Local CEO Honored by Hospice for Volunteer Service

By Caryn Hughes, Hospice of CNY Development Director

Hospice of Central New York depends heavily on their volunteers. There is no secret as to how to find them, and we are certainly fortunate to have so many. They are all special in their own way, and each one makes a difference. Maryann Roefaro is certainly special and has been making a difference at Hospice of Central New York for 15 years. To find out more about her commitment to Hospice, I reached out to Maryann to understand more about her passion for this Agency.

Maryann’s first experience with hospice was during her former mother-in-law’s illness. She says, “I don’t know what our family would have done without the support and assistance during her end-of-life journey.” When she first became the CEO of Hematology-Oncology Associates (HOA) there was a Hospice of CNY employee on site to facilitate referrals. Maryann says, “Hospice and HOA services are indelibly intertwined and I felt very strongly that I wanted to get more involved.” She gave Hospice a call, went on a tour, and she was sold. Soon after she was asked to be on the Hospice Foundation Board of Directors where she served for 6 years, then another 6 years on the Hospice Operating Board. She also served terms as President on both Boards and many years as Chair of the September Song Committee. Maryann has been a passionate committee member, reaching out to her colleagues for corporate and personal support of Hospice’s fundraising events. Her desire to help Hospice recently led her to raise money for Hospice while training for the NYC marathon. Her efforts brought in over $11,000 to help Central New York families get the services they need at the end of life. She says she loved that event, “knowing that each step had a great deal of support for Hospice behind it”. After that effort she solicited some other runners and currently chairs a committee to encourage people to solicit support as they train for an upcoming race, an effort that has been very successful.

I couldn’t help but ask Maryann what she thinks makes Hospice of CNY so special that she would devote this level of service. Her response, “The mission is precious, the leadership and staff are outstanding, and the availability of resources available through Hospice for families dealing with death is a jewel in our community. Many families fear hospice, as they perceive it means the end, but that is not my perspective. Hospice can assist in the end-of-life journey in so many ways – they help a family cope, plan, and encourage meaningful passage.” While passion is important in choosing volunteer work, there is still the need to find time. In addition to her role as CEO of Hematology Oncology Associates, Maryann is an author, marathon runner, wife and mother. She says, “It’s all about priorities and allocating your time wisely. I worked very hard during my career to balance my work and family. I would not be successful without my family’s love, support and some sacrifice. Thankfully, my husband is very supportive.” As time allowed, she made time for the things she wanted to accomplish. For example, her running didn’t start until she was 53. (Continued on Page 2)
Local CEO Honored by Hospice for Volunteer Service (cont. from page 1)

As the Development Director of Hospice of CNY, I am always hoping to find more people who are willing to volunteer and give of themselves for our cause. It often seems like many young people have been given so much in today’s world. Will they be willing to sacrifice for a cause they believe in? I asked Maryann for her thoughts on the next generation and community service. She said, “I see many generous spirits willing to fight for a cause, and they accept humanity on a scale that is more open-minded and understanding in nature…I think it’s imperative as a parent to demonstrate a giving nature and encourage children to be involved in community service so it becomes a way of life for them.” I also asked her what message she would give to those thinking about volunteering. Her response was, “Volunteering feeds the soul... and giving is a powerful tool that can help to create the conditions for a joy-filled life. I give with all my heart, but the fulfillment and joy that comes back is immeasurable.”

At Hospice of CNY we are grateful that Maryann has given so much of her time and talent and feel blessed that we have been the recipient of her service. When asked what has kept her involved for so long she responded, “It’s a privilege to be part of an organization that means so much to a community and provides vital services.” She values the leadership at Hospice and feels that the people that work there are very special. She is very proud of her longevity as a Hospice volunteer and is happy to “have helped during difficult times” and also to have been there to “celebrate with successes”.

Hospice of Central New York is privileged to honor Maryann at our September Song Event on September 15th at Traditions at The Links. We look forward to an evening of celebrating her many accomplishments as an incredible volunteer. This event is Hospice’s biggest fundraiser of the year and will provide essential funds for end-of-life services for local families. For more information on how to join us as we honor Maryann Roefaro call 315-634-1100 or email Laurie Simpson at lsimpson@hospicecny.org.

New Date but Still the Same Great Party!

Hot cars without the cold winter night is how we’ll be celebrating the 20th annual Charity Preview! This year Charity Preview will be held on Wednesday, November 1st, at the Oncenter in Syracuse. Over the past 19 years this one-of-a-kind event has been held in February; however, in order to accommodate the bowling convention, the event will be held in November.

Syracuse Auto Dealers Association’s Charity Preview has become one of Central New York’s most successful fundraising events. This special preview party of the Annual Auto Show includes live music, delicious food, cocktails and the new year models of cars, trucks, vans and luxury vehicles all on display. The best part about this party is that 100% of every ticket or sponsorship purchased goes directly to your charity of choice. Hospice of Central New York is honored once again to be one of the 13 charities chosen to benefit from this fabulous event.

Don’t miss out on “The Best Party in Town” and a great opportunity to support patients and families in our community. For more information or to purchase tickets, donate or become a sponsor call the Development Office at 315-634-1100 or visit www.hospicecny.org/cp-nov17.
Children and Grief

It can be very upsetting for a parent or caregiver when a child is hurting after the death of a special person, especially when the parent or caregiver is grieving as well. It is important to know that children do grieve, and they grieve differently from adults. It takes time for a child to fully understand and accept the person’s absence. We cannot take away grief. We can only teach children how to cope with their feelings about the loss. How do you know when a child is struggling with their grief? You may see mood fluctuations, alteration in their school performance or behavior changes.

So how can you help your child? Be truthful. Do not avoid words like death and dying. Children often know more than we think, and honest conversation based upon a child’s developmental age is helpful. Every child’s grief is as unique as the relationship they had with the person who died. It is important for a parent or guardian to reassure the child that they are not alone; family and friends can help them. Also remember, grief knows no calendar. A child, like an adult, can experience grief over and over again. They may benefit from adult guidance and connecting with other children who have also experienced a loss.

The Hospice of CNY Grief Center offers children’s grief groups throughout the year. Our next group gets underway on September 19, 2017. If you feel that your child can benefit from this group and would like to register for the next group or have additional questions, please call the Grief Center at 315-634-2208.

Annual Tribute Lights Appeal

Once again, Hospice of Central New York will hold our annual Tribute Lights Appeal in November which invites families, friends and the community an opportunity to reflect and remember loved ones with a donation to Hospice. All gifts are recognized with a Tribute Light in our Solace Garden during the upcoming Holiday Season. Contributions of $150 or more provide a permanent tribute brick to be placed in our Solace Garden in the spring.

This mailing provides much needed funds for Hospice of CNY’s programs and services and is a wonderful way to honor someone special during the holidays. Check your mailbox or our website at www.hospicecny.org in November to make a donation. For more information about this appeal or the Solace Garden, please contact the Development Department at 315-634-1100.
Hospice Donors Remember

Generous donors have chosen to remember their loved ones with gifts to Hospice of CNY. The following people have been honored by such gifts between April 1, 2017 and August 7, 2017:

In Memory:
Mary Jane Albrecht
Frank M. Aloi
Charles L. Ames, Jr.
Dorothy (Finocchio) Andaloro
Earl J. Anderson
William C. Annunziata
Gustavo P. Aponte
Andreas Armatas
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...and many more donors whose names are not listed here.

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James F. Durkin

...and many more donors whose names are not listed here.

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Howard N. Hawker
Hugh S. Hawthorne
Beatrice “Bea” (LaTray) Hazen
John Ellswood “Jack” Heath

...and many more donors whose names are not listed here.
In Memory:

Joanne M. Henderson
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Geraldine Herold
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Angela Pollicino
John and Angela Pollicino
Carol Will Porter
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Robert and Elvira Quarles
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Benson Lee Raymond
Patricia Reale
Sally L. Reed
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Maria Rentsch
Amy Burdette Riggs
Phyllis Ann (Cook) Riley
Dani Riposo
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Stanley and Mary Rutka
David J. Russell, Jr.
Donald J. Russo
Jennifer L. Saccone
Joseph M. Scarcelli
Patricia M. Scarcelli
Naomi Schayes
Steps and Strides for Hospice

Hospice of Central New York patients and families will benefit from two big races this fall, The Syracuse Festival of Races and The Syracuse Half Marathon. The Syracuse Festival of Races is taking place on Sunday, October 1st, and you can join us! This day of races has something to offer for everyone- Men’s 5k, Women’s 5k, 3K Fun & Fitness Run and a community walk. You can register online at www.festivalofraces.com/register.html. After you register be sure to join Hospice of Central New York’s fundraising page. No matter how far you decide to walk or run, your efforts will go a long way toward helping others.

The Syracuse Half Marathon will take place on November 12th. Five generous runners -Kim Blomgren, Mara Pallatto, Sherry Jones, Tom Middleton and Raquel Patterson- will be raising money for Hospice of Central New York while they train for the big race. All five of these runners are passionate about running and Hospice of Central New York. If you want to donate to their run visit our donate page on the Hospice website.

Hospice of Central New York is very excited about these new fundraising opportunities. We hope to make every step and stride count for those who choose to join us on October 1st for the Syracuse Festival of Races. Many Hospice of CNY staff will be at the race participating in various events. We also wish our Syracuse Half Marathon runners all the best as they train and raise money for patients and their families in our community. If you have any questions about how to walk/run with us in the Syracuse Festival of Races or about our presence at The Syracuse Half Marathon call the Development Department at (315) 634-1100.

Register and Join Now:
Step 1: Register here: www.festivalofraces.com/register.html
Step 2: Join our team here: www.crowdrise.com/hospice-of-central-new-york

Additional Honor/Memorials

In Memory:
Doris M. Schoolcraft
Anna Scusa
Inez Albanese Seneca
Viola Sestito
Sabra A. Sheedy
Edith Mary Sheldon
Edgar L. Shor
Rose Shyposh
Helen (Linta) Sienkiewicz
Mary E. Simmons
Rosemary Slagel
Beatrice “Betty” Smith
Elizabeth Hilliker Smith
James Smith
Mary Jo Smith
Patrick Smith
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Robert E. Spafford, Sr.
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Stella Spost
Anna Ruth Starr
Charles F. Starring

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Edmund W. Stimers
Claudia A. (Crone) Stockley
Sharon A. Stone
Jane Stonesifer
Richard Stots
Loretta L. Sturick
Colleen M. Sullivan
David Tartakoff
Deborah Wright Taube
Dr. Frederick B. Tierney
Anthony “Tony” Tirinato
Donald Tooley
Rose L. Topple
Joan Trivelpiece
Grace Marie Tullar-Damico
Joyce A. Tuohy
Carol Tusomey
Edward James Uhlig
Louise Ungaro
Carmino “Carmen” Vadala
Peter A. Valentine
Gloria J. (Palmer) Valenti

Roselyn M. (Zingaro) Valenti
John R. Valler
Sandra “Sandy” Van Dyke
Jennifer A. Van Gorden
Camillo A. Vanetti
Frances P. Arnesi Ventrono
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Eileen R. Wagner
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Barbara A. Walser
Jane Walsh
Herman F. Walter
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Harvey Wiles
Phillip Andrew Willcox
Donald F. Williams
Richard Williams
Stuart Williams
Samuel D. Wolcott, Jr.
Charles Wollowitz
Albert W. Wood
Anna Woodfin
Josephine M. Wright
Nancy J. (Merrick) Wyak
Thomas A. Yanno
Edward J. Yaroski
Margaret M. (Santoro) Zerrahn
Deborah A. Zimpher
Patricia L. Zink
Robert H. Zinsmeyer
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In Honor:
Ms. Kimberly J. Blomgren
Mr. Joseph J. Carnese
Mrs. Susan Conover
Ms. Marcia Conroy
Mr. Thomas Cullivan
Ms. Ellie Hillers
Hospice Staff and Volunteers
Ms. Sherry Jones
Graham and Emily Leggat
Ms. Diane Lewis
Mr. Thomas Middleton
Ms. Mara Pallatto
Mrs. Nancy E. Pandori
Ms. Raquel Patterson
Mrs. Kelly Seubert
Ms. Naomi St. Louis
Ms. Kim Tyoe
Ms. Cathy Wolf

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**Another Sweet Event**

Our Celebrating Life Through Chocolate Event in May was a great success! The room was full of Hospice of Central New York supporters, delicious desserts, great music by House Blend and a bountiful silent auction. The 10th annual Celebrating Life Through Chocolate event provided much needed funding to help Hospice of Central New York care for local families.

We are extremely grateful to everyone who participated. Whether you sponsored, donated an item to our auction, brought tasty treats or came and indulged, you made an impact for patients and families in our community.

If you missed this year’s event, Celebrating Life Through Chocolate 2018 is bound to be just as delicious and fun! We hope you plan to join us. Mark your calendars for May 17, 2018 at Bella Domani in North Syracuse.

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**The Hospice Open - A Big Success**

It was a beautiful day filled with great company, long drives, sinking putts, and friendly competition. The June Hospice Open was a wonderfully successful event in celebration of Lynn Steenberg. Thanks to incredible community support, a strong and dedicated planning committee, and a lot of generosity from Lynn’s family, friends, and colleagues the event revenue exceeded $55,000.

It was a privilege to honor Lynn Steenberg for her service to the community and her dedication to Hospice of CNY, and only fitting that this event in her honor raised such a significant amount to support the patients and families that we serve. Hospice of CNY is grateful to Lynn and all who supported the Hospice Open. Congratulations to our tournament winners:

**1st Place Men’s Team:** Team KeyBank: Aaron Finch, Scott Harris, David Hutton and Rick Roehm

**1st Place Ladies Team:** Team Dignity Plus: Anne Woodward, Veronica Woodward, Lauren Wakeman and Sandy

**1st Place Mixed Team:** Team Dannible & McKee, LLP: Rick Brienza, Chris Didio, Rosanne Didio and Jimmy Laubenstein
Providing patients and families hope, comfort, support and healing when there is no cure.

990 Seventh North Street
Liverpool, New York 13088
www.hospiceny.org

New Date but Still the Same Great Party!

Don’t miss out on “The Best Party in Town”
Charity Preview - November 1, 2017
Call 315-634-1100 to get your tickets now

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