

# The Newsletter

## From Hospice of Central New York



January 2018

### *Longtime Friends of Hospice Leave a Lasting Legacy*



Raymond and Shirley Stummer made their first gift to Hospice of Central New York with a modest pledge to the Home for Hospice Campaign in 1997. What started as a donation to help secure a new office building for Hospice turned into a long-lasting relationship of mutual respect between the Stummers and Hospice of CNY. The couple would routinely send a year-end gift and sometimes other donations throughout the year. As time went on the donations got larger and larger. Since Ray and Shirley were long-time General Electric employees they were sure to submit the proper paperwork so that Hospice received a matching gift, thus doubling each and every donation they made. Though they were a very quiet couple that did not want attention drawn to themselves, the Development Team always looked forward to catching up with them on the telephone to thank them for their generosity.

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### *SUNY Upstate Physician Wins Anita Award*

A SUNY Upstate doctor has won the 2017 Anita Award from Hospice of Central New York. Dr. Suman A. Swarnkar, an Assistant Professor of Medicine and the Assistant Director of Palliative Care, joins a list of local physicians recognized for their outstanding commitment to their patients.



Each year Hospice of CNY asks the public to nominate a physician who is attentive to his/her patients, communicates openly, honestly and sensitively, respects patient decisions and remains actively involved with the patient in his/her final journey.

This year's nomination came from a Hospice nurse and her fellow team members. This is a bit unusual as the Anita Award nomination has traditionally come from the public. The award committee, however, recognized the value of this particular nomination. Since patient care teams at Hospice of CNY deal with many great local doctors, their endorsement of Dr. Swarnkar is an extraordinary testament to the compassion and care that she delivers to her patients. An excerpt from the nominating letter reads:

*"Throughout caring for her patient, I had many interactions with Dr. Swarnkar and her office staff. She was attentive, communicated openly and was compassionate with end-of-life care. Her office staff returned my calls in a timely fashion and always had the time to ask about the patient and her family. Dr. Swarnkar even found the time to return my call to discuss patient care and play an active role in collaborating with the Hospice team. The patient I was able to care for always expressed how grateful she was for Dr. Swarnkar's active role in her care. She respected Dr. Swarnkar for her honesty, patience and compassion."*

Dr. Swarnkar received the Anita Award at a ceremony in January.

## *Longtime Friends of Hospice Leave a Lasting Legacy (continued)*

Over the course of our conversations with the Stummers, we were able to learn a bit more about the couple. Shirley worked at GE for 31 years, but her real passion was breeding and exhibiting miniature long-haired dachshunds. At one point, the couple mentioned that they had five dogs of their own. Ray was a veteran of the Korean War and spent 40 years at GE. He told us many times that he and Shirley liked to keep their charitable contributions local. He was always pleased to hear how much their contributions meant to Hospice. During our conversations, he mentioned several times that he thought Hospice “did a great job”. In 2001, Ray notified us that Hospice of CNY was named in their will and indicated that we would be receiving a substantial amount of money.

We were pleased have the Stummers' support for many years. Though Shirley passed away in 2012, Ray continued to be a loyal supporter until his death in 2017. Recently Hospice of CNY received over \$490,000 from his estate. Little did we know all those years ago that they would be able to leave such a sizable legacy to Hospice, as well as other local charities. The Stummers gift will impact Hospice of CNY for years to come as we were able to invest a portion of the funds for long-term growth. It is incredible to think about how many local families will be cared for as a result of their generosity.

Not all of us have the means to enable us to leave a gift of this size, but including Hospice of CNY in your will or other types of planned giving always makes an impact. To find out more on how you can leave a lasting gift to Hospice through your will, living trust, IRA or other beneficiary designation, call Caryn Hughes at 315-634-1100.

## Volunteer Spotlight

When Debbie Bondi-Ellison walks through the door at Hospice of Central New York, it is always with a smile. Not only does she bring her smile, but she comes with her hands full. What is she carrying? She is delivering donated items for fundraising events. Either she shopped for them herself and is donating them (she is a sucker for a good sale), or she is dropping off items from a local business that she has solicited for contributions. Her efforts over the years have helped make our silent auctions incredibly successful.

Personally, she has contributed items with a value of over \$15,000. She has also made several cash donations to Hospice over the years. Her willingness to donate herself certainly makes her efforts to ask others much easier. Even when she doesn't get an answer right away, she will keep on asking until she secures a contribution.



Debbie Bondi-Ellison, Laurie Simpson-Development Coordinator and Caryn Hughes-Development Director

Debbie has been volunteering on Hospice of CNY fundraising event committees for seven years. She attends meetings and volunteers at the events in addition to soliciting donations. It doesn't matter what job she is assigned to at an event, she is ready to do it with a smile. She comes prepared and with a complete understanding of what she needs to do.

Debbie is a very special and dedicated volunteer. She is passionate about Hospice of CNY. Her help with our fundraising events is invaluable. We are fortunate to have so many volunteers, like Debbie. They take on many roles, and they are priceless.

## *In Recognition*

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 August 8, 2017 and December 31, 2017:

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(Continued on next page)

### *Celebrating Life Through Chocolate*



Todd Hobin

Hospice of Central New York will be hosting the 11th Annual Celebrating Life Through Chocolate fundraising event on Thursday, May 17th, at Bella Domani in North Syracuse. You won't want to miss this sweet party! Come and enjoy sweet treats donated by local chocolatiers and bakeries, wine tasting, a bountiful silent auction and live music by Todd Hobin. The best part... all the proceeds from this event will benefit the patients and families we serve right here in Central New York. To learn more about the event, sponsorship opportunities, purchasing tickets or donating sweet treats or silent auction items, call the Development Office at 315-634-1100 or visit [hospicecny.org/2018-hospice-events](http://hospicecny.org/2018-hospice-events). Sponsored by:



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## *We Have the Best Friends!*

*" We have all known the long loneliness and have learned that the only solution is love and that love comes with community."*

*Dorothy Day*

Every holiday season our patients get a very special gift of a boxwood tree. Two local garden clubs have been doing this act of kindness for Hospice for more than a decade. We are truly grateful for this community support. These plants are beautifully decorated and brighten up a patient's room and bring a smile to their face when a Hospice team member presents them with the gift.



Our special thanks to Barbara

Gouldthorpe of Fayetteville who heads up this effort every year and the talented people who put together these treasures from the Fayetteville Garden Club and the Onondaga Garden Club. We also are grateful to Nino Gagliano who owns the Backyard Garden Florist, on East Genesee Street in Fayetteville for his help in procuring the plants we need to make this effort possible.

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## 20th Anniversary Hospice Golf Open – Save-the-Date



It's never too early to start planning your summer schedule, and this special anniversary of the Hospice Golf Open is one event you won't want to miss! Please join us on Friday, June 15th, at The Links at Erie Village for a great day on the course to support the patients and families we serve. In 1998, the idea of a golf tournament was presented to raise money for Hospice of CNY. That was the beginning of a long-standing tradition that both golfers and volunteers look forward to each year. Little did we know, that it would become one of the biggest fundraisers to help Hospice of CNY meet the needs of our community, raising nearly \$1.1 million over its 20-year history. For more information call the Development Office at 315-634-1100 or visit [hospicecny.org/2018-hospice-events](http://hospicecny.org/2018-hospice-events).

Thank you to our Presenting Sponsors:



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John Wilkie  
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Joyce Emily Yager  
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Robert H. Zinsmeyer  
Henry E. Zoll

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Ms. Kimberly J. Blomgren  
Ms. Joan Bonaparte  
Harry E. Bragg, III  
Ms. Sharon Carr  
Mr. Donald Clark  
Ms. Holly Coolican  
Ms. Georgene Eggert  
Mrs. Jackie Fields  
Ms. Preslie Fields  
Mrs. Marcia Giancola  
Ms. Carol Gosson  
Adam Charles Haahr  
Joel and Casey Hargrave  
Mr. Paul Hayden  
Judith Hollister  
Hospice Staff and Volunteers  
Ms. Sherry Jones  
Mrs. Elizabeth Kortright  
Mr. Thomas Middleton  
Dr. M. Janice Nelson, Ed.D, R.N.  
Mr. and Mrs. Mike Paetow  
Ms. Mara Pallatto  
Ms. Raquel Patterson  
Mrs. Barbara Raun  
Ms. Pamela Roczen  
Mrs. Janice Scott  
Mr. and Mrs. Charles Seager  
Rev. Donna M. Setrella  
Ms. Kateri Simmons





Ms. Laurie Simpson  
 Mrs. Lynn Steenberg  
 Jeff and Lea Taylor  
 The Doctors and Nurses of Hospice  
 Ms. Dorothy Tubbs  
 Vietnam Veterans  
 Mrs. Brenda R. Zook  
 SOS Physical Therapy Staff

### *Learn More About Hospice*

Are you involved in a group or organization that would be interested in learning more about Hospice programs and services? At Hospice of Central New York we are more than happy to help provide answers to your questions. We provide presentations to a variety of groups. We can tailor our talk to your specific needs/interests. Maybe you would like to know more about basic hospice services, adult or children's grief counseling, grief support groups, volunteer opportunities, caregiver support, advance directives, or long-term healthcare planning. If your group might benefit from having a Hospice of CNY presentation on one or all of these topics, please call 315-634-1100.



### *It Was "The Best Party in Town"*



A change in date certainly didn't sway our steadfast and loyal supporters of the Syracuse Auto Dealers Association's Annual Charity Preview. On Wednesday, November 1st, the OnCenter was again the place to be for "The Best Party in Town". The generosity of the benefactors in our community is second to none and helped to raise over \$20,000 to support the patients and families we serve here in Central New York. We are sincerely grateful to our generous donors.

### *Fabulous Fifties, Fabulous People – Fabulous Success!*

Over 150 friends of Hospice joined together to support patients and families and to celebrate our dear friend, Maryann Roefaro, at our 28th annual September Song. The place was sock-hoppin'!



The "Fabulous Fifties" theme was fully embraced by men and women alike donning poodle skirts, bobby socks, "greaser attire" and polka dots. It didn't matter what they wore, people had a fantastic time all the while making a difference in our community. There was also some fierce bidding wars at the silent auction, and some attendees went home with a fabulous once-in-a-lifetime vacation.

With the generous support of our corporate and private donors, over \$110,000 was raised to support local terminally ill patients and their families. Thank you to everyone who participated in this event. It was a wonderful display of generosity by the Central New York Community.



We're excited to share that our 2018 September Song has already been scheduled. Please mark your calendars for Friday, September 14th. We look forward to celebrating with you!





Providing patients and families hope, comfort, support and healing when there is no cure.

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### *Running for Hospice of CNY!*



On November 12th, we had some very dedicated friends run in the Syracuse Half Marathon on Team Hospice of Central New York. Sherry Jones, Mara Pallatto, Tom Middleton, Kim Blomgren, Raquel Patterson and Holly Coolican ran the tough 13.1 miles and raised money for Hospice of CNY during their training. Team Hospice raised a total of \$6,120 to support our programs and services! Everyone here at Hospice of Central New York is very grateful for all of their hard work and dedication to our Agency.

Would you like to run for Hospice of CNY? We are very excited to announce that we have received five bibs for the Mountain Goat Run taking place on May 6th. We are looking for five runners who can commit to the race and to raising money for Hospice of CNY while they train. Your run could benefit the 1,100 patients and families we serve each year. If you are up to the challenge give the Development Department a call at 315- 634-1100.

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Hospice of Central New York cumple con las leyes federales de derechos civiles aplicables y no discrimina por motivos de raza, color, nacionalidad, edad, discapacidad o sexo.

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Hospice of Central New York 遵守適用的聯邦民權法律規定，不因種族、膚色、民族血統、年齡、殘障或性別而歧視任何人。

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