

## Granting Wishes

Dinners out and traveling might be trivial in the lives of some people, but when patients and families are experiencing end of life and all that it brings, those experiences become more significant. Everything often happens at once and some special events could be overlooked, but not at Beloit Regional Hospice, thanks to the Ken Hendricks Granting Wishes Fund.

Ken's heartfelt belief in the specialized approach and feeling side of hospice served as the driving force for this fund after his death. Beloit Regional Hospice was named the designee for his memorial donations, and soon after, the Ken Hendricks Granting Wishes Fund was formed. This endowment fund generates income to be used for special requests that support quality of

life for patients & families of Beloit Regional Hospice and Transitions. The idea is to get to the heart of what's really important to individuals at the end-of-life.

A committee comprised of four staff members and one BRH board member reviews requests for use of funds. Requests are made by BRH staff on behalf of patients and clients for things not traditionally provided in the scope of the delivery of care, or those that could be provided utilizing resources available through other community services. Examples might include, an anniversary dinner, airline tickets for a family member at a distance who can't afford to travel, music therapy for



Photo Credit: Type A Images

someone with a special affinity to music, or a child's birthday party when mom or dad are dying and unable to manage.

For Chester "Chet" Kostrzewa, his BRH volunteer, Larry Schubert, requested that the fund purchase a voice amplification system. "Because he is so soft spoken, it was difficult to hear Chet, but one day it turned almost impossible in a room full of people at a party at the facility where he stays. One young lady, a local school principal, suggested that he should have an amplifying device because his life experience living in Europe for an extended time makes him such an interesting man to talk with. Chet agreed and I was able to find the item on the internet and the Granting Wishes Fund paid for it. Chet's son told me that they used it on



Photo Credit: Type A Images

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## Granting Wishes (continued)

Father's Day and the family was very happy with the unit," commented Schubert. This would be Chet's last Father's Day, as he died shortly before publication of this article.

Chet was fortunate to have many visitors in addition to his family including BRH nurses, a social worker, certified nursing assistants, two volunteers and a chaplain. On a recent humid June morning, some of them gathered to spend a little time with Chet while Amanda Reseberg from Type A Images captured the moments.

Amanda is another hospice champion. Amanda volunteers her talents and time photographing hospice patients and their loved ones. In her own words, she specializes in "documentary photography which captures moments in life as they are happening, rather than formalized, studio portraits." Photographs are taken in the home or a location special to family, and could be anything from a family meal to a game of cards or just a day of spending time together. She then provides all the photos to the patient and family on disc with a release for printing at no cost. Kindred Spirits, as it is called, was created by Amanda after Beloit Regional Hospice cared for her grandmother in 2008.

Chet's photos will be shared with his family. They join close to 20 other families who have had special wishes granted since 2009. BRH has had the opportunity to provide Thanksgiving and Valentine's Day dinners, bring family to patients and take patients to special events, just to name a few wishes. We thank the Hendricks family, Amanda, and all our patients and families for sharing a piece of themselves and their life's journey and with us. It is with much appreciation and enthusiasm that we look forward to granting many more wishes.



*We are grateful to Beloit Health System for their ongoing partnership and support. Their generosity makes this publication possible.*

## From the Desk of Melissa Olson Grief Program Coordinator



Even during the lazy days of summer, the Grief Support Department at Beloit Regional Hospice is filled with activity supporting members of the community. I joined the team in February and bring with me twelve years of experience in hospice social work and bereavement support. I was drawn to Beloit Regional Hospice by its history and reputation for quality care and outreach. And I have learned even more about the broad reach of our services since joining the team.

It is the goal of our grief program to support anyone in the community who has suffered a loss through death. We provide that not only to the friends and family members of those who have received hospice services, but to people of all ages who have lost someone important in their lives. We have been privileged to be invited to work in schools throughout the communities we serve. This past year facilitating 17 groups in 13 different schools – serving young people from elementary school to college age.

Along with the school counselor at an elementary school I facilitated a group that included two boys who were struggling with the losses in their lives. At the conclusion of our 7 weeks together, we were preparing for a balloon launching ceremony – an opportunity for group participants to release a message. It was a windy day and unfortunately all but one balloon popped. It was a disappointing moment for those young boys. The one holding the remaining balloon released his as planned and I promised to return with more balloons later that day. When I did return, the boy released the message to his loved one with a look on his face that spoke more powerfully than words ever could of how meaningful the support of others can be in recognizing the pain of this type of loss.

The work we do is meaningful to those we serve, but also to those of us who hear the stories and watch the growth and progress of the individuals as they work through the grief process. It is our privilege to be invited to share in the life journey of so many.

Please contact us if you have questions or suggestions about the services we provide. Thank you for the warm welcome I have received from many of you and I look forward to meeting many more of you in the future.



*Volunteer Larry Schubert helps Chet adjust his voice amplifier during a visit. (Staff photo)*

## BRH Coming Events:



### Hospice Breakfast

Skip's Friendly Village in Afton, WI  
Sunday August 28th, 9 a.m. – 1 p.m.  
Enjoy a delicious breakfast, musical entertainment, raffles & more.

### Annual BRH Candle Lighting Memorial Service

Our Lady of the Assumption  
Catholic Church, Beloit WI  
Thursday October 27th at 6:30 pm

**Adult Grief Support Group** - is scheduled for October

### Doves and Diamonds: Celebrate Hospice

Eclipse Center Court, Beloit, WI  
Saturday November 12th, 7pm  
featuring Little Vito and the Torpedos

### Survivor's of Suicide Teleconference

First Baptist Church, Beloit, WI  
Saturday, November 19, 11am-2:30 pm

### Holiday Grief Support Walk-in Groups

November and December

Please check our website or contact our office to confirm dates and times. [www.beloitregionalhospice.com](http://www.beloitregionalhospice.com) 877.363.7421



Beloit Regional Hospice offers speakers on a wide range of topics and welcomes the opportunity to answer questions on end-of-life, caregiving and grief issues. Recently Cross & Crown Lutheran Church invited BRH to provide a six-week speaker series.

*"We thank you for lighting our fires with the education about hospice and its many offerings.*

*The sessions as a whole were stimulating and eye-opening encouraging people to be proactive rather than reactive.*

*Your words, compassion and willingness to serve opened the hearts and minds of the participants to thinking about and reviewing their own mortality and spirituality. We appreciate your acts of service. The journeys you take with so many allow us to thank you for touching lives and making a difference."*

*-Cross & Crown Lutheran Church*

*Please contact BRH if you or an organization are interested in having a speaker.*

## Wish List

Donations to Beloit Regional Hospice go a long way to helping our organization save on expenses so that we may direct our funds to the patients we serve. Below is a list of items we need. If you have a donation to make, please call the office at 608/363-7421 and ask for Karen Johnson-Hurd for patient supplies or Jeana Lane for any other items.

### Patient Supplies

- Fitted twin size sheets for hospital beds (Prefer white and must be stretchy all the way around. Purchase at Homecare Pharmacy or Wal-Mart)
- Cloth underpads
- Bleach
- Shout spot remover
- Quart sized Ziplock bags
- Cat litter (for medication disposal)
- Personal and refill size hand sanitizer

### Volunteer Program

- Bottled water
- Pocket size hand sanitizer

### Grief Support Program

- Battery operated tealights (can be purchased at Dollar Tree, 2 per pkg.)
- Regular unscented tealights
- Michael's or Berg's Party Store gift cards (used for supplies for the Kids, Teens 'n' Grief program)
- Individual packs of facial tissue
- iTunes gift cards
- Small portable speakers for iPod
- Any color pocket folders with 3 prongs
- Glitter glue
- Variety packs of Sharpie permanent fine line markers
- 24 count crayons

- Helium tank (can be purchased at most party stores)
- Large balloons

### Office & Kitchen Supplies

- Sticky note pads
- Legal pads
- White copy paper
- Manila envelopes (9 x 12, no clasp)
- Sheet protectors for 8 1/2 x 11 paper
- White Out Correction Tape
- Facial tissue
- Black ink pens
- Bankers boxes (10h x 12w x 24d)
- Manila file folders (third cut)
- AA, AAA and C batteries

- Wal-Mart or Staples gift cards
- Inkjet or laser mailing labels (2 5/8" x 1")
- White envelopes (5 3/4 x 8 3/4)
- Self Sealing Padded envelopes (6 x 10)
- Paper plates & cups (no Styrofoam please)
- Paper towels & napkins
- Plastic forks & spoons
- Storage bags (quart & gallon sizes)
- Cling wrap
- Dish soap

### Equipment

- Locking 4 drawer filing cabinets



## **Beloit Regional Hospice**

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## **Do you know who sang "8675309 Jenny?"**

**D**o you know the new or the original Seven Wonders of the World? Those questions and many others were answered by trivia buffs, Beloit Memorial High School Student Senate members and fans of Beloit Regional Hospice on May 20th, 2011. They all gathered to test their knowledge for a

good cause. The student senate organized Trivia Night to benefit BRH, with half the proceeds from the evening to go to the winning team and half to BRH. Many laughs, cheers and jeers could be heard as the teams had fun answering a variety of questions. The scores were close, and in the end the winning team donated their half to BRH and over \$300 was raised. Thank you BMHS Student Senate!

## **The gift of information and support**



**W**hen you share BRH information, the value of hospice services and quality end of life care for everyone is confirmed. The more the hospice philosophy is shared, the more people will receive the unique care they want, need and deserve during the final years and months of their lives.



- You can receive our newsletter online and forward it to anyone who could use the educational information and support or would enjoy our fun events.

- You can raise awareness by simply becoming a fan of BRH on Facebook.
- If you are receiving a paper copy of the newsletter, pass that around as well!

Send your email to [nmorgan@beloitregionalhospice.com](mailto:nmorgan@beloitregionalhospice.com). We will not share your information with any agency or person outside BRH, but we will share important information with you! (Please include your full name and mailing address for proper identification.) Thank you for sharing the gift of information and support!