

Comfort Care

Passion for excellence. Compassion for people.



Fall 2016

A newsletter for family and friends of Aspirus Comfort Care and Hospice Services

Volunteers share their time and talents to help others

For more than two decades, Joann Elbe and Lois Westlund have volunteered at Aspirus to help people in need of hospice care.

Elbe, a hospice volunteer for 22 years, is one of the most passionate volunteers Tasha Stencil, supervisor of Aspirus Hospice House and Volunteers, has ever met.

“She sits with patients on the Palliative Care Unit at Aspirus Wausau Hospital, sews and knits, and bakes cookies for patients and families at Hospice House,” Stencil said. “Joann also faithfully shares her time during Festival of Trees at the Butterfly Luncheon and during the week-long community event.”

“I have been involved in Festival of Trees since it started in 1996 and feel it is very important, as it helps those who can’t help themselves,” Elbe said. “I am happiest when I’m giving back and in service to others. Sharing my time as a hospice and Festival of Trees volunteer allows me to do that.”

Westlund has been a hospice volunteer for 25 years and has volunteered for Festival of Trees since it began.

“Lois coordinates the treat and dessert schedule for patients and families to enjoy all year long at Aspirus Hospice House,” Stencil said. “We take pride in having a home-like



Lois Westlund and Joann Elbe

environment, and goodies in the kitchen on a regular basis makes it feel like a home. Lois helps make this happen, and also bakes cookies for Hospice House and volunteers for the Butterfly Luncheon.”

“I love the hospice program and what it does to help patients and families,” Westlund said. “There are few ways to help others that are more meaningful and spiritual,

and I’m grateful for the opportunity to share my time and gifts.”

“In the Festival’s first years, Joann and I decorated trees for hospice and made a gingerbread house for auction which resembled Hospice House,” Westlund said. “We have worked with many wonderful people and met other volunteers, staff and patients who have touched our hearts and become friends.”

(Joann passed away on September 30 after this article was written. This article is printed with her family’s permission.)

For information on volunteering at Aspirus, go to Aspirus.org/volunteers or call 715.847.2705.



ASPIRUS™
Passion for excellence.
Compassion for people.



Layla Daniels visits Santa and Mrs Santa.

Festival of Trees

20th Annual Holiday Event

November 22 - 27 • Stoney Creek Inn

Experience the magic of Festival of Trees! Stroll through a glittering forest of over one hundred holiday trees, wreaths, mantels and specialty items decorated and donated by community members for raffle and silent auction. Visit with Santa, enjoy a complimentary cookie and beverage and be entertained by local musicians – all with your ticket purchase. Proceeds benefit Aspirus Comfort Care and Hospice Services. See Santa schedule on the website.

For information, to volunteer, or purchase tickets by credit card, visit wausaufestivaloftrees.org or call the Aspirus Health Foundation at 715-847-2470.

Butterfly Luncheon

Thursday, November 17

Wausau Country Club
11:00 am – 1:30 pm

\$40 per person
or \$320 for a table of 8.

Reservations are required.

A very special pre-festival ladies luncheon with gourmet dining, fabulous raffles, valet parking and an exclusive gift.

Opening Night Gala

Tuesday, November 22

6:00 – 9:00 pm

\$50 per person prior to November 19
\$60 starting on November 19

Sample signature cuisine from Wausau's finest restaurants and caterers. Live music, Gala-only jewelry lock box and water sports package raffle, silent auction, complimentary beer, champagne and exclusive viewing of Festival of Trees.



Teddy Bear Breakfast

Saturday, November 26

9:00 – 10:30 am, or

Sunday, November 27

9:00 – 10:30 am

Ages 12 & Under - \$10

Ages Under 2 - \$3

Ages 13 & Over - \$15

Advance tickets are required for all attending to ensure adequate seating.

A magical event for children and their favorite teddy bear. Visit with Santa and Mrs. Claus and enjoy a variety of holiday activities geared toward children up to 12 years old including Teddy Bear health checks.

2016 Daily Hours

Wednesday, November 23

Noon to 5:00 p.m.

Thanksgiving Day

1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Friday, November 25

9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Saturday, November 26

Noon to 5:00 p.m.

Sunday, November 27

Noon to 2:00 p.m.

~ 20th Anniversary Sponsor ~
Miron Construction

**Tickets Available
at the door**

Ages 13 & Over: \$5

Ages 12 & Under: \$3

Under 2: Free

Attendees will receive a complimentary cookie and beverage with their admission and enjoy entertainment by local musicians.

~ **Hosting Sponsor** ~
Stoney Creek Inn

Rothschild (by Cedar Creek)

Senior Stroll

Wednesday, November 23

9:00 a.m. – Noon

\$4 per person

Tickets available at the door.

A Special Time!

This event allows senior citizens to get a sneak peek of the Festival's wondrous array of holiday items. It is a time especially designed for people with walkers or wheelchairs.

What will help my friend?.....

by Amy L Kitsemel, M.Ed., CSW, CT
Bereavement Coordinator

A common call or inquiry I receive is.....“I am calling for a friend who lost a loved one recently. What is available to help them?”

My first thought is - *the person who is calling is one of the best potential helpers!*

When a friend loses a loved one, we may feel sad for the person and wish to help them. We search for another person or a book to help them. We are compelled by their pain to help make it stop as it can hurt to watch another person hurt.

The greatest need for the bereaved is to go through their grief, not ‘get over it.’ This is where a good friend comes in. Folks that I have been privileged to know have been the best teachers as to what the bereaved need. They need you. They need to be connected to the outside world. They need a friend who will be by their side and give them a reassuring hug. They need someone who will be comfortable with their silence.

They need a person with an ear who will listen and encourage them to reminisce and remember. They need a friend who has a box of Kleenex, (sometimes two boxes depending on the day.) They need someone who calls them and invites them to lunch, or maybe a movie.

They need a person who also needs them to help finish a project, do something good in the community or to have coffee with.

If you are one of those treasured friends who have tried to reach out with little acceptance of your invitation, do not stop trying.

The bereaved do need time to rest as grief is physically exhausting. It is important to stay connected to others even though some invitations are declined. Know your contact is invaluable to a person who is grieving. So find the books, groups and other ways to support as well, but also remember that you are often the best help to a friend in grief.



Veteran’s Day Program

November 11, 2016

11:00 a.m. by flag pole
Aspirus Hospice House

Run For Hospice - Thank You!

The 2016 Run for Hospice held on Saturday, May 7, 2016, at Fabiano Brothers in Weston was an incredible run/walk event for the entire family! Together with 730 runners and walkers, donors, businesses, and volunteers in our community, the Run for Hospice event raised \$40,560. This is record high participation and fundraising. Thank you!

Proceeds from the event will help support an important upgrade of the 18-year old Aspirus Hospice House. A designated portion of proceeds are directed to the Kathleen Gaynor Ferris Endowment to support quality of life initiatives for hospice patients and families for years to come. Many heartwarming stories were shared by people about how the Run for Hospice and Aspirus Comfort Care and Hospice Services have touched their lives. Mark your calendar for May 13, 2017 and visit runforhospice.net for details.



(L to R) Darrell Lentz, Aspirus Wausau Hospital President; Committee members: Jean Winter, Marty Ferris - Chairman, Patti Briquetlet, Kelli Staszak, Jen Ferris, Riley Ferris.

Event and in-kind donors - Thank you to the many individuals and businesses that have provided important support for hospice through special events from February 1, 2016 to August 31, 2016.



The Athens 4H group presented 15 handcrafted lap blankets to be given to patients. Thank you!



Thank you to the quilters group of Peace United Church of Christ, Schofield that gifted eight beautiful quilts to Hospice House.

2510
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*"Treasuring Memories"
 Family Memorial Art*

The project will be making grief masks.

February 15, 2017 • 4:00 – 6:00 p.m.
 Leigh Yawkey Woodson Art Museum, Wausau
 To register, please call 715.845.7010
 For questions call Amy at 715.847.2703

Thank you for your generous community support

Your donations are used to support our work beyond the reimbursement provided by insurance and other sources. This important funding is critical to meeting the needs of patients suffering from life-limiting and terminal illness and providing comfort for their families and friends.

Thank you! We are grateful to the many individuals, organizations, and corporations that help us fulfill our mission to provide compassionate hospice, palliative, and grief care for people in north central Wisconsin.

Partners in Health donors

We are grateful to you and the following individuals who have chosen to celebrate the life of another through a memorial or an annual gift. This list represents gifts from **February 1, 2016 to August 31, 2016**. All attempts are made to accurately recognize donors.

If you notice a misspelling, error, or omission, please contact the Aspirus Health Foundation at 715-847-2470.

Life (\$5,000-\$9,999)

Lois vanKerkhoven

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Wausau Auxiliary #251

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Thank you to the Wausau Eagles Club #251 for holding their First Annual Corn Roast to raise funds for Aspirus Hospice House and Randlin Homes. They raised \$1,000 in support of patients at Aspirus Hospice House! (L to R) Tasha Stencil, Karen Huber, Shirley Nowak, Vicki LaFave, Colleen Stillwell.

Partners in Health donors (continued)



The Athens VFW Auxiliary Post 8527 donated nine blankets for hospice veterans. (L to R) Nina Koeller, Karen Weiler, Ruth Weiler, Agnes Gianoli, Ceiling Johnson, Gloria Lavicka, Julie Ellenbecker, Cheryl Engel, Gayle Mauer, Jean Burmeister, Bernice Passehl. Athens community groups also provided additional blankets for a total of 28. Our deepest thanks!

Barbara Hamm
Crandall Hamm
Jason and Kathleen Handrick
Mark and Rebecca Hannam
Lawrence and Doris Hanz
Sharon Harder
Ben and Claudette Haring
Stephen and Mary Harvey
Agnes Heil
Dawn Herbst
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The First English Lutheran Church Quilters of Wausau created 23 beautiful quilts for patients in hospice care. Thank you!



The Edgewood Archers held the 22nd Annual Memorial Bow Shoot in honor and memory of their friend, Bill Schuster. Thank you for your gift of \$1,000 to support patients of Aspirus Comfort Care and Hospice Services!

Holiday Keepsake

The holidays are a special time to celebrate the lives of people we love—people who are living and those who have died.

You are invited to celebrate the loved ones in your life by participating in the *Tree of Love* tribute program. To honor your loved one, you may purchase and personalize a two-inch polished brass holiday ornament that will be mailed to you the third week of December.



Wausau's Trinity Lutheran Church members created and donated pillows and quilts for use by patients receiving hospice care. Thank you!

Use the order form below or order online at www.aspirus.org/treeoflove.

Tree of Love Tribute Order Form - Comfort Care and Hospice Services

Your Name _____ Phone Number (____) _____

Mailing Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

In addition to my ornament order, I would like to make a donation to the Grief Center of \$ _____

Total Payment Enclosed: \$ _____ Total Number of Ornaments: _____

Payment Options: Please enclose payment of \$10 (tax included) for each Tree of Love ornament.

Check (Payable to: ACCHS FUNDS) Credit Card (Circle one): Visa MasterCard Discover

Name as it appears on Credit Card: _____

Credit Card Mailing Address: _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Credit Card Number: _____ Exp. Date: _____ CSC code: _____

Signature: _____



Orders must be received by December 1, 2016 to ensure receipt prior to December 24, 2016.

Engraving Information

Each ornament will have two lines of engraving with 10 characters per line. Complete each box with one letter.

Blank spaces between words are equal to one letter.

Sample: G E O R G E □ □ □ □

Please honor the following:

Sample: S M I T H □ □ □ □

Ornament 1:	(line 1)	□ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □	(line 2)	□ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □
Ornament 2:	(line 1)	□ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □	(line 2)	□ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □
Ornament 3:	(line 1)	□ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □	(line 2)	□ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □
Ornament 4:	(line 1)	□ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □	(line 2)	□ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □
Ornament 5:	(line 1)	□ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □	(line 2)	□ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □
Ornament 6:	(line 1)	□ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □	(line 2)	□ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □

Mail to Aspirus Health Foundation, 425 Pine Ridge Blvd., Wausau, WI 54401. For orders greater than 6, copy this form and enclose with your payment.



COMFORT CARE AND HOSPICE SERVICES

333 Pine Ridge Blvd.
Wausau, WI 54401

Non-Profit Organization
U.S. Postage
P A I D
Wausau, WI
Permit #615

Music Fills Your Memories With Hope

A Program for Anyone Who Has Lost Someone Loved

Holidays often evoke complex emotions about relationships and people in our lives who have died. Music has the ability to trigger memories of sad times when we were struggling, angry or emotionally hurt. But, it can also remind us of happy times, memories of events and family and friends that bring us joy.

This year our program will create a safe place where you can feel your emotions. The gift of music will be provided by Living River, a local Christian quartet. Join us for a blended combination of spiritual songs, feel-good music, and traditional Christmas music.

Saturday, December 3, 2016

4:00 – 6:00 p.m.

Plaza Hotel and Suites

201 N. 17th Ave, Wausau, WI

Public is welcome • Free admission • Registration not required

**For more information call Nan Zastrow at 715-845-4159
or Amy Kitsemel at 715-847-2703**



Please notify us if you change your address,
or if you prefer not to receive *Comfort Care*.

715.847.2470
ahf@aspirus.org