

THE FOCUS

A Short Life, A Lasting Impact: Ella's Story

Ella, who lived locally, suffered an injury at birth that resulted in severe brain damage. Despite her disabilities, Ella's sparkling personality shone through. She loved music, *Tarzan*, and her two younger brothers. Throughout Ella's short life, she made lasting impressions on everyone who knew her with her smiling eyes, messy bun, and love for life. Ella passed away in her home, surrounded by her loving family and hospice team, at only three years old.

Ella faced many challenges, including frequent hospitalizations, difficulties obtaining the equipment she needed to stay safe and comfortable at home, and frequent seizures that impacted her quality of life. Ella's parents fought hard to keep her in the comfort of their home, where they could cuddle with her without extra wires and tubes. Taking care of Ella at home was not easy, but her parents were determined to give her the best life possible, despite all the challenges she faced. Shortly after coming home from the hospital for the first time, Ella became a big sister. She and her younger brother, Travis, were only 10 months apart, and their bond was undeniable.



Ella's parents provided her with the best quality of life possible, even though she often had ten or more seizures per day, required tube feedings, and was wheelchair-bound. Ella was highly susceptible to respiratory infections, usually linked to aspiration during or after a seizure. With each infection, her lungs became more damaged. After multiple lengthy hospital stays, Ella's parents learned that palliative care at home was an option. This would allow pediatric palliative care professionals to provide Ella and her family with specialized support in the comfort of their home. Like many people, Ella's parents initially believed that hospice and palliative care services were only for adults.

With the support of Hospice of Orange & Sullivan Counties, Ella remained at home. The hospice team provided additional services and equipment not covered by insurance, arranged to have medications sent directly to her home, and frequently collaborated with her doctor. All of this helped reduce stress for Ella's parents and allowed them to focus on quality time with her. Hospice's interdisciplinary team continues to help Ella's siblings, parents, and grandparents navigate this challenging time.

Upcoming Events

November 8

Hospice of Orange & Sullivan
Counties President's Address
City Winery Hudson Valley

December 3

Giving Tuesday
National Day of Giving

December 6

Holiday Tree of Life
Tree Lighting Ceremony
Galleria at Crystal Run

Mission Statement

To be the leading community resource for providing patients and their families with compassionate physical, emotional, and spiritual end-of-life care, with comfort, dignity, and respect.

Community Outreach

Hospice of Orange & Sullivan Counties attends meetings and events to inform the community about its services.

Speaking Request

If you would like a Hospice of Orange & Sullivan Counties representative to attend or speak at your next community meeting or event, please contact the Advancement Department at advancement@hospiceoforange.com.

Contact Us

Please contact us if you have any questions.
(845) 561-6111



MESSAGE FROM The President & CEO

Dear Friends and Supporters,

As we near the end of another year, I find myself reflecting on our journey and the impact we've made. Each year, our goal is to deliver compassionate end-of-life care to all those in our community who are eligible for our services, regardless of age. I am continually inspired by the dedication and compassion of our remarkable staff.

This past year, I could not have been prouder when The Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) issued its star rating report and Hospice of Orange & Sullivan Counties was listed as a 5-Star Rated Organization.

This achievement reflects the positive feedback from caregiver satisfaction surveys about the quality of care we provide. I am incredibly proud of our team of doctors, nurses, aides, social workers, spiritual care providers, volunteers, and administrators who have made this recognition possible. This accomplishment highlights our commitment to offering exceptional end-of-life care with comfort, dignity, and respect.

We strive for clinical excellence and aim to be a vital part of our community by educating others about the role of Hospice in end-of-life care. Our staff and volunteers have been actively involved in expanding our outreach efforts, participating in local events, and collaborating with businesses and community leaders to promote Hospice education and awareness.

We are dedicated to raising awareness about Hospice services for those with life-limiting illnesses who have a prognosis of six months or less. Our support and care are available to all, regardless of age—whether at home, in The Kaplan Family Hospice Residence, or other healthcare facilities. Access to Hospice care is a fundamental right, and we remain committed to ensuring that everyone who needs our services receives them.

Thank you for your continued support and for being part of our mission.

With respect and gratitude,



Sandra Cassese, RN, MSN, CNS
President & CEO

*"This was the third time I have been involved with this Hospice organization, and it did not disappoint. The staff's care and service have always been excellent."
– Hospice Caregiver*

HONORING SANDRA ANDERSON

A Legacy of Service and Support

Hospice relies on volunteers from the community to ensure that every patient receives the care and comfort they need. While the importance of volunteers who interact with patients cannot be overstated, those who work administratively behind the scenes are equally critical to the organization's success, though they are often less visible and less recognized.

Sandra Anderson was a behind-the-scenes volunteer who, upon her death, chose to continue supporting Hospice of Orange & Sullivan Counties by naming it the recipient of several estate gifts. In the 1990s, Sandra's husband passed away while under the care of Hospice of Orange & Sullivan Counties. This experience inspired her to give back to the organization that had provided comfort and care to both her husband and her.

For many years, Sandra volunteered in an administrative capacity, assisting around the office by cataloging items and performing general office tasks. Her capacity to give was immeasurable. A decade after her husband's passing, Sandra named Hospice of Orange & Sullivan Counties as the recipient of dividends from her investments. She also designated Hospice as the beneficiary of her life insurance policy and left a substantial estate gift to the organization.

Sandra enjoyed attending Hospice's Gala each year, reserving a table for her and her friends. At the 2024 Gala, Hospice of Orange & Sullivan Counties announced the creation of the Sandra Anderson Volunteer-of-the-Year Award. While the Thomas P. Sullivan Volunteer-of-the-Year Award recognizes volunteers who excel in direct patient care, the Sandra Anderson Award honors those who support the organization in other ways, as Sandra did. Her dear friend, Elizabeth Capella, attended this year's Gala to announce the award, which will annually recognize a volunteer who exemplifies Sandra's spirit through outstanding administrative support. A plaque commemorating her dedication will be displayed at The Kaplan Family Hospice Residence.



Sandra Anderson



Sandra Anderson, Elizabeth Capella



Elizabeth Capella at 2024 Gala
Announcing the Sandra Anderson
Volunteer-of-the-Year-Award

*"Volunteers are the only human beings on the face of the earth who reflect this nation's compassion, unselfish caring, patience, and just plain loving one another."
- Erma Bombeck*

To become a Hospice Volunteer call (845) 561-6111 ask for Volunteer Services Department, email volunteerdept@hospiceoforange.com or scan the QR code below.



A LIFELINE FOR FAMILIES

Increasing Access to Pediatric Palliative Care

Ella's story revitalized Hospice of Orange & Sullivan Counties' focus on the need for increased awareness of pediatric palliative care within its communities. There are no children's hospitals in Orange or Sullivan County, which limits the palliative care available to children in these two counties. As a result, families often travel long distances for treatment as their child's illness progresses.

While adult patients must forego curative measures to receive hospice care, children under 21 may continue to pursue curative treatments while receiving hospice care; this is known as concurrent care. Concurrent care allows for both comfort measures and the hope of a cure, positively impacting the quality of life for both the child and their family. Hospice care enables these children to receive additional supportive comfort care at home, focusing on symptom management while still undergoing active treatment for their terminal illness. Hospice's interdisciplinary team helps children remain in the comfort of their homes, alleviates stress on their families, and can prevent hospital stays by providing treatment in the home setting when appropriate.



Ella's situation highlighted the need for community education and awareness of concurrent care. Her parents were not aware that she qualified for concurrent care upon her discharge from the hospital after birth. Had Hospice of Orange & Sullivan Counties' interdisciplinary team been involved sooner, Ella could have spent more time at home, with her comfort as the priority. The lack of palliative care earlier in Ella's journey was largely due to a lack of awareness about what concurrent care is and how to access it. Hospice now actively networks with pediatricians and children's hospitals throughout the area to ensure that providers are aware of the additional pediatric palliative support it can offer.

Hospice provides education and awareness to healthcare providers and other community resources to advocate for concurrent care, enabling the co-management of the child and their family through the challenges of a life-limiting illness within their home setting. Hospice's support for these children often reduces hospitalizations by effectively managing the symptoms of their terminal disease at home.

Ella's legacy lives on, helping children like her stay comfortable at home and giving families the opportunity to focus on precious time together. This is Ella's everlasting gift to our community.

"Our care by hospice was welcomed and needed. I would recommend our hospice team members to everyone. Their care, knowledge, and empathy were evident."

- Hospice Caregiver

BRINGING COMFORT HOME

Hospice's Efforts to Expand Pediatric Palliative Care



Lacy Rugaber-Williams BSN, RN, CHPN, CHPPN, CCM Community Clinical Manager

Lacy Rugaber-Williams is a registered nurse with a decade of experience in community-based nursing care. She is motivated by the philosophy of hospice care and is dedicated to advocating for a peaceful death. Lacy is married, a mother to twin boys, and a retired Army veteran. Although she has lived all over the United States, she is proud to call the Hudson Valley her home.

Inspired by Ella and her family, Lacy has pioneered a community education and awareness program for pediatric palliative care. Internationally, nationally, and within New York State, pediatric palliative care is under-resourced and underutilized, yet the need for comfort care at home is ever-growing. This realization, and the desire to help more children like Ella, motivated Lacy to obtain her Certified Hospice and Palliative Pediatric Nurse (CHPPN) certification, a specialized credential held by only 220 registered nurses in the United States. Through this specialized training and her involvement with the Hospice and Palliative Nurses Association, Lacy is working to increase awareness and utilization of pediatric palliative care within the greater Hudson Valley and Catskill regions. Her goal is to improve the quality of life for terminally ill children and their families through direct care, education, and advocacy, helping families spend more quality time with their children and ensuring that children remain comfortable in their homes.

"I am thankful to our Hospice team and my friends at the weekly bereavement sessions. My family would be lost without Hospice."

– Hospice Caregiver

Thriving Families Grief Support Group

This specialized support group promotes healing by providing an opportunity for children and youth to express their thoughts, verbalize their feelings, and share their experiences of grief.

The Thriving Families Grief Support Group consists of two sessions: a main children's session and a separate adult session.

During the children's session, participants engage in themed, structured activities on specific topics.

Parents and caregivers are invited to participate in the adult session. This group offers opportunities to discuss the previous week's children's session and any concerns regarding the children. It also provides an outlet for adults to process their own grief.



**Next session starts
November 11, 2024**

Scan to learn more.

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

Community awareness is a priority for Hospice of Orange & Sullivan Counties. Our goal is to partner with local organizations and individuals to spread awareness about our services. Thank you to those listed here, and countless others, for recognizing the importance of our work.



HPCANYS Advocacy Week

Sandra Cassese attended the Hospice & Palliative Care Association of New York State's (HPCANYS) Advocacy Week in Albany from February 12–16, 2024. She met with lawmakers, including Assemblyman Eachus (Assembly District 99), on behalf of New York State hospices. She and other stakeholders made budget recommendations to support vital hospice services, save the state Medicaid dollars, and help ensure quality end-of-life care for all, regardless of payor or provider.

Valentine's Day Cards

This past February, the office of James Skoufis (NY-42) collected handmade Valentine's Day cards to be distributed to seniors in the community. Hospice of Orange & Sullivan Counties' social workers assisted in this initiative by delivering cards to seniors on our program.



Warwick Valley VFW Post 4662 Day of Service

This nationwide VFW-sponsored event, held each year in May, provides veterans with information on services available to them. The event is well attended by local veterans and dignitaries. Hospice of Orange & Sullivan Counties' Volunteer Services Coordinator and Chaplain, Joe Sudano, attended this year's event.

Orange County Office for the Aging Senior Health and Fitness Day

Hospice volunteers spent the day on March 29, 2024, at Thomas Bull Memorial Park in Montgomery. Attendees at community events often stop by just to say "thank you" for a positive experience they had for a loved one.



Alzheimer's Association

Hospice of Orange & Sullivan Counties volunteers spent the day on June 8, 2024, at Bernstein Theatre, Tri-Valley Central School, providing attendees with information about our hospice services.

WTBQ Nonprofit Notebook

Sandra takes to the airwaves once a month on Tuesdays at 11:30 a.m. to talk about our hospice services. On June 25, she was joined by Gary O'Connor, Director of Spiritual Care, to discuss the work our Spiritual Care Providers offer to patients and their loved ones.



"My wife was in hospice care for a little over a week. Hospice allowed her to die in the comfort and surroundings of her own home. I am very grateful for that—we both are." – Hospice Caregiver

VETERAN INITIATIVES

Hospice of Orange & Sullivan Counties is a Level 5 Community Partner of We Honor Veterans, a program of the National Hospice and Palliative Care Organization in collaboration with the Department of Veterans Affairs.



Veteran Herbert Howell



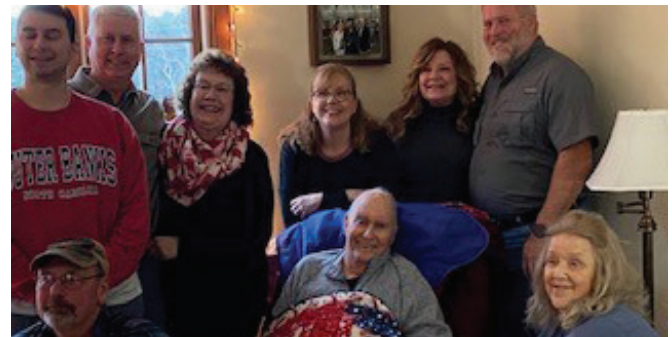
Veteran Robert Garrison

Veteran Recognitions

As part of its goal to care for and honor veterans, Hospice of Orange & Sullivan Counties offers veterans the opportunity through its Veterans Program to be honored and thanked for their service. Each recognition is tailored to the patient's and family's preferences and may include a pin, a certificate of service, a patriotic blanket (handmade by a local crafter), a thank-you card (made by a child from one of our local communities), and an Honor Salute.



Veteran Levon Weaver



Veteran Robert Drollinger



Veteran Richard Hirsch



Veteran Joseph "Buddy" Charrette



Veteran Samuel Kurpil

"Every single person on our team was amazing. I am forever grateful for their support and smiles. I felt like they truly loved my dad and my mom too. The fact that they continue to help my mom during this transition has been invaluable." – Hospice Caregiver

Veteran Initiatives *(continued)*



Guest Speaker Major Brian Ibbs with Nam Knights of America Motorcycle Club, Orange County Chapter Members



Veterans Celebration Breakfast

On June 12, 2024, Hospice of Orange & Sullivan Counties hosted a Veterans Celebration Breakfast to honor and thank veterans for their service. Over 200 guests, mostly veterans, attended the event at Otterkill Country Club. The 105th Airlift Wing, Stewart Air National Guard Base, Honor Guard presented the colors. Kim Warner, Director of Social Work and Bereavement and Hospice of Orange & Sullivan Counties Veterans Committee Chair, presented the Paul V. Rader Vet-to-Vet Volunteer Award to Ginny Urban, Hospice of Orange & Sullivan Counties Veterans Committee Volunteer. The guest speaker was Major Brian A. Ibbs. He is the Commander of the 105th Base Defense Squadron at Stewart Air National Guard Base in Newburgh, New York. He is responsible for the security, law enforcement, and protection of 1,300 Airmen and installation assets valued at \$1.6 billion and is the Wing Anti-Terrorism Officer.



HOSC Board Chair Charlie Milich, Sandra Cassese, Paul V. Rader Vet-to-Vet Volunteer Award Recipient Ginny Urban



Harry Grout, HOSC Chief Advancement Officer Monica Bourgie

"The team Hospice sent to care for my husband, were angels. They couldn't have been more caring, knowledgeable, and professional. They made my whole family feel like family." – Hospice Caregiver



Nam Knights of America Motorcycle Club, Orange County Chapter Members

Welcome Home Vietnam Veterans Day

On March 29, 2024, Hospice of Orange & Sullivan Counties Veterans Committee hosted its 4th annual Thank You and Memorial Ceremony in observance of National Welcome Home Vietnam Veterans Day at The Cornwall Yacht Club. This day is an opportunity to recognize and give thanks for all who served during the Vietnam War, including those who were wounded, gave their lives, or went missing. National Welcome Home Vietnam Veterans Day is the hero's welcome they never received. It underscores the need to heal painful wounds and allows us the occasion to pause and give respect, admiration, and thanks to the patriotic men and women who sacrificed so much in service to their nation.



(left) Mayor of the Village of Cornwall-on-Hudson James Gagliano, Sandra Cassese, Assemblyman Chris Eachus; (right) Vincent Serrano, HOSC Vet-to-Vet Volunteer Dave Wilcox



Vietnam Era Veterans Beads

In partnership with the 105th Airlift Wing Alumni Association, Hospice of Orange & Sullivan Counties brought together Vietnam-era veterans at Stewart Air National Guard Base to make Vietnam-themed beaded keychains while enjoying the comradery of fellow Vietnam-era veterans. These keychains are distributed throughout the community at Hospice events and collected by Vietnam-era veterans.



Scan to learn more about Veteran care.

"The care my husband received from his hospice team was amazing. From the nurses to the social worker, everyone was wonderful to me." – Hospice Caregiver



Vet-to-Vet Volunteers

We are actively seeking Veteran Volunteers to join our Veteran Volunteer Program. This special program pairs Veteran patients with fellow Veterans who can offer unique comradery, share in meaningful conversations, and participate in Veteran recognition ceremonies.



To become a Hospice Volunteer please call (845) 561-6111 x214 or email volunteerdept@hospiceoforange.com

BECOME A HOSPICE VOLUNTEER

Offering Compassion and Companionship

Being a Hospice Volunteer is an incredibly important and rewarding role that holds a special place in the hearts of those who serve. Hospice volunteers provide invaluable support to individuals and their loved ones during one of life's most difficult journeys.

The significance of their contributions cannot be overstated. They offer companionship, emotional support, and a comforting presence to patients facing life-limiting illnesses. Their empathetic listening and willingness to be present in someone's final moments provide immense comfort and solace. In addition to emotional support, volunteers often assist with practical tasks such as running errands, helping with household chores, or providing respite care for family members, easing some of the burdens of caregiving.

The fulfillment that comes from being a Hospice Volunteer is immeasurable. Knowing you've made a positive impact on someone's life during their most vulnerable time is deeply rewarding. It offers the chance to form meaningful connections, gain profound life insights, and develop a greater appreciation for the fragility and beauty of life. It's an opportunity to extend compassion and dignity to those who need it most, leaving behind a legacy of kindness and support. Being a Hospice Volunteer is a testament to the power of human connection and the difference one person can make in another's life.

Volunteers also help by working tables at community events to answer questions about our services.



Town of Newburgh Senior Wellness Fair

*"The best team of professionals I've ever met. There was always a sense of peace when they were with us. During our most challenging times, the team treated my mom with dignity and respect."
- Hospice Caregiver*



Thriving Families Grief Support Group

This specialized support group promotes healing by providing an opportunity for children and youth to express their thoughts, verbalize their feelings, and share their experience of grief. The program includes art, music, books, discussions, and videos.

To fully serve the family, the Thriving Families Grief Support Group consists of two sessions: the main children's session and a separate adult session, in which guardians meet to discuss their children and learn ways to help them work through their grief. During the children's session, children are provided with themed, structured activities on specific topics. Family involvement is important in supporting children in their grief. Only people who are registered can participate in the groups.

Parents and caretakers are invited to participate in the adult session, currently conducted on select Mondays via Zoom. This group offers opportunities to discuss the previous week's children's session and any concerns regarding the children. It also provides an outlet for adults to process their own grief. Adult group discussions cover a variety of subjects, including the emotional and physical impact that grief and loss have on both children and adults.

The children's session currently runs on select Mondays via Zoom. The groups run for 90 minutes. It's important that an adult is available to assist children with starting and ending each session.



**Scan to learn
more about
Thriving Families.**

“Our spiritual care provider and the entire team of nurses were such professionals. They made our mother's last days memorable for her and all of us. We can't thank you all enough for your kind, compassionate, and guiding words that helped us through the last week of Mom's life. What a gift you gave us all.” – Hospice Caregiver

EXECUTIVE LEADERSHIP

Meet Our Team



Sandra Cassese, RN, MSN, CNS, President and CEO

Sandra became the President and CEO of Hospice of Orange & Sullivan Counties in January 2023, following her roles as President and Chief Operating Officer since 2022 and Executive Vice President and Chief Operating Officer since 2017. With over 20 years of experience in oncology administration, she is a nationally recognized leader in both inpatient and outpatient care. Her leadership is distinguished by operational excellence, strategic planning, and regulatory compliance. Under her guidance, the organization has increased market share, enhanced employee engagement, and improved patient satisfaction. Sandra has led program development and process improvements, overseeing care for nearly 1,300 patients annually. Under her leadership, Hospice of Orange & Sullivan Counties has earned accolades such as the SHP Superior Hospice Caregiver Satisfaction Award, recognition as a Top Ten Hospice in New York State, and most recently, a 5-Star Rating from the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS). It is one of the few hospices in New York State to achieve this distinction and the only one in the Hudson Valley. Sandra's dedication to high-quality care and patient advocacy continues to shape the future of hospice services.

Judy Archer, Chief Human Resources Officer

Judy joined Hospice of Orange & Sullivan Counties in January 2024, bringing over 20 years experience as a solutions-driven Human Resources executive and trusted C-suite advisor. Her career spans Fortune 500 companies and major nonprofits, where she has excelled in leading HR transformations and culture change initiatives. Judy is known for building high-performing teams, improving staff morale, and implementing HR strategies aligned with organizational goals. Her leadership has driven cost savings, enhanced employee retention, and fostered a collaborative, inclusive workplace culture. Judy's transparent, strategic approach to HR ensures that it serves as a key partner in organizational success, making her integral to advancing Hospice's mission.

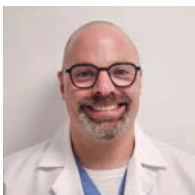


Monica Bourgie, Chief Advancement Officer

Monica joined Hospice of Orange & Sullivan Counties in June 2022, bringing over 30 years of business management experience and 15 years experience as a Chief Advancement Officer. She oversees Development, Marketing, and Volunteer Services, driving donor engagement and operational efficiency. Monica's track record includes securing major gifts, cultivating high net-worth donors, and leading successful fundraising campaigns. Her expertise spans contract negotiation, grant management, policy development, and software implementation. Monica's results-driven approach and deep understanding of fundraising and marketing make her a dynamic leader dedicated to enhancing hospice care and support for families in need.

Emily Robisch, Chief Financial Officer

Emily joined Hospice of Orange & Sullivan Counties in May 2023, bringing over 25 years of financial management experience to the organization and over 15 years experience as a Chief Financial Officer. As Chief Financial Officer, Emily leads the organization's financial operations and IT infrastructure, ensuring efficiency and strategic alignment. Her background includes managing complex budgets, procurement processes, and IT services. Emily's versatile leadership extends to building maintenance and organizational purchasing, contributing to the growth and sustainability of the organization. Her commitment to sound financial practices and technological innovation strengthens the operational foundation of hospice care.



Andrew Stuchiner, BSN, RN, Chief Clinical Officer

Andrew joined Hospice of Orange & Sullivan Counties in August 2024, with over 18 years of clinical expertise in operations, evidence-based practice, and team leadership. Previously, he served as Nursing Operations Manager at a large tertiary medical center, achieving five Magnet status designations. Andrew's experience spans acute care, critical care, and procedural care settings, offering a unique perspective on patient-centered care and clinical excellence. His leadership is characterized by fostering a culture of safety, trust, and collaboration. Andrew's dedication to clinical excellence and team development makes him a key leader in advancing Hospice's mission to provide compassionate, high-quality care.

HOSPICE EVENTS

Together for A Cause



Regina Clark and Sandra Cassese

President's Breakfast

The 4th Annual President's Breakfast returned in-person for the first time in four years, taking place on November 1, 2023, at the Otterkill Country Club. More than 100 community leaders gathered for the event, where Sandra Cassese, RN, MSN, CNS, President and CEO of Hospice of Orange & Sullivan Counties, was interviewed by Regina Clark—motivational speaker, executive coach, and author—on the current state of the organization.



(left) Regina Clark, Michael J. Gilfeather President & CEO Orange Bank & Trust Company; (center) Gary and Gillian Swinger, Bruderhof Communities; (right) Megan Matthews, Director of Development and Elizabeth Rowley, President and CEO, both of Community Foundation of Orange and Sullivan with Sandra Cassese

5th ANNUAL PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS TO THE COMMUNITY

COMPLIMENTARY BRUNCH
10 am - 12 pm, November 8, 2024

CITY WINERY
23 Factory St, Montgomery, NY

RSVP BY OCTOBER 30
(845) 561-6111 | advancement@hospiceoforange.com

		
Speaker President & CEO, Sandra Cassese RN, MSN, CNS	Co-Host NYS Assemblyman Brian Maher	Co-Host Bill Fioravanti, CEO Orange County IDA

Staff and Volunteer Appreciation

On November 16, 2023, Hospice of Orange & Sullivan Counties hosted an appreciation event for its employees and volunteers at the Otterkill Country Club. The evening celebrated the dedication and contributions of those who make the organization's mission possible.

In addition to expressing gratitude, the event recognized individuals who reached significant service milestones with HOSC in 2023, as well as those who earned additional certifications throughout the year.

The prestigious Maureen Terwilliger Compassion Award, honoring individuals who embody selfless compassion in action, was presented to Linda Baker, RN; Christine Baraschi, LMSW; and Mary Clabough, LPN. The Thomas P. Sullivan Volunteer-of-the-Year Award was given to Pilar Treus for her outstanding service.



Sameer Alam, Emily Robisch, Sandra Cassese, Gerald DiDomizio



Sister Ann Daly, Benjamin Zirra, Denise Mason



Holiday Tree of Life

The 2023 Holiday Tree of Life lighting ceremony took place on December 1, 2023, at the Galleria at Crystal Run. This cherished annual event allows community members to make contributions in honor or memory of loved ones, with all proceeds supporting individuals receiving end-of-life care or bereavement services through Hospice in Orange and Sullivan Counties. The evening's festivities were beautifully complemented by holiday music, graciously performed by the Middletown Concert Chorale.

Middletown Concert Chorale, Galleria at Crystal Run



Save the Date!

2024 Holiday Tree Lighting Ceremony
December 6, 2024
7:00pm
Galleria at Crystal Run
Performance by Middletown Concert Chorale

Hospice Events *(continued)*

Golf

The 17th Annual Golf Classic took place on August 5th at West Hills Country Club in Middletown. This yearly event raises essential funds to support the patients and their loved ones served by Hospice of Orange & Sullivan Counties. Thanks to the generosity and ongoing support of local businesses and the community, this year's outing raised over \$105,000.



(left) Ron Barton Former HOSC Board Member, Sandra Cassese, Glen Heller HOSC Board Member and Golf Chair, Tom Sullivan HOSC Board Member and Golf Committee Member; (center) MidHudson Valley Federal Credit Union; (right) Mary Bonura and Friends



(left) John Herbert Company; (center) Healey Brothers; (right) Christina Perez, Jason and Chrissy Fisch

Upcoming Events

Thursday, October 24, 2024
9th Annual Witch Hat Party
5:30 pm to 9:30 pm
The Powelton Club
Newburgh



October 26, 2024
Rob DeGroot 3rd Annual Halloween Costume Party to benefit Hospice
7:00 pm
Nu Cavu, Wallkill





Gala Honoree and Award Recipient Michael J. Gilfeather and Orange Bank & Trust Company Representatives with Sandra Cassese HOSC President and CEO



Gala Honoree and Award Recipient Dr. Susan Jensen and Horizon Medical Group Representatives with Sandra Cassese HOSC President and CEO



Gala Committee

Gala

The Annual Gala took place on April 20, 2024, at the West Hills Country Club, honoring Dr. Susan Jensen and Horizon Medical Group, as well as Mr. Michael J. Gilfeather and Orange Bank & Trust Company, for their unwavering commitment to Hospice of Orange & Sullivan Counties and their local communities. Over 200 guests attended this year's celebration.

As the organization's largest fundraiser, the Gala plays a vital role in supporting Hospice's mission. While Hospice care is covered by Medicare, Medicaid, and commercial insurance, these funds do not fully cover the cost of operations. Hospice of Orange & Sullivan Counties relies on donations, grants, and community support to bridge this gap every year.

A special thank you to this year's co-chairs, Michelle Winchester-Vega and Lauren Ostner, along with the entire committee, for ensuring the success of this remarkable event.

October 28, 2024

American Legion Post 1796 Spaghetti Dinner to benefit Hospice

4:00 pm to 8:00 pm
American Legion Post 1796,
New Windsor



November 8, 2024

President's Address

10:00am to 12:00pm
City Winery, Montgomery

December 3, 2024

Giving Tuesday

Online Day of Giving

December 6, 2024

Holiday Tree of Life Tree Lighting Ceremony

7:00pm
Galleria at Crystal Run

March 29, 2025

National Welcome Home Vietnam Veterans Day

April 26, 2025

Hospice Annual Gala
West Hills Country Club

May 2025

Hudson Valley Gives
Online Day of Giving

June 2025

Veterans Celebration Breakfast

August 2025

18th Annual Golf Classic

For more information, contact Advancement Department at (845) 561-6111.

Hospice of Orange & Sullivan Counties Benefactors

Totals reflect cumulative donations since incorporated in 1988. We regret any omissions; they are unintentional.

President's Guild (\$1,000,000+)

Estate of George and Harriet Cornell
Kaplan Family Charitable Foundation

Visionary's Guild (\$250,000-\$999,999)

Dyson Foundation
Estate of Barbara O. Carlsen
Estate of Dudley F. Corsa
Estate of Leonard Pashkow
Estate of Robert E. Mulno Living Trust
Estate of Sandra Anderson
Orange County Office for the Aging
Mr. and Mrs. Thomas P. Sullivan
The William and Elaine Kaplan Family Private Foundation
United Way of Dutchess-Orange Region
Warwick Savings Foundation

Patron's Guild (\$100,000-\$249,999)

Barton Birks Chevrolet Cadillac
Mr. and Mrs. Ronald K. Barton
Crystal Run Healthcare, LLP
Dr. Robert Dinsmore
Estate of Stephen Hasbrouck
Garnet Health Medical Center
Kiewit Companies Foundation
New York State Department of Health
Orange County Department of Health
Mr. and Mrs. Jack Parker
Smith, Seaman & Quackenbush Funeral Homes, Inc.
Sullivan County Manager's Office
Walden Savings Bank
WEL Foundation
William F. Hogan Funeral Home

Chairman's Guild (\$50,000-\$99,999)

Bruderhof Communities
Construction Contractors Association of the Hudson Valley **
Dormitory Authority of the State of New York
Drake Loeb, PLLC
Estate of Audrey V. Schooley
Estate of Elizabeth Parkhurst

Estate of Esther M. Grannum
Estate of Milton Brenner
First Federal Savings of Middletown
Mr. and Mrs. Daniel M. Grady
Mr. Oscar B. Greenleaf
Mr. and Mrs. Glen L. Heller
Ms. Joan P. Kaplan and Mr. Henry Wasmund
M & T Charitable Foundation
Mrs. Diane Markowitz
Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Matta
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Joseph "Joe" Ruud

It is with great sadness that we announce the passing of Joseph "Joe" Ruud. Joe was instrumental in establishing Hospice of Orange & Sullivan Counties' Veteran Recognition Honor Salutes, a program bringing veterans together to honor those in Hospice care. A Naval Medic and chaplain in the Korean War, Joe returned home to provide spiritual care to fellow veterans. Though his circle of friends was small, his impact was profound. In October 2023, Joe joined the Hospice program and helped plan his own recognition. He will be deeply missed, but his legacy continues through our Veterans Program.

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Robert "Bob" Burton

It is with deep sorrow that we announce the passing of Robert "Bob" Burton, US Air Force and NY Air Guard, Retired. A dedicated member of the Hospice Vet-to-Vet committee, Bob was the proud recipient of the 2023 Paul V. Rader Vet-to-Vet Volunteer Award. After his wife received care through Hospice, Bob became a volunteer in 2020, immediately joining the Veterans Program to support his fellow veterans. His unwavering dedication to his country, community, and fellow veterans left a lasting impact on everyone who had the privilege of knowing him. Bob's legacy will forever be remembered and cherished.

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Walter Rubbino

Daniel Rubbino

Jessie Russell

Irene McNamara

Hassan Sadaghiani

Deborah Cunningham
Alan and Kelly Eskew
Mark and Jean Fox
Kathy Galgano
Jesse and Mary Haley
Howard Hirschel
Susan Lazaroff
Michelle Lopriore
Jeremy Madson
Thomas May
Catherine Michalenicz
Parviz Mohassel
Scott and Michele Robertson
George and Joan Rollman
Cathy Sadaghiani
Terri Schoch
Judith Spangenberg
Peter Stellato
Diana Wiener
Kathy Whitley

In Memory Of *(continued)*

Richard H. Sanders

Lorraine Sanders

Elizabeth Sapp

Carol Bezkorowajny

Carl Saturno

Jim and Marianne Devitt
Thomas Hunter
Chuck and Gerda Krogslund
Susan Metzger
Gertrude Roosje
William and Diane Ruggles
Kenneth and Jane Shaw
Deborah Sherman and Paul Carrier
Glenn and Maureen Wassermann

John Sauchuk

Gary and Donna Bright
Lynn and Shari Dowe
Wayne and Alice Elberth
Doug and Jona Hamilton
Susan Hamlin
Christian Holmes
Edward and Debbie O'Malley
Jacqueline Quick
Lillian Stettner

John P. Saunderson

William Jakaitis

Walter Scheffler

Ida Scheffler

Mary Scheutzow

Joyce Teed

Gary Schmick

Toni Pugliese
Kathleen Richner
Kimberly Richner
Mary Timian

Herman Schmid

Maureen Schmid

William Schmid

Paula Ford
Rick and Geri Minkus
Steve and Lidia Pierce
Carol Sondey
Dolores Weslowski

John P. Schoe

Maria Schoe

Charlotte A. Schof

Carol S. Dineen

Carol Schwartz

Krystal Bilbrey
Andrew Brach
Kristin Campione
Anne DeRienzo
Norris and Susan Gaynor

Carol Schwartz (continued)

David Gelardi
Jeffrey and Rachelle Harmer
Carol Hirshfield
Mark, Marie, Scott, and Emily Levine
Steven and Robin Licker
Ken and Gail Oliver
Michael and Ralph Porpora
Morris and Marsha Sobel
Transformations Therapy Center
Walter and Sheila Van Tine

Richard Scopino

Marjorie Oliveri

James Sexton

Caesar Garcia

Lillian Shabus

Marvin Shabus

Daniel Shaw

Theresa Shaw

Sara "Sally" Shea

Steve Lott
Lynn Raimondo

Stephen Shearer

Charles and Virginia Tonnison

Jean Siniscalchi

Paul and Betsy Utnick

Raymond Sircable

Frances Alexander
Helen Feagles
The Orlando Family

Marvin Skolnik

Linda Skolnik

John Smith

Jacqueline Matuszewski

Suzanne Smith

Elaine Heinsman

June Somers

Matt Amodeo
Mike Bastone
Eugene and Kathleen Brasington
Monticello Fire Department
Gail Price
Frank Salino
Gary Schmidt
Jon Wells

Raymond Sommers

Susan Casey
Alice Drew
Willard and Norma Schadt
Shirley Tschudy

Stanley Sondey

Carol Sondey

James H. Sorrell

Mary Sorrell

Sallianne Sosler

Joseph Sosler

George Spicka

Helen Spicka

Ida Stanley

Levi Stanley

Thomas Stehle

Richard and Claire Kamp

Melvyn Steinhardt

Hon. Jeffrey Berry
Sandra Cassese
Stephen and Barbara Naru

Loretta Steppich

Delaware Engineering DPC
Gerry Kracke
Theodore Kutschera
Willow Baum Charitable Gifts Fund

Isabel Strenglein

Alexander Four Rosenbaum

Dan Sturdevant

Guy and Janice Carlson

Jeanne Sturdevant

Guy and Janice Carlson

Marion Sullivan

Hon. Jeffrey Berry
Brooks Funeral Home
Sandra Cassese
Donovan Funeral Home, Inc
Melissa Drake-Messina
Dutchess Putnam Ulster Funeral Directors Association
Thomas Fusco
Jennifer Hinck
Paul Hoffner
Richard and Kathleen Jones
Joseph and Evelyn Landini
SK Maxwell
A. Vincent Mazzie
Millspaugh Funeral Home
Stephen and Barbara Naru
Frank and Kathy Phillips
Paul Pomerantz
Alan and Robin Seidman
Paul and Mary Sullivan
Maggie Sutter
Sweets Funeral Home
Donald and Kathleen Webber



Kevin F. Garvey

It is with deep sadness that we announce the passing of long-time volunteer Kevin Garvey, who served the Hospice community for nearly 20 years, both in people's homes and at The Kaplan Family Hospice Residence when it opened. Kevin once met a young woman who was said to be uncommunicative. He hummed a song, but she remained silent. At their next meeting, she asked about the song—it was one her father used to sing. Kevin sang the words, and she smiled. He often reflected on this moment with honor. Kevin's compassion touched many lives, and he will be greatly missed by all who knew him.

In Memory Of *(continued)*

Lorenz Sutter

The Sutter Family

Gay Suttlehan

Margo Bedetti
Terrence and Mary Bradley
Debra Ann Chartoff
Beth Zimpel

Thomas Swierski

Ralph and Judy Allspach
Joanne Barringer
Tammy, Verna, and Darrell
Budd
George and Marie Cline and
Family
Pam Crawford
Nicholas and Kathy Illobre
Henry and Rosanna
McNamee
Roy and Patricia Meyer
Chris and Melinda Michaels
James and Georgia Riley
Carolyn Swierski -Lyn & Kate,
Chris & Karen, Tom &
Connor
Joseph Swierski
Bruce and Alayna
Waizenegger
Glenn and Maureen
Wassermann

Jill Talasco

Lisa Andrews
John Dipofi
Marianne Fisher
Mary Ann Hogan
Laura Nova
Debra Puchalski
Sandra Sagliano
Carol Scheer

Jeanne Theis

Anonymous

Sean Thompson

Marlboro Central High School

Dorothy Tiner

Dan and Cheryl Knapp

Kathleen Tobin

Brian Tobin

Faith Toner

Joseph and Linda Pawelczak

Rosalie Trentacoste

Peter Hubych

Philip Truncali

Janet Truncali

JoAnn Turk

Duffy Violante

James Uciechowski

Donald Bischoff
Local Union #373 U.A.
Plumbers and Steamfitters
Chauncey Wilbur and Sonja
Lyons

Walter Urtz

Lois Licovitch
Mary Smith
Thomas Urtz

Bill Uszenski

William and Jeanne Uszenski

Audrey Valicenti

Jim and Lisa Murphy

Robert Vancura

Brenda Loeven

The VandenBurg Family

Joseph and Rosemarie
VandenBurg

Charles Van Gelder

Margaret Van Gelder

Mary Van Gelder

Margaret Van Gelder

Julie Vesely

Mr. and Mrs. Felix
Versweyveld

William Voight

Patricia Waldron

Robin Walsh

Legal Aid Society of Orange
County
Ralph and Debra Martucci
Cindy Walsh

James A. Ward

Ellen Ward

Harold Warren

Frances Warren

Dwight H. Warrington, Sr.

Barbara Warrington

Florence Wasserman

Patricia Blau

Julia Weed

Richard and Carolyn
Morgenthaler

Eileen Weil

Andrew Weil

Frederick W. Weissinger

Jill Weissinger and Alex

Joel Welsh

Jeanne Roosa

James Wilcox

Arthur and Jane Groves

Mary Lou Wilder

Garofalo Family
Patricia Ingram
Roger and Mary Lefebvre
Lori Spencer

Thomas Wilson

Penelope Brady
Roger and Janice Deyo

Semen "Sam" Wishka

Helen Duss

My Husband James Wood

Barbara Wood

Virginia Woods

Claudia Straniere

Maureen Worsdale

Joyce Depew

Mary Wright

Carolyn Harvey

Thomas Wutch

Jack and Karen Edler

Wesley Yeoman

Wayne Yeoman

Gary Ziegler

Elizabeth Brasington
Little Horn Hunting Club

Paul Zimmermann

Annette Zimmerman

"I can only say Thank You. The staff who attended my husband were spectacular professionals. They tended him for almost two years and every encounter felt blessed." – Hospice Caregiver

WAYS TO SUPPORT HOSPICE

Proceeds Benefit Patients Receiving End-Of-Life Care

Giving Tuesday: December 3, 2024

Giving Tuesday is more than just a day—it's a global movement of kindness and generosity. It's a day dedicated to doing good and making a positive impact. You have the chance to be part of something bigger than yourself. Whether through donating, volunteering, or simply spreading kindness, your actions can help create real change. Join us in this movement and make a difference on Giving Tuesday!



The Kaplan Family Hospice Residence Tree of Life

The Kaplan Family Hospice Residence Tree of Life offers a meaningful way to honor the memory of a loved one. By dedicating a gold (\$2,500), silver (\$1,000), or bronze (\$500) leaf, you create a lasting tribute that symbolizes the enduring love and connection you share. Each leaf is beautifully engraved with your loved one's name and placed on the Tree of Life, located in the heart of The Kaplan Family Hospice Residence.

Tribute Gifts

Whether celebrating a loved one's life, commemorating a birthday or special occasion, or simply offering a heartfelt "thank you," your gift becomes a lasting symbol of love and gratitude. A personalized letter will be sent to the honoree, their family, or a chosen recipient, letting them know that a meaningful gift was made in their honor or memory. Through these thoughtful gestures, you can create a lasting impact while celebrating the people and moments that matter most.



Planned Gifts

By making a Planned Gift to Hospice of Orange & Sullivan Counties, you can leave a lasting legacy of compassion and care. Through options like charitable gift annuities, pooled income funds, charitable remainder trusts, bequests, endowments, or beneficiary designations, you can make a meaningful contribution that may not have been possible during your lifetime.

For more information, or to make a donation, contact the Advancement Department at (845) 561-6111 or email advancement@hospiceoforange.com

"My husband was only in hospice for a very short time, but their help and support were invaluable. I will always be grateful to them." – Hospice Caregiver

BEREAVEMENT CORNER

Adult Bereavement Support Groups



"Grief is not a disorder, a disease or a sign of weakness. It is an emotional, physical and spiritual necessity, the price you pay for love. The only cure to grief is to grieve."

– Earl Grollman



Scan to learn more about Bereavement Services.

Adult Bereavement Support Groups at Hospice of Orange & Sullivan Counties provide a compassionate and safe place for those navigating the journey of grief. Led by experienced Hospice clinical social workers, these groups bring together individuals who are experiencing loss, offering a supportive environment to share, heal, and grow. Participants learn about the grief process, how it impacts them, and practical strategies for coping, while also finding comfort in knowing they are not alone. Bereavement care is available to all community members at no cost. A Bereavement Counselor will work with each individual to determine the group that best suits their needs. **To register please contact a Bereavement Counselor at (845) 561-6111 x232 or email bereavementcare@hospiceoforange.com**

New In Person Support Group Rebuilding from Loss

Rebuilding from Loss

This specialized support group promotes healing for those adjusting to loss in the last two years. Fridays 12:30 – 2:30pm, Newburgh Office, 800 Stony Brook Court

Coping Through the Holidays

For those struggling with grief during the holiday season. Thursdays 1:30-3:00pm, Middletown Office, 90 Crystal Run Road, Suite 410 November 7 through February 13 (no group 11/28, 12/26, 1/2)

To register please call (845) 561-6111 x232

Navigating Changes in Sleep While Grieving

After losing a loved one, many experience changes in sleep patterns. Some may oversleep, while others struggle to fall asleep or wake frequently. Grief affects both our emotions and physical well-being, disrupting daily routines and altering family dynamics. New roles and responsibilities can add further stress.

Anxiety, nightmares, and intrusive memories can also interfere with sleep, often starting soon after the loss and lasting for months. For some, grief leads to exhaustion and longer sleep as a coping mechanism, while those grieving a partner may find it especially hard to sleep alone.

Quality sleep is vital for health and well-being. Here are some tips to improve sleep quality:

- Exercise during the day to prepare the body for rest.
- Avoid screens 45 minutes before bed.
- Establish relaxing bedtime rituals, like meditation, tea, or calming music.
- Journal about thoughts and worries before sleeping to clear the mind.
- Go to bed and wake up at the same time each day to create a routine.
- Use meditation to calm anxious thoughts.
- If you can't sleep after 20 minutes, try a relaxing activity like reading.
- Some find comfort in sleeping on their loved one's side of the bed or with a pet.
- Remember, naps can be restorative.

Chronic sleep problems can impact daily life. Research indicates that intense grief can lead to increased cortisol levels, contributing to sleep disturbances. If sleep issues persist, it's important to consult your doctor.



You Don't Just Lose Someone Once

You lose them over and over,
Sometimes in the same day.
When the loss momentarily
forgotten,
Creeps up and attacks you from
behind.
Fresh waves of grief as the
realization hits home,
They are gone.
Again.

You don't just lose someone
once,
You lose them every time you
open your eyes to a new dawn,
And as you awaken,
so does your memory,
so does the jolting bolt of
lightning that rips into your heart,
they are gone.
Again.

Losing someone is a journey,
not a one-off.
There is no end to the loss,
there is only a learned skill on
how to stay afloat,
when it washes over.
Be kind to those who are sailing
this stormy sea,
they have a journey ahead of
them,
and a daily shock to the system
each time they realize,
they are gone,
Again.

You don't just lose someone
once,
you lose them every day,
for a lifetime.

Written by Donna Ashworth



800 Stony Brook Court
Newburgh, NY 12550

hospiceoforange.com

Board of Directors 2024-2025

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We understand.



Sometimes you just need a break. As a caregiver, it's easy to lose your sense of self. Spending time with friends, laughing, sharing, or even just sitting together can make all the difference. **We'll care for your loved one while you care for yourself.**