

Aspirations

FALL 2023

COMPASSION AND DIGNITY EVERY MOMENT OF LIFE

Patient's Pup Gets a New "Leash on Life" Thanks to Our Generous Donors

Recently, the Hospice of the Northwest team went above and beyond to help a patient and her beloved dog, Angel. The patient had been homebound for quite some time and wasn't able to trim the pup's hair.

Linda and Caitlin, two Hospice of the Northwest staff members, decided to ask Hospice of the Northwest Foundation for funds to get Angel professionally groomed. The request was approved, but unfortunately, the patient died before the grooming session took place. Her adult children weren't able to keep Angel, and they planned to take her to a shelter to be rehomed. Linda asked if they could wait until after Angel had been groomed and they agreed. Knowing the urgency of the situation, Linda decided to take Angel to the groomer on her personal time. She stayed there to hold the dog and make sure she was comfortable. The hope was that Angel would have a better chance of being adopted if she looked her best!



Angel's hair was so long she could barely see.



Getting a fresh new look!



"When they trimmed the hair around her eyes, she felt like a whole new dog!"

Linda

The groomers at Wizard of Paws in Marysville were gentle and did an excellent job. They fell in love with Angel and ended up helping her find a new forever home.

Hospice of the Northwest Foundation was able to help Angel thanks to the generosity of community donors. Now, she's looking good, feeling comfortable, and won't have to go through the trauma of living in a shelter after losing her pet parent. Because of your support, Angel has a whole new "leash on life!"


Hospice
of the northwest FOUNDATION

Pet Peace of Mind

Angel's story is a reminder that our pets are more than just animals; they are cherished members of our families. For hospice patients, having their pet by their side during their final days can provide immeasurable comfort and support. Patients deserve to have their closest companion with them at the end of life, but it's often challenging for them to care for the pet's daily needs. That's why Hospice of the Northwest Foundation partners with community donors to fund the Pet Peace of Mind program.

Pet Peace of Mind is a volunteer-led program that supports patients and their families by providing in-home pet care, such as feeding, daily exercise, and grooming. Volunteers may also help patients write a re-homing agreement for their pet, ensuring their beloved companion will be well cared for after they are gone.

These are just a few ways your generosity is making a difference to hospice patients and their families. Thank you for helping keep pets and their people together during the end-of-life journey!



Celebrating Our Success

A Year in Review

The past year has been an extraordinary period of growth and recognition for Hospice of the Northwest. Our achievements and the accolades we receive are a testament to the excellence of our team. Each day, our dedicated staff and volunteers go above-and-beyond to ensure the best end-of-life experience possible for our patients and their loved ones.

As a community supporter, you also play a vital role in our success by funding programs and services that greatly enhance patient care and improve quality of life. It is with gratitude that we share our latest accomplishments.

Growing Our Impact

Hospice of the Northwest experienced unprecedented growth this year. We had a record-breaking census on October 25, with 245 patients on service across Island, San Juan, Skagit, and Snohomish Counties. This represents a 20% increase over last year and an astounding 140% increase since 2015.



CHAP Accreditation

Hospice of the Northwest was once again awarded CHAP Accreditation in 2023,

demonstrating our commitment to meeting the industry's highest nationally-recognized standards. The CHAP survey resulted in special accolades for our team—especially our Volunteer and Bereavement programs, which were commended for being among the best in the nation.



Hospice CAHPS Honors Award

We also received the Hospice CAHPS Honors Award again this year. This prestigious annual award from HEALTHCAREfirst recognizes agencies that continuously provide high quality care. Award winners are determined by analyzing CAHPS survey results, which measure patient and caregiver experience. Hospice of the Northwest currently

scores above the national average on all CAHPS measures and is proud to be the only hospice provider in Western Washington to have received this award in 2023.



Level 4 We Honor Veterans Designation

Hospice of the Northwest recently became a Level 4 Partner with the We Honor Veterans program. This designation recognizes our commitment to providing specialized care for Veterans and their families, such as a Veteran-to-Veteran volunteer program, pinning ceremonies to recognize Veterans for their service and sacrifice, and an annual Memorial Day Flag Garden to honor Veterans we have served in the last decade.

Thank you for being an integral part of our success and making a difference in the lives of our patients and their loved ones. We are deeply humbled by your generosity and incredibly grateful for your support.



Bring Light to Someone's Life



When you purchase this limited-edition glassybaby, you bring care and comfort to hospice patients and their loved ones. Support Hospice of the Northwest Foundation by scanning the QR code and ordering yours today. **Together, we can help make every moment count!**

Strings of Solace

A Harpist's Hospice Journey

Therapeutic music is one of the Integrative Services offered to hospice patients free of charge, thanks to generous donors who give to the Hospice of the Northwest Foundation. It has been shown to have many benefits, including easing physical, emotional, and spiritual pain.



APRIL MITCHELL is one of two therapeutic musicians at Hospice of the Northwest. A harpist, she considers therapeutic music her life's calling. "This line of work is powerful," Mitchell explains. "Music can be one of the best communicators in times when we have no words."

She has witnessed the profound impact music can have at the end of life. "I will never cease to be in awe of the profound moments I get to be present for," Mitchell says. "When harp music gently carries a patient's soul onward, and at the same time, heals a grieving heart of a loved one nearby."

For Mitchell, hospice has come full circle in her life. She experienced hospice care firsthand at the young age of 16 when her father was ill, and now she is present for others when they need it most. "It's really quite beautiful how the universe aligns like that."



Planting Seeds of Compassion

LAURA'S VOLUNTEER STORY

At Hospice of the Northwest, volunteers are at the heart and soul of our mission. Laura Kuhn is one of over 60 dedicated volunteers who provide compassionate support to our patients, their loved ones, and our staff.

Laura began volunteering in April 2021, shortly after moving to Mount Vernon. "I was looking for volunteer opportunities that would allow me to meet new people and serve the community," she says. "I loved the mission of Hospice of the Northwest and wanted to help deliver on that mission."

In her volunteer role, Laura provides clerical support, streamlines office systems, and helps the staff stay organized. "I enjoy being a part of the team and serving the staff who work so hard," she says.

Patients and their circles of support also benefit from Laura's volunteer work. She gathers the forms and information new patients receive at admission, ensuring a smooth transition into hospice care. She also

mails bereavement materials, offering support and healing to those who have recently lost a loved one.

For Laura, volunteering has also been an opportunity for personal growth and learning. She says, "My volunteer experience has taught me so much about the aging and dying process, and helped me and my husband manage hospice care for my mother-in-law."

As a Master Gardener, one of Laura's favorite volunteer roles has been tending to the planters at the front entrance of our building. "I grew the coleus plants from seed and they have grown to be very happy in their home at Hospice of the Northwest." The beautiful plants serve as a symbol of the life-affirming work we do each day and reflect Laura's nurturing spirit.

Laura is a shining example of the remarkable impact each volunteer can make at Hospice of the Northwest. We are incredibly grateful for her dedication, service, and compassionate heart.



ALICE IN WONDERLAND

Generous donors, sponsors, and guests raised over \$330,000 in support of Hospice of the Northwest Foundation's mission to fund compassion and dignity every moment of life.

This year, the hangar at the Corporate Air Center was transformed into Alice's Wonderland for the 23rd Annual Ports of Call Gala & Auction. More people than ever before went down the rabbit hole in support of Hospice of the Northwest Foundation. Over 400 guests filled the hangar to raise money for programs and services not funded by Medicare, Medicaid, or private insurance. Funds raised at the event help pay for integrative services like massage therapy and aromatherapy, and ensure everyone receives the same level of care regardless of their ability to pay through the Foundation's uncompensated care fund.



Local legend, Don Wick, came as the White Rabbit



Event volunteers: Judy Lemley, Karuna and Dan Duval, and Katy Page

Putting the Fun in Fundraising

Tweedle Dee and Tweedle Dum weren't the only ones having fun that night. Guests had the chance to meet Alice and her friends, play a variety of games, and bid on over 75 silent auction items. For the first time in many years, Ports of Call featured a Dessert Dash. Each guest's table had a chance to bid on dessert. Once the bids were tallied up, the tables were released to dash for their favorite dessert, highest bid first. Hopefully everyone chose a "runner" worthy of the job! Lots of laughter and a good time were had by all. Raising \$18,000 never tasted so good!



Tim Lewis, Honorary Auction Chair and the owner of Corporate Air Center



"We had a wonderful time and were honored to be there. The Foundation does such important work for individuals and families at an extremely difficult time in their lives. My mom passed away six years ago from a sudden and aggressive cancer diagnosis. Hospice was discussed at her very last oncology appointment, but unfortunately, she passed away later that day."

- Cindy W.

Make a donation online



at www.HospiceNW.org/
Donate or use the QR code below. Thank you for your support!



Toni's experience

To watch hospice patient Toni's impactful story, scan the QR code with the camera on your mobile device.

Thank You to Our 2023 Sponsors

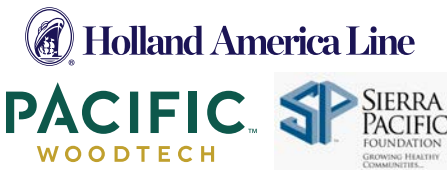
We Love Our Sponsors

This year, Hospice of the Northwest Foundation partnered with 42 businesses, large and small, to underwrite the cost of our biggest fundraiser of the year. Together, they gave over \$70,000 in support of the Annual Ports of Call Gala & Auction! We are grateful for the continued support of our sponsors—without them, the auction would not have been possible.

QUEEN OF HEARTS



ALICE & THE WHITE RABBIT



THE HAUGHTY CATERPILLAR



MAD HATTER & THE MARCH HARE

- Baird Private Wealth Management
- Bella Soul Spa
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- Country Meadow Village Retirement Community
- DCI – Dimensional Communications, Inc.

- Dwayne Lane's Auto Family
- Heritage Bank
- Josephine Caring Center
- Savi Bank
- Skagit Plumbing
- Skagit Regional Health
- Spane Buildings, Inc.
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- United General District 304

EAT ME – DRINK ME

- Bellevue Health Care
- Buurstra Law
- Josephine Caring Center
- Skagit Regional Health

THIS WAY SIGN POST SPONSORS

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- Hawthorne Funeral Home and Memorial Park
- Janicki
- Kern Funeral Home
- Mount Vernon Smile Design
- Northwest Asset Management – Fiduciary Services Group
- VibrantUSA – A Guided Medicare Solution
- VSH – Certified Public Accountants



There are many people who helped make this year's Ports of Call a success. Our heartfelt thanks go out to the staff and volunteers who attended, donated, and contributed their time and talent to create such a magical evening. We appreciate the many guests who came to share in our mission, and are especially grateful to the many donors who gave generously to our cause. We are honored to have such a wonderful community supporting our patients and their loved ones. Thank you!

If you'd like information about partnering with Hospice of the Northwest Foundation as a sponsor at next year's event, please contact Shelly Goss at mgoss@hospicenw.org or 360-814-7671.



• Brian Ivie, CEO of Skagit Regional Health, with wife, Debi



• Board Trustee, Ingrid Thornton, with husband Bret and Maison de V characters



• Kevin Walter from MTC with wife, Samantha



LOVE Hospice of the Northwest?

Leave us an
online review.

Did you know that 70% of Americans use online reviews when making healthcare decisions? If Hospice of the Northwest provided high-quality, compassionate care for you or someone you love, please leave us an online review and tell us about it!



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Community Partners Put Giving into Action

Skagit Wood Expo & Marketplace

Earlier this year, River Mitchell and Jahldi Merritt reached out to the Hospice of the Northwest Foundation about a new event they were organizing: the Skagit Wood Expo & Marketplace. Their goal was to bring together lumber and woodworking enthusiasts for a weekend of demonstrations, displays, local craft vendors, and a live auction. In addition to showcasing the best of the region's woodworking talent, the pair also wanted to partner with a local nonprofit to donate a portion of the proceeds.

Both Mitchell and Merritt had personal connections to Hospice of the Northwest and selected the Foundation as the beneficiary for their inaugural event.

The Mitchell family's involvement with Hospice of the Northwest began over 20 years ago when River's mother, Joanne, started offering massage therapy to hospice patients. This was the beginning of what is

now known as Integrative Services, a donor-funded program that provides over 2,000 hours of integrative care to patients each year, including massage, music, and aromatherapy.

Hospice of the Northwest also holds a special place in the hearts of the Merritt family. Jahldi's grandmother, Donna, was on hospice before she passed away last year. He was grateful for the excellent care she received and the support given to his family.

The first annual Skagit Wood Expo & Marketplace was a great success and resulted in a generous donation of \$5,000 for Hospice of the Northwest Foundation. Mitchell and Merritt presented the check at this year's Ports of Call Gala & Auction.

"I really appreciated the chance to give back to a great cause," said Merritt. "No one works harder than Hospice in my family's experience."

Umpqua Bank

Umpqua Bank employees gathered at Hospice of the Northwest Foundation's storage unit last spring to sort through seven years' worth of Ports of Call décor and props. Foundation Board Secretary, Megan Walker, rallied the team together to organize everything. All the saved items were placed in clear plastic totes labeled for identification. Laurie Pitner, Executive Director for the Foundation, was so thankful. "This was a task that needed lots of collaboration. We now have easy access to all our décor. Umpqua Bank Volunteers just made it happen!"



Grief and Loss Groups



View the full list of groups and classes for those experiencing grief and loss at www.hospicenw.link/Groups or scan the QR code with the camera on your phone.

Welcome to New Team Members

We are pleased to introduce you to five of our newest team members. Each of them plays a vital role in ensuring Hospice of the Northwest patients receive compassionate and dignified end-of-life care. They bring with them a wealth of experience and a deep passion for our mission. Please join us in welcoming them to the Hospice team!

HOSPICE OF THE NORTHWEST FOUNDATION



JOHN LACKEY

John Lackey is the newest member of the Board of Trustees for Hospice of the Northwest Foundation. He is a longstanding resident of the San Juan Islands, where he has cultivated a successful real estate career spanning over three-and-a-half decades. He is also passionate about the natural health field and is a certified Nutritional Therapy Practitioner. John previously served as a board member for an all-volunteer hospice organization and believes hospice embodies the compassionate essence of health care, alleviating suffering and increasing quality of life for patients and their loved ones.



SHELLY GOSS

Shelly Goss joined Hospice of the Northwest Foundation as the new Stewardship and Annual Fund Program Manager. She brings 20+

years of business development and 12 years of nonprofit experience to the team. Shelly received her bachelor's degree in Journalism-Public Relations from Western Washington University. Shelly is passionate about event planning, fundraising, and nonprofit management. In her new role, Shelly will manage the annual Ports of Call Gala & Auction, as well as the Foundation's giving and donor stewardship programs. In her free time, she enjoys supporting her kids' sports activities and visiting her daughter at Boise State University.



ROSE HILL

Rose Hill is the new Development Associate for Hospice of the Northwest Foundation. Rose previously worked for Skagit Valley College, working 10 years in financial aid and three years helping students get their high school diplomas. In her new role, Rose provides administrative support to the Foundation and Board of Trustees and assists with donor stewardship and event planning. She and her husband, Harley, have been married for 21 years and have two daughters, Presley and Lotte. When they're not traveling for the girls' soccer, they enjoy being at the beach or swimming at the lake.

HOSPICE OF THE NORTHWEST



NIKKI KRAKER, ARNP

Nikki Kraker is the newest provider at Hospice of the Northwest. As a nurse practitioner, Nikki provides support to the care team by assisting with symptom management, providing medical orders to nurses, and performing face-to-face visits required by Medicare. She spent eight years working as a nurse and has been an ARNP for five years. Nikki cites her time working in hospice as the happiest in her career. She enjoys meeting patients in their home environment, learning about who they are, and seeing photos of them and their loved ones.



RACHEL TEETER, RN

Rachel Teeter is the new Clinical Manager of Nursing for Hospice of the Northwest. For many years, Rachel worked at Skagit Valley Hospital as a charge nurse in acute care settings. She joined the Hospice team in 2020 as a Telepage Nurse, helping patients and families who needed support in the overnight hours. In her new role, Rachel provides leadership and strategic oversight for a team of over 40 RNs and 10 CNAs. First introduced to hospice when her grandparents were on service, she has a passion for providing high-quality, personalized end-of-life care knowing the impact it forever makes in patients' and families' lives.



Hospice
of the northwest

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HOSPICE OF THE NORTHWEST FOUNDATION

PRESENTS PORTS OF CALL GALA & AUCTION

KENTUCKY DERBY



Save the Date!

The Hospice of the Northwest Foundation Board of Trustees invites you to the Kentucky Derby for next year's Ports of Call Gala & Auction. Mark your calendars now and join the race to raise money in support of hospice patients and the people who love them.

Saturday, September 14, 2024

Corporate Air Center
15452 Airport Drive
Burlington, WA

Tickets \$150
Includes dinner, drinks,
entertainment & auction

All guests must be 21 or older.