DELAWARE HOSPICE VOLUNTEER’S EXPERIENCE AT CAMP NEW HOPE RENEWS HER FAITH IN MANKIND

Donna Johnson not only dedicates one week of her vacation each year to volunteer at Camp New Hope, but she also supported this year’s Festival of Trees with the purchase of several angel tree ornaments for the Remembrance Tree. She said, “By now, my friends and I have acquired just about everything we need. I decided to give gifts that have a special meaning. The angels were perfect because I often tell my friends that they are my angels here on earth. Thus, I was able to honor my friends and the memories of their loved ones while helping Delaware Hospice fulfill its mission. It was a win-win situation!”

A Camp New Hope volunteer for 13 years, Donna is totally committed to this annual child bereavement activity organized each year by Delaware Hospice’s New Hope Program. “Camp New Hope is one of the most meaningful experiences of my life. Not only do I enjoy working with the campers, but it is always a joy to be working alongside other volunteers and staff members who also return to Camp year after year.”

Donna was profoundly affected by the loss of her mother and uncle. “I thought I was losing my mind because I had no one to tell me that it was okay to feel so lost and alone. My feelings were all normal, but I did not realize it at the time. Knowing how hard it was to lose my Mom as a young adult, I can’t imagine how hard it would be as a child or teenager.” One of Donna’s friends helped her through her loss. “One day I said, ‘I can never repay you for all you’ve done for me,’ and my wise friend replied, ‘Someday you will find others in your shoes and you will be there for them.’ I found an outlet for that mission at Camp New Hope.”

“Camp New Hope is one of the most meaningful experiences of my life.”

At the 4-day camp, Donna helps out with the 13-17 year olds and finds the daily transformation of the teens amazing. “It is obvious that these kids are not thrilled about being there on the first day. However, the ice soon starts to break and you see friendships develop quickly. By the end of the week, most campers want another week! It is nice to learn of many who remain friends long after camp is over.”

For Donna, it is especially rewarding to see “graduates” return to camp as volunteers. “One of the teens who

Donna Johnson has volunteered at Camp New Hope for thirteen years.

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was assigned to me found the experience so worthwhile that she has returned for the past nine years as a counselor!”

Grief sharing is not only for the children. Donna remembered that she was at Camp when she got the call that her father was not doing well after a stroke. “I can’t tell you how nice it was for me to be in just the right place when I received that news because of the love and support around me. Camp New Hope is a safe place to share sad stories, tears and raw emotion, but also laughter and fun.

Many campers offer their gifts of art, music, dance or writing for camp activities, including the Memorial Service which is held on the final day. You hear so many bad things about people in the news, but my Camp New Hope experience affirms that there are kind people in this world and renews my faith in mankind.”

“This is so glad that the New Castle County Camp New Hope is held at Lums Pond every year. I believe being out in nature has a spiritual healing power. I love to kayak and hike at Lums Pond. When I’m there I always pass by Area 4 to get a glimpse of the trees planted in memory of our campers’ loved ones. What a great reminder that we are all part of one big forest and that life does go on. With the love and support of those around us, we make it through the storm and thrive just like those trees that have been given a new start. Yes, there will always be a void in our souls now that our loved one is gone, but we will go on and will pay their love forward with smiles on our faces and precious memories in our hearts! That is the magic of Camp New Hope!”

“Thank you, Delaware Hospice, for recognizing the fact that all of us, young and old, grieve in our own way, and for providing this program for those who are often misunderstood or left behind in the grieving process. Long live, Camp New Hope!”

If you are interested in volunteering for Camp New Hope, please contact Robin Murphy (Milford Center Camp) at 302-746-4635 or Earline Vann (Lums Pond Camp) at 302-746-4514 for more information.
Maxine Middlebrook, Sussex County Volunteer Coordinator, has served as Delaware Hospice’s C.N.A. and Statewide Staff Scheduler. She is excited to begin working with DHI’s fantastic volunteers. “It will be wonderful to be part of a team supporting our patients, programs, and different departments with these caring and compassionate” community members, who also want to make a difference!” Maxine looks forward to the challenges in her new role, such as finding creative ways to support and show appreciation for volunteers, and to build on the already established and respected volunteer program at Delaware Hospice. She is also eager to begin new recruiting ventures with Rolonda for more volunteers to help our patients and families. She said, “I believe there is a meaningful task for anyone who wants to make a difference through our organization, but of course we really appreciate those willing to provide companionship visits to patients. And we would never turn away someone with proficient computer skills!”

Rolonda Sutton-Greene, LPN, will serve as Volunteer Coordinator for Pennsylvania, New Castle and Kent County. Rolonda has been with DHI for ten years in the roles of staff nurse, triage nurse, and care manager nurse. She is pleased with the opportunity to work with volunteers, members of the interdisciplinary team that she’s never worked closely with before now. “I’ll be meeting new people and experiencing a totally different passion for caregiving. Volunteerism is amazing! I’m looking forward to continuing to meet patient and caregivers’ needs as I also support volunteers with the best tools available to enable the best volunteer experience for both the patient and volunteer.” Rolonda added: “We are seeking individuals who possess the need to give, help, or be involved. We welcome anyone who wants to share skills of caregiving, crocheting, organizing, sewing, or baking, who is compassionate, patient and kind, and who has a peaceful loving heart.”

CONGRATULATIONS!

April Ball, RN, CHPN, earned her Certified Hospice and Palliative Nurse Certification from the National Board for Certified Hospice and Palliative Nurses. The CHPN demonstrates mastery of a defined body of knowledge and a commitment to her specialty.

Michelle Burris, MBA, FACMPE, Chief Financial Officer, received a Fellowship from the American College of Medical Practice Executives. Fellow status is the highest level of distinction one can achieve in the Medical Practice Management Profession.

This year, we celebrate 35 years of caring for families in our communities. Thanks to you and all of our faithful donors over the years, we have been able to expand our programs to encompass a wide range of services to help those coping with a serious illness. Our success would never have been possible without your monetary gifts, as well as the tremendous support of those special individuals who give of their time and talents.

In this issue, we welcome our two new volunteer coordinators, Maxine Middlebrook in Sussex County, and Rolonda Sutton-Greene, LPN, in Kent and New Castle County, who are looking forward to meeting and working with our wonderful volunteers.

Perhaps you have a bit of time or talent to donate to a good cause? Volunteering at Delaware Hospice can be one of the most meaningful experiences in your life. Imagine what it means to an exhausted caregiver to have someone volunteer to sit with a patient so he or she can rest, go shopping or to a place of worship. Of course, patient visits might not suit everyone. Fortunately there are numerous ways to support our organization through volunteerism.

Patient care volunteers make phone calls to check-in on families or provide visits where they read, share stories, play games, or simply sit quietly at the bedside. A few of our volunteers give haircuts. Others provide transportation to doctor appointments or run errands for the family.

“We honor our veterans by arranging for veteran volunteers to spend time with veteran patients.”

Chaplains are also among our volunteers, who spend their time providing spiritual support, praying and reading, for patients and family members. Seamstress volunteers support the Memory Bear Program, where stuffed bears are sewn from a loved ones’ favorite piece of clothing and delivered to the bereaved family.

A great service is provided by bereavement volunteers who handle mailings to families, make check-in phone calls and help with memorial services. Our child bereavement program, New Hope, with its annual summer camp, is made possible with the commitment of 50-60 volunteers who attend the 4 day camp.
Community education volunteers help Delaware Hospice staff at health fairs or make presentations at community events. Hundreds of volunteers organize and help out at our fundraising events every year. Volunteers assist our office staff with their willingness to help file, stuff folders, prepare bulk mailings, or enter data on the computer.

Regardless of the way a volunteer helps, this crucial component of support for Delaware Hospice allows the organization to operate more efficiently and focus our resources on meeting the needs of our patients and families.

Please contact Maxine at 302-746-4756 or Rolonda today at 302-746-4505 if you would like to explore a volunteer role with Delaware Hospice.

Thank you again for your continuing partnership in caring for our community.

Sincerely,

Susan D. Lloyd, MSN, RN
President & CEO

DELAWARE HOSPICE PARTNERS WITH NANTICOKE HEALTH SERVICES IN PALLIATIVE CARE

Delaware Hospice and Nanticoke Health Services announce a partnership through Delaware Palliative to strengthen and grow palliative care in Sussex County. Delaware Palliative, under the direction of Delaware Hospice, is in its 5th year of operation. Palliative care helps seriously ill patients who are receiving curative treatment. The care provides help to deal with the physical and psychosocial burdens of illness through physician and or nurse practitioner visits. Through this joint venture, both organizations will be able to provide a better assessment of the community’s medical needs through palliative care. “Nanticoke is excited to be working with Delaware Hospice on our palliative care initiatives,” said Penny Short, RN, Chief Operating and Nursing Officer of Nanticoke Health Services. “We currently have a strong base, but with additional support, our program can grow and become stronger. This is an important program and by partnering with the experts at Delaware Hospice, we hope to positively impact more lives of patients suffering with serious illnesses.”
THANK YOU TO OUR CONTRIBUTORS AND FUNDRAISERS!

Delaware Hospice was honored to be the beneficiary of the Rose Colored Lasses Ninth Annual Christmas House Tour on December 8, 2016. A festive evening of house tours in the Milford area, including the Parson Thorne Mansion, raised $3,450 for the Delaware Hospice Center, which will be used to purchase new love seats for patients’ rooms. Thanks to A Latte Soul, Applebee’s of Milford, Abbott’s Grill, Nage, Panificio Di Canevari, and Meding’s Seafood for their donations to the event.

The Delaware Hospice Golf Outing at Deerfield Golf Club in Newark in October raised $46,000! Special thanks to presenting sponsor: Eckert Seamans; prize sponsor: SKANSKA; cart sponsors: Expense Reduction Analysts and Nickle Electric; VIP sponsors: Chandler Funeral Home, Citizens Bank, RR Donnelley, DuPont, Labware, SC&A Construction, and Williams Insurance Agency; pair sponsor: Line Systems; and beverage and snack sponsors: Highmark Delaware and Keen Compressed Gas.

On October 17th, 74 golfers participated in the Joe Hall Memorial Golf Outing at Cripple Creek Golf Course in Dagsboro, raising $20,000, as many honored the memory of Joe, a long-time Delaware Hospice volunteer. Special thanks to silver sponsors: NRG, Nickle Electric, and John Ward; bronze sponsor: Dewey Beach Lions Club; hole sponsors: Bottle & Cork, Outlet Liquors, Resort Landscaping, EMS, Inc., 34th Street Gang, and a Friend; sand trap sponsors: Scott & Shuman, State Farm Insurance, Tanner Furniture, Dagsboro Paint & Wallpaper, and Droney Marine; beverage sponsor: Outlet Liquors; and dinner sponsor: Jimmy’s Grille.

Bethany Blues in Lewes hosted The Battle of the Bartenders, donating 100% of guest bartender tips to Delaware Hospice in the amount of $1,680. General Manager of Bethany Blues, Strom Edwards, said: “Delaware Hospice is a great organization and my team looks forward each year to hosting this fun event for our customers and for Delaware Hospice.” Guest bartenders were: Steve Alexander, Kara Brasure, Carol Fezuk, Bob Greason, Kathy Jacobs, Jeannie Mack, Bill & Denise McCormick, Steve Morgan, Missy Nalewaik, Kathy Sperl-Bell, and Allison Stine.

Haass Butcher Shop in Dover held their 4th Annual Brawl on September 17th, featuring a weekend of wonderful activities for families and memorial bands, and raised $1,815 for Delaware Hospice’s programs and services.

Diamond Motor Sports’ Fall Haul to benefit Delaware Hospice featured 85 bikes and 100 riders who enjoyed a beautiful ride through Kent County, including a stop at the Delaware Hospice Center. Participants donated a total of $1,485 to support DHI programs.
THE FESTIVAL OF TREES STATEWIDE RAISED $77,000 TO BENEFIT DHI’S PROGRAMS FOR THE COMMUNITY!

Each year the Festival of Trees brings volunteers, staff, and members of the community together in a festive welcome to the holiday season. Thanks to the commitment and hard work of volunteers, and the heartwarming generosity of individuals, business, school, and government sponsors, $77,000 will be directed to Delaware Hospice’s programs and services for patients and families.

One volunteer, Linda Bradford, has experienced both the challenges of organizing the 3-day event, and the impact of Delaware Hospice’s care to a family. Linda has been a Festival of Trees volunteer with the organization for 28 years, and a patient care volunteer for 20 years. She first got involved with the Festival “way back when” and has worked with its Family Fun Day as well as served as a tree decorator. But she loves the patients. “As a patient care volunteer, you are able to really see your contribution help people when they need it the most. Festival of Trees is a wonderful event, and I love being part of it, but when you witness, face to face, the families served, you appreciate why it’s so important. There is truly a sense of duty and meaning that is felt.”

MUSIC IS IN THE AIR AND THE BARS ARE OPEN….. IT’S JAZZ BRUNCH TIME!

Don’t miss the “swingingest” event of the year. Presented by Fox & Roach Charities, Berkshire Hathaway Home Services, Fox & Roach Realtors, and The Trident Group, the 13th Annual Jazz Brunch will be held on Sunday, April 23rd, from 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m., at Harry’s Savoy Grill in north Wilmington.

LEAVING A LEGACY

By including Delaware Hospice in your will, you could leave a legacy that is worth so much more than a dollar amount. It is an expression of love and compassion toward people in your own community, and an immeasurable gift to people in need of comfort. Your estate may also benefit from tax savings, whether your gift takes the form of a bequest, charitable remainder trust, life insurance policy or charitable gift annuity. If you would like to learn more about planned giving, please contact Sue Bernetich, Vice President of Development, at 855-DHI-GIVE, or email sbernetich@delawarehospice.org.
UPCOMING EVENTS

GALS THAT GIVE NIGHT OUT
Dover, April 20, 2017
Dover Downs Hotel & Casino

JAZZ BRUNCH
Wilmington, April 23, 2017
Harry's Savoy Grill

Tickets can be purchased via EventBrite Delaware Hospice or http://bit.ly/DelHospiceApril20

Tickets can be purchased at Delawarehospice.org/events/jazz-brunch/ or by phoning 302-746-4535

For details, call 855-DHI-Give or visit www.delawarehospice.org