancy And Infant Loss Support, Inc. (<http://www.nationalshare.org/>)  
MISS Foundation (<http://www.misschildren.org/>)  
The Compassionate Friends (<http://www.compassionatefriends.org/>)  
The Intentional Caregiver (<http://www.intentionalcaregiver.com/>)

# HELPING GRIEVING CHILDREN THROUGH THE HOLIDAYS

By Jodi Rule-Rouse/Linda Ranson Jacobs

*Adults play an important role in helping children grieve, especially over the holidays when new emotions and memories can hit with full force. Children often have trouble expressing their emotions, and when they see their parent hurting, they naturally want to protect their parents, so the children may not be open about their own grief. The following are tips that a parent or another adult can use to help grieving children through the holidays.*

**Conversations and connections...** Talk with them about their loved one. Be specific with good memories.

**Communicate...** When discussing the death, explain to the children in simple terms that the person's body has quit working.

**Contact...** Appropriate hugs and kisses are a great way to stay in contact.

**Clown around...** Children need to take breaks in their grieving.

**Create...** Let them draw, color, paint or construct their world through blocks and other manipulative items.

**Carry...** Let them have a photo or small memento to carry with them. It helps them feel close.

**Cope...** Let them journal. It could be in the form of a letter, a daily meditation with God or in a book form.

**Change...** Allow the children to help make decisions about day-to-day living and holiday plans.

**Center...** Remember the family is the center of your children's world. They need stability. You are it. .

**Compose...** Remember your children's world may be in chaos; they need structure.

**Composure...** Don't feel like you always have to be composed.

**Care...** Care for each other. Care for yourself by eating, exercising and sleeping well.

**Closeness...** Stay close to your children through daily talks or activities.

**Cook...** Let them bake a special holiday meal or dessert in memory of their loved one.

**Celebrate...** Let them go to holiday parties and family get-togethers. Make new memories and new traditions.

**Compassion...** Let them help those who are less fortunate than themselves.

**Closure...** There really is no such thing as "closure." For the rest of the children's lives, the loved one will be remembered.

Remember the family is the center of your children's world – They need stability...

*Always be close by so your children do not feel abandoned.*

## DISENFRANCHISED GRIEF: THE UNRECOGNIZED MOURNERS

When an individual dies, that death throws a web of relationships out of balance, causing the bereaved to "attempt" to find a new balance. This disrupted "new normal" is best found together in community.

When grief isn't shared, when there is no community to share it, when it isn't recognized by society, then grief becomes complicated. There is grief that is produced by "deaths" (both literal and real) in our society that aren't recognized. This kind of grief is a disenfranchised grief.

**The following are forms of grief that simply aren't validated by society:**

**Grief from miscarriages.** This is a silent grief. A grief that few people share; and when they do share, few people show compassion.

**Death of a pet.** Pets become part of the family; and when they die, it's almost like losing a family member.

**Grief of the supporter.** When death occurs, roles quickly play out. There's the main mourner(s) and there's the supporting cast.

**Grief from suicide.** Suicide is such a difficult, tragic and complicated death that those who are left behind are often not sure how to grieve – of if they should even grieve at all.

**Grief of the "Outsider".** At funerals, we will sometimes have family members state, "So-and-so is not allowed at the funeral. If you see so-and-so trying to enter the funeral home, ask them to leave."

**Disenfranchisement aggravates mourning by:**

- Intensifying the emotional response
- Creating the crisis of no support or recognition on top of the grief
- Rituals and other things that help the person mourn are not given
- No social support which makes the person feel alone and lonely
- Makes the person grieve privately

**How can someone help a mourner?**

- Do not make rude or insensitive comments, or give unsolicited advice.
- Let the person talk about his/her feelings without trying to fix them.
- Understand that mourning is not a linear process. People will fluctuate in their feelings. Let them do this without judgment.
- If another person's mourning is upsetting to you, find a way to talk to another person or work through your own uncomfortableness.
- Do not reject the person either in words or actions
- Validate their feelings
- Do not expect them to mourn the way you do or would
- Understand that even if a lot of time has passed, it does not mean the survivors are not dealing with the loss.

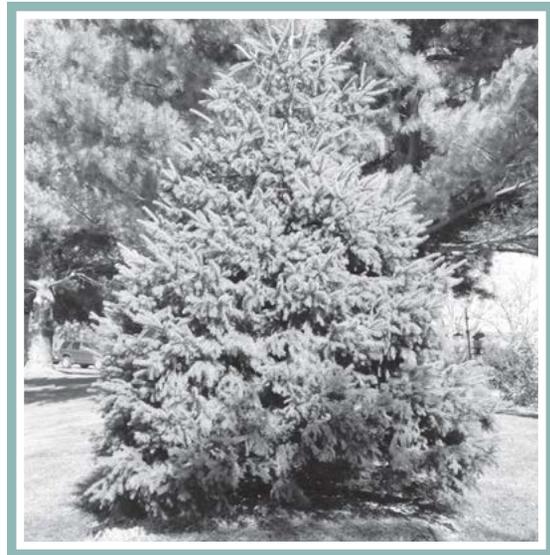
# reflections

CENTER FOR GRIEF EDUCATION AND SUPPORT

## TREE OF MEMORIES

You and your family are invited to join us for the Seasons Hospice annual lighting of the "Tree of Memories" on the evening of Tuesday, December 2nd at 6:00 p.m. The tree is located on the property of the Seasons Hospice Administrative Office, located at 1696 Greenview Drive SW, Rochester MN. Once illuminated, the tree will remain lit through January 2nd, providing the community with a place to share memories and honor loved ones.

If you would like to make a contribution to help sustain this community memorial, please contact Seasons Hospice at 285-1930 or [shbp@seasonshospice.org](mailto:shbp@seasonshospice.org).



## MEMORIES OF THE HEART *A Time to Remember Loved Ones Who Have Died*

"Memories of the Heart" will be held Tuesday, December 2nd at Christ United Methodist Church at 7:00 p.m. For the past eighteen years, Seasons Hospice has provided this special way to remember loved ones who have died. The service includes candle lighting, music, reflection, and the reading of names of those loved ones being remembered.

Please join us for this event which is open to all who wish to remember someone. You may bring a photo to place on the memory board. A reception of fellowship and support will be held following the service.

Please return the request form below by Wednesday, November 19th. For more information, contact the hospice office at 507/285-1930 or e-mail [shbp@seasonshospice.org](mailto:shbp@seasonshospice.org)

(cut here)

### – *Memories of the Heart* – Seasons Hospice Annual Community Memorial Service

Please return this request with your loved one's name(s) by noon Wednesday, November 19, 2014 to Seasons Hospice. If you wish to make a tax-deductible donation in memory of your loved one, please make your check payable to Seasons Hospice. Your gift will be gratefully accepted to further our hospice mission.

YOUR NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

IN MEMORY OF: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

*(This name(s) will be read at Memories of the Heart)*

PRONOUNCED HOW?: \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_

**Seasons Hospice**  
1696 Greenview Drive SW  
Rochester, MN 55902  
507-285-1930

# CALENDAR OF EVENTS

## ONGOING PROGRAMS

### Newly Bereaved Group

First Thursday of every month  
6:30 - 8:30 pm

Third Thursday of every month  
12:00 - 2:00 pm

### Coffee & Conversation Group

Second/Fourth Wednesdays of every month  
9:00 - 10:00 am

Third Thursday of every month  
6:30 - 7:30 pm

### Pet Loss Group

Second Wednesday of every month  
6:30 - 7:30 pm

### Pregnancy & Infant Loss Group

Second Thursday of every month  
6:30 - 8:00 pm

## SPECIAL PROGRAMS

### NOVEMBER

#### Managing the Holidays Without Your Loved One

*A program designed to explore difficulties with grieving during the holidays.*

November 11 & November 18 6:30-8:30 pm  
Center for Grief Education & Support  
Seasons Hospice Office

### DECEMBER

#### Memories Of The Heart

*You are invited to join us in honoring, remembering and celebrating loved ones who have died. This evening will include candle lighting, music, reflection, and the reading of loved ones' names. A reception will follow.*

Tuesday, December 2 7:00 p.m.  
Christ United Methodist Church, Rochester, MN

#### Tree Of Memories

Please gather with us prior to the memorial service to light our tree. **New location and time:**

**Seasons Hospice Administrative Office  
1696 Greenview Drive SW, Rochester MN  
6:00 pm**

*All grief groups are held at The Center for Grief Education and Support located at 1696 Greenview Drive SW, Rochester. For more information call 507-285-1930.*

## SEASONS HOSPICE BIDS FAREWELL TO MARIANNE MARUCA, DIRECTOR OF THE CENTER FOR GRIEF EDUCATION AND SUPPORT



as well as co-facilitating bereavement programs.

Marianne Maruca will be leaving her position as director of the Center for Grief Education and Support at the end of the year, a position she has held since 2009. Prior to that time, Marianne worked as a member of the bereavement staff. She first came to Seasons Hospice in 2001 as a volunteer working on caring for the beautiful Hospice House grounds

Of her time with Seasons, Marianne says, "I am humbled by the opportunity to walk with so many bereaved clients." The Center has experienced tremendous growth under Marianne's leadership and we are grateful for her years of service.

After a period of rest and restoration, Marianne plans to continue to provide counseling, consultation, and presentations in the field of dying, death, and bereavement. We wish her the best of luck in her future endeavors.

## – A LIVE & LOVE AFFAIR 2014 –

Mark your calendar for **Saturday, November 22** for an unforgettable evening benefiting Seasons Hospice. “A Live & Love Affair” gala will take place from 5:30 p.m. until 12:30 a.m. at a new location - The Rochester International Event Center.



Mary Bowman and Jeannine Hadley, Event Co-chairs



Linda and Tim Hansen dancing to the Bruce A. Henry Band



Shawn and Shelly Buryska sampling delicious hors d'oeuvres

Robin Wolfram and Tom Overlie, KTTC-TV co-anchors, will once again emcee the event which features champagne and butlered hors d'oeuvres and jazz piano by Rochester businessman Greg Gentling, who also happens to be an accomplished jazz pianist. Guests will be treated to a delicious three-course, seasonally themed dinner with music provided by the John Paulson Jazz Trio.

The “Four Seasons Silent Auction” will feature mobile bidding by making bidding convenient and fun! Over 100 packages will be available including two tickets to the touring Broadway show, “Motown the Musical.” After the show, enjoy an exquisite dinner at the award-winning restaurant, La Belle Vie. The live auction offers fourteen unique items and experiences including a “Taste of Latin America” gathering for 20, offered by Mayo Clinic physicians Alfredo and Maria Clavell at their beautiful home. Guests will enjoy Caribbean cuisine and South American wines while listening to Latin rhythms and dancing the salsa and meringue!

Excursions abound on the live auction with trips to Key West, New York, Napa Valley, Mazatlan and more. Ski buffs will love a one week stay at the Big Sky, Montana home of Dr. and Mrs. Julsrud, which sleeps up to 14 people.

Once the live auction ends, the night is just beginning with the amazing sounds of the Bruce A. Henry Band. Playing everything from Motown to Rock-n-Roll to Swing, this band will have everyone on their feet dancing! Tickets are \$85 per person or \$850 for a table of eight and are available online at [www.seasonshospice.org](http://www.seasonshospice.org) or by contacting Seasons Hospice at 507-285-1930.

For more information contact Carolyn Piepho at [cpiepho@seasonshospice.org](mailto:cpiepho@seasonshospice.org) or 507-285-1930.

# VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT: *Grandmother's Flower Garden*

By Julie Assef



Donna Browning sewing

***"Yes, it's more than a cover,  
this much-treasured quilt,  
It's parts pieced together  
of the life I have built."***

*Mildred Hatfield, from the poem "A Treasure"*

her husband Bob made quilting a family affair. Her son Dan told us "Dad would cut out the pattern pieces and mom would sew them and they would tie the quilt together. They made over 30 quilts together." Later in life, Donna and Bob decided to embark on creating a Grandmother's Flower Garden quilt. This was no small undertaking. According to Fellowship Quilters,

*"Planting a garden is a slow process. Gardeners know it requires planning, knowledge, the right materials, and above all else - patience. A quilter creating a "Grandmother's Flower Garden" quilt has many of the same requirements. This is not a quilt to choose for speed or ease of completion. "Grandmother's Flower Gardens" are made by quilters with skill and patience and a love of fabric, design, and handwork."*

The quilt pattern goes back to the 1800's and was popular especially in the 1930's because it allowed the use of even the tiniest remnants of cloth to create a colorful and cheerful reminder of happiness and abundance, even during difficult times.

When Bob became ill in 2003, the Grandmother's Garden quilt project was set aside. Bob died at the Seasons Hospice house that year. After that, Donna lost interest in completing the quilt. Without Bob, her son told us, she just couldn't find the motivation. But her son remembered the strong, determined woman who would always see the projects through to the end. "Inside I knew it had to bother her to know that the quilt was never completed," said Dan. So he kept the quilt, not knowing what would become of it.

In the spring of 2014, Donna was enrolled in the Seasons Hospice program, receiving hospice support



Donna and Bob Browning

at the facility where she had lived for some time. It seemed that her memories of days spent quilting with her husband had left her, and her son struggled to find ways for her to connect to the world around her. He asked the hospice RN and Social Worker if there was someone that could help to complete the quilt, just over halfway done, as a way of honoring his parents. That's where Evelyn Lorius, a Seasons Hospice volunteer, came in to Donna's life.

Anyone who knows about the Grandmother's Flower Garden quilt knows that the tiny hexagons have to be hand-stitched together to create the intricate design. No machines, no shortcuts, just a quilter, a needle and thread. Driven by the story and by the love of quilting that she shared with Donna, Evelyn put in over 100 hours completing the quilt, and then enlisted the help of another Seasons Hospice volunteer and veteran quilter, Ginny Houk, to hand-tie the quilt. During the hours they spent working alone and together, they thought of Donna and Bob, all the hours they spent, all the conversations they must have had, the beds that were warmed, the babies that were swaddled, the love that was stitched into their works of art.

Finally the day came when the quilt was finished and ready to present to Donna. Evelyn and Chris Humble, Director of Volunteer Services for Seasons Hospice, met Donna, her son Dan, his daughter and his grandchildren at the nursing home. Donna, who had not recognized her son or uttered more than a few words in some time, was elated. Dan describes that when the quilt was laid on her lap, "She came to life! She recognized the quilt and said the name of the pattern. She touched the quilt and smiled! She asked me what I was going to do with it," said Dan. That day Donna talked. She talked to her

granddaughter and to her great grandchildren. She knew her son. After months of visits with no recognition, Dan and his family had the beautiful gift of connection with Donna, through her art, by way of a volunteer with a shared love of quilting.

Evelyn, the volunteer, received a gift that day, too; the gift of gratitude, from a family who, for a moment, was able to celebrate their history and their tapestry, and the gift of satisfaction from a job well done. "All quilters have projects unfinished," said Evelyn. "I have a couple right now that I have often wondered if something happened to me who would complete them."

Seasons Hospice seeks to add quality of life to each day. For Donna Browning and her family, that quality came from a chance request by a son who wished to honor his mother and dad. That request was carried by caring hospice team members to two volunteers who would make the difference, complete the quilt, and complete the circle. The quilt will someday belong to one of Donna's great grandchildren, who may or may not remember the whole story, but will always have that piece of history to keep them warm.



*Seasons Hospice volunteers Ginny Houk and Evelyn Lorius*



*Donna Browning and her great-grandchildren*

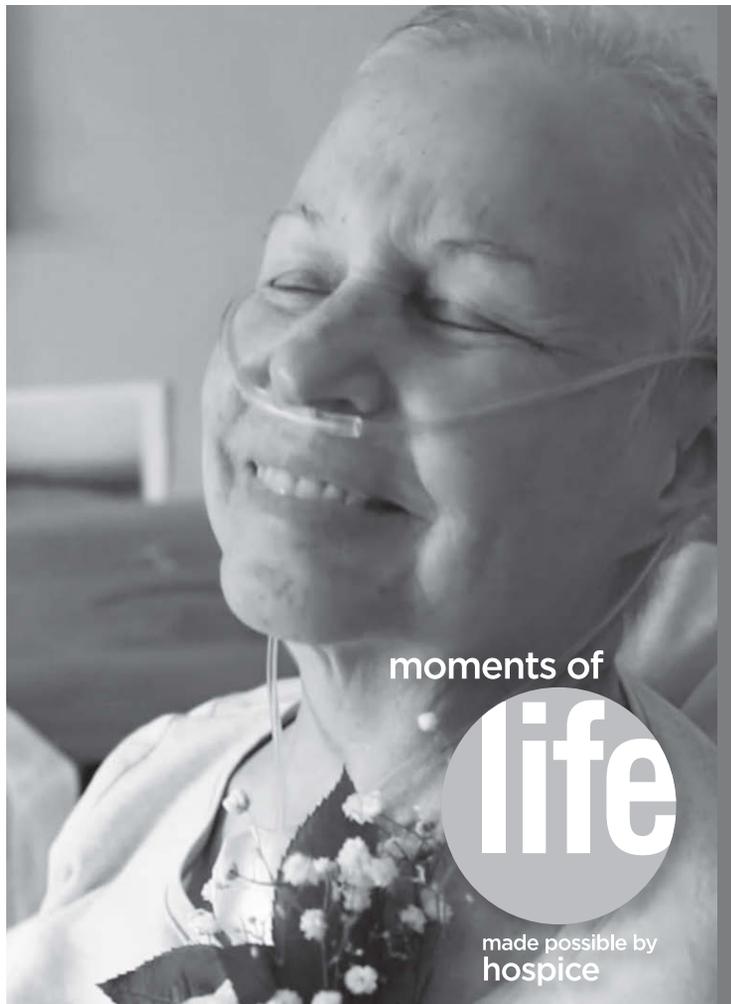
**SEASONS  HOSPICE**

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