

# Celebrating Life's Stories<sup>®</sup>

A NEWSLETTER FOR OUR FRIENDS

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## Retired Staff Member Gives Back as a Volunteer

**Peggy Streby never dreamed she would work in hospice.** As a full-time mom, she volunteered at her church and her children's school for many years. In

1993, her kids were nearing college age, and she had taken a year of computer training in Newark to get back into the workforce. Her professor encouraged her to interview with Ohio's Hospice of Central Ohio, which at the time was Hospice of Licking County.

When she interviewed with Jim Moss, the executive director, his energy, passion and vision were irresistible. She began working there in June 1993. "I certainly had not intended to work so far from home," Peggy said. "It is a 50-minute commute each way for me."

Despite the commute, Peggy spent 26 years working in various roles. She was the first full-time administrative assistant to the executive director. She also worked five years in human resources and nine years as executive assistant to the vice president of Philanthropic Development.

She enjoyed supporting the clinical staff and board of directors in addition to working on fundraising events, including Light Up a Life and the golf outing. But she always will remember one afternoon when she stopped for gas on the way home from work. The gas station

attendant noticed her name badge. "He thanked me for caring for his grandpa," Peggy said. "He told me that our care team gave his grandfather back his dignity."



Peggy Streby

She retired on her 65th birthday in 2019. "I've always been incredibly proud to say that I worked with Ohio's Hospice of Central Ohio," she said. "I had 26 wonderful years there."

Peggy has experienced hospice care as a staff member and a family member. Ohio's Hospice of Central Ohio cared for her parents, brother-in-law, and several friends and neighbors.

"I've seen firsthand the extraordinary level of care compared to other hospices," Peggy said. "Naturally, I wanted to give back to the organization that had supported my family through some of our darkest days."

She is now a volunteer with the Handmade Items Team. They make comfort items such as gowns, lap quilts, positioning pillows, and "busy" mats for dementia patients. She also continues to work special events such as the golf outing. And, lately, she has been helping compile a history of the organization for the 40th anniversary.

Special thanks to Peggy for her support of our mission both as a staff member and a volunteer!



# Celebrating 40 Years of Superior Care and Superior Services



Stacy Geller  
Vice President of  
Philanthropic Development  
Ohio's Hospice of Central Ohio

**It is one of life's phenomena that as the years add up, the faster they fly.** Spring into summer, summer into fall and the next thing you know, snow is dusting the ground, and a new year has begun. It's unbelievable to me that 40 years have passed since our community hospice, Ohio's Hospice of Central Ohio,

was founded. In those 40 years, thousands of people have been cared for, loved ones have been comforted, tears have been shed, and new paths have been forged. The service area, which the original Hospice of Licking County served, has grown. New locations have opened, and ribbons have been cut. As the seasons turn and turn again, our promise to provide superior care and superior services has never wavered.

Forty years sounds like a long time, but it has gone by in a blink of an eye. In 40 more years, a new generation will enter the next phase of end of life and will need a caring presence. I feel privileged to have seen the impact that our superior end-of-life care has made in our community because of the hospice services and bereavement support we provide. As time inevitably ticks by, the landscape of our society will change, technology will surpass our wildest imaginations, but our presence and serving those in need will remain a constant.

Our story began with a small group of visionaries giving their time and talent so that compassionate care and comforting presence was available at end of life. Our reach has grown because of the support from donors like you, and it will be because of your continued support that we serve the next generation to come.

Since 1982, it has been our privilege to care for your loved ones. Thank you for supporting our mission now, and for the next 40 years.



*Celebrating Life's Stories®*

## Celebrating Life's Stories for 40 Years

**1981**

Selma Markowitz and Kathleen Brown, co-founders, begin plans to bring the hospice care concept to Licking County.

**1982**

The first board meeting is held, and Hospice Service of Licking County is created.

**1993**

Celebrated by serving our 800th patient.

**1995**

Name is changed to Hospice of Central Ohio.

**1996**

The seven-bed inpatient care center, The Selma Markowitz Care Center, opens at Licking Memorial Hospital.

# Honoring Veteran Patients Through Dog Tags

**Special thanks to the South Central Power Company and The Loyal Order of Moose Newark Lodge #499.** Through the generosity of these community partners, Ohio's Hospice of Central Ohio was granted funding for two dog tag embossing machines and the supplies needed to provide our Veteran patients with a significant memento.

These gifts directly funded our efforts through the American Pride® Veteran Care by Ohio's Hospice program. American Pride honors the service of Veteran patients and assures them of receiving the highest quality of care. In addition to celebrating and thanking Veterans for their service, American Pride assists patients in obtaining access to all the benefits to which Veterans are eligible, provides spiritual support, and addresses individual post-traumatic stress issues.

The need for program funding arose after Bob Allen, American Pride coordinator for Ohio's Hospice, learned of the benefits Veteran hospice patients experience when they have dog tags acknowledging their service.



"Studies have found that the cool steel touch of the dog tag can provide a great deal of comfort for a Veteran, especially since many people have lost, misplaced or discarded their dog tags throughout their lives," he said.

"Whether it is the familiar touch of the chain or the smooth grooves of the tag between their fingers, the emotional and physical comfort the tags can provide is paramount for our patients."

Since receiving the gifts, Ohio's Hospice of Central Ohio has performed more than 30 American Pride ceremonies, presenting patients and their families with dog tags, which include the patient's name and service branch.

This extra level of care and comfort we can provide our patients is made possible by grant funding and individual donations. If you are interested in donating to the American Pride program, please contact Stacy Geller at [Stacy@HospiceofCentralOhio.org](mailto:Stacy@HospiceofCentralOhio.org) or 740.788.1488.

## Save the Date

# KEYS OF LIFE: DUELING PIANO EVENT

Enjoy an adult evening of music, beverages, food, raffles, and singalongs!

### WHEN:

Friday, November 18, 2022, 6 pm

### WHERE:

Bryn Du Mansion, 537 Jones Rd.  
Granville, OH 43023

For more information, please call 740.788.1503.

### 1997

The first bereavement camp, Camp HOCO, is held for the first time for children, ages 6-17.

### 2003

The Hospice of Central Ohio Foundation is created, raising funds to provide complementary support services to patients and their families at no cost.

### 2010

Hospice of Central Ohio celebrates serving its 10,000th patient.

### 2016

Hospice of Central Ohio joins Ohio's Hospice strategic partnership and becomes Ohio's Hospice of Central Ohio.

### 2022

Ohio's Hospice of Central Ohio celebrates its 40th anniversary.



# Supportive Therapies Provide Superior Care to Our Patients and Families



**At Ohio's Hospice of Central Ohio, we pride ourselves on the inventive ways we approach the care of our patients and their family members.** In September 2019, Ohio's Hospice of Central Ohio introduced the Urban Zen Integrative Therapy (UZIT) program to our patients. UZIT supports patients and their needs with a holistic approach, combining techniques of essential oils, yoga therapy, Reiki and contemplative care.

The non-pharmaceutical approach to care was incredibly well received, with 96% of patients finding comfort and relief from symptoms that often include pain, exhaustion, anxiety, and restlessness. UZIT also has positively impacted the family members and caregivers of the patients who reported experiencing less anxiety and fearfulness.

Through support to Ohio's Hospice of Central Ohio, we are able to offer programs like UZIT that help us expand our complementary therapies and meet the needs of our patients and family members as they navigate through the end of life. Your gifts help us to improve the quality of life for the patients whom we are privileged to serve.

For more information on UZIT and how you can support Ohio's Hospice of Central Ohio, please call 740.788.1488.

## Help Support Our Mission Through Monthly Giving

**Ohio's Hospice of Central Ohio was established 40 years ago because a group of volunteers believed our community deserved superior end-of-life care.**

Now, more than ever, we need your support as we continue to provide superior care and superior services.

Monthly donations made by community members provide ongoing support to sustain our mission. Through this giving option, members donate monthly rather than annually, spreading their generosity over the course of a year. Monthly donations create a continuous impact on our programming and patient services.

In celebration of our 40 years serving the community, would you consider donating the following?

- \$19.82 a month to celebrate our founding year
- \$198.20 annually (about \$16.50 per month)
- \$1,982.00 annually (about \$165 per month)

Your monthly donation will be put to immediate use towards services that Medicare does not cover, such as art and music therapy, occupational therapy, grief and bereavement counseling for the entire community, and other donor-funded programs.

For more information about joining our community of monthly donors, please visit: [www.HospiceofCentralOhio.org/Monthly-Giving/](http://www.HospiceofCentralOhio.org/Monthly-Giving/)