An Evening Under the Stars commemorates 25 years of care

This summer, Niagara Hospice will celebrate 25 years of providing compassionate comfort care to Niagara County residents as well as providing supports for family caregivers. To celebrate this momentous occasion and to further increase awareness of hospice services in Niagara County, Niagara Hospice will host a 25th Anniversary Gala Under the Stars on Friday, August 16 beneath the newly constructed Dominic Lariccia Family Pavilion on Hospice’s Sunset Drive Campus. The Gala will feature antique car rides, local wines from the Niagara Wine Trail and local and regional craft beers provided by WNY Beer Club, a star-gazing location with telescopes, live and silent auction items, music by The Jim Beishline Quartet featuring former Ray Charles backup singer Janice Mitchell (a Raelette), awards, a very special book: 25 Years of Shared Journeys and more.

25 Years of Shared Journeys is a pictorial scrapbook illustrating Niagara Hospice’s history through the years. Volunteers Pat Evans, Janice Litz and Mary Ligammari have poured over boxes and files from the last 25 years to assemble this very special book that will be available to Niagara Hospice friends and supporters for a small donation. Funds raised will benefit Niagara Hospice patients and families. Putting all of the volunteer’s finds and ideas into a beautiful scrapbook layout has been no easy task, but with the talent and ex-

Dominic Lariccia Family Pavilion breaks ground

Most Niagara Hospice staff and volunteers know of the young bride at Niagara Hospice House who wanted to marry the love of her life; or the resident with out-of-town family who wanted to host a family reunion; and certainly the grieving families who wish to remember their loved ones at a special service.

The incredible Hospice staff and volunteers helped make these special moments happen, but the available space at Niagara Hospice House is not well suited for large gatherings. To continue to give patients and their families quality moments like these, outdoor spaces are needed that can accommodate large groups.

Answering the call is the family of Dominic Lariccia. Dominic is the father of Niagara Hospice supporter Karen Nanula. Following his passing in February last year, Karen and her husband Paul Nanula approached Niagara Hospice about giving back as thanks for the quality care Dominic and his family received while under hospice care. Hearing the need for additional outdoor gathering space, the family decided to help build a pavilion as a perfect way to help Niagara Hospice patients...
pertise of another hospice volunteer, April Biamonte, the job is getting done with publication expected this June. Visit NiagaraHospice.org to pre-order your book as a limited supply will be ordered. Many of our dedicated volunteers, staff and hospice family members and founders are remembered throughout the professionally printed book.

The Niagara Hospice 25th Anniversary Gala Under the Stars will be catered by the Tuscarora Inn, in concert with their sister company DeFlippo’s Restaurant, with passed appetizers, carving stations, pasta stations, and more. Tickets will go on sale in June and will be available at Niagara Hospice and on-line at www.NiagaraHospice.org.

The Lockport Trolley will provide shuttle transportation to the Hospice campus from Delphi Harrison to ensure ample parking for the event. Visit the Events page at NiagaraHospice.org for ticket information. If you would like to support the event with a donation of your time driving your antique car, providing a telescope or auction items, please contact the Niagara Hospice Alliance at (716) 280-0780.

and families enjoy the outdoors and each other. “Dad was a great family man and really enjoyed having his family around him,” said Karen Nanula. “He would appreciate knowing we are able to help bring other families together through the Pavilion project.”

Additionally, the pavilion will provide a wonderful location to host annual outdoor memorial events and staff gatherings, so the tremendous benefit to Niagara Hospice was just what the Nanulas had hoped for. Named the Dominic Lariccia Family Pavilion, a grand opening will be scheduled upon completion with the date expected to be this summer.

In addition to the Nanula family’s generosity, other community support has resulted in key parts of the construction being donated, including the roof by Aerial Roofing and Exterior (CJ Martin) and all of the stone base for the pavilion and sidewalks by Shelby Stone (Tom and April Biamonte). There are many more supporters that have made generous contributions to help fund the purchase of materials and the construction.

Major events already planned for the Dominic Lariccia Family Pavilion include the Memorial Butterfly Release on July 20 and the Niagara Hospice 25th Anniversary Gala Under the Stars on August 16. For more information about these events, visit the website at NiagaraHospice.org/calendar or call the Niagara Hospice Alliance at (716) 280-0780.

If you are interested in helping with the final push for the pavilion with a contribution or if you have questions, visit the website at www.niagarahospice.org/pavilion or call Hospice Director of Development Brendan McIntyre at (716) 280-0702.
David’s Path provides dedicated hospice unit in Niagara Falls

Niagara Hospice and Schoellkopf Health Center recently announced a new partnership that will lead to the opening of a dedicated hospice unit on the Niagara Falls Memorial Medical Center campus. The new unit, to be located on the second floor of the Schoellkopf Health Center, will be named for David Winker, a beloved Memorial Medical Center employee who spent his final days surrounded by family members while being cared for at Niagara Hospice House.

David had worked at Memorial since 1966 when he was hired as a dietary kitchen helper. He was promoted to senior attendant in 1970 and assigned as a dietary stores clerk in 1983. David Winker was well known by his colleagues at Niagara Falls Memorial Medical Center as a man who, except in the wintertime, rode his bicycle to work every day for nearly 47 years from his Town of Niagara residence. The unit will be named David’s Path, providing a fitting tribute to him and his love of riding.

“David was one of those guys who everybody seemed to know and we all felt a very real sense of loss when we learned of his passing. Naming our new hospice unit for him is our way of saying how much he meant to us,” Memorial President & CEO Joseph A. Ruffolo said.

The new hospice unit is scheduled to open this fall. Some $200,000 will be spent to renovate, redecorate and equip 14 private rooms that will have new flooring, new beds and new furniture. Residents there will receive specialized services from physicians, pharmacists, nurses, medical social workers and spiritual care providers as well as massage therapists, allied therapists, support staff, volunteers and bereavement counselors.

Niagara Hospice President & CEO, John Lomeo said: “Niagara Hospice has enjoyed a long term relationship with Schoellkopf Health Center as a partner in care. When Niagara Hospice was looking to expand its footprint in ways to better serve terminally ill residents residing in nursing facilities, we strategically selected facilities that shared a common mission of caring and commitment to the community, the staff and most importantly the residents that call their facility home. Our shared commitment continues through David’s Path as we bring more care and more comfort to residents and families on their end of life journey.”

“Hospice care brings so many advantages to patients nearing the end of life,” said Ruffolo. “Hospice patients are more comfortable, enjoy a higher quality of life and often a longer life as a result of the specialized services they receive.” Ruffolo noted that hospitals and other organizations typically give naming rights to philanthropists, community activists, elected officials or individuals with high profile names.

“But we believe David Winker meant more to this organization over 47 years, especially to the hundreds of people he worked with. Therefore, he deserves to be remembered in a special and enduring way – as an honored member of our Memorial family,” Ruffolo said.

Congressman Brian Higgins visits Niagara Hospice

Congressman Brian Higgins toured the Niagara Hospice Campus near the end of last year and met with management to discuss hospice initiatives. As the new representative for Niagara County, Congressman Higgins was very interested in learning about hospice services provided to his new constituents.

According to John Lomeo, Niagara Hospice President & CEO, “It was a pleasure to showcase our campus and discuss our services with Congressman Higgins. I think it’s a tremendous testimony to our organization that despite the Congressman’s very busy schedule he found significant time to spend with us.”

After meeting with the management staff, Congressman Higgins met with patients and volunteers at Niagara Hospice House.

“It was evident to all that he really cares,” cited Lomeo. “We are looking forward to developing a working relationship with the Congressman and his advocacy for quality end-of-life care.”
Tracy Reed has Down’s Syndrome and was recently diagnosed with a brain tumor among other maladies. Her legal guardian, Linda O’Connor, is an exceptional caregiver and desired to have Tracy baptized. With the help of Tracy’s Niagara Hospice Spiritual Care Counselor, Tracy was baptized on Friday, May 17 at her home with her caregiver Linda and a few relatives in attendance. Tracy is a dedicated Disney fan and has been to Disney World many times. She loves dolls, music, and her cat named Katy. Tracy, 52, came to live with Linda 42 years ago and is loved by all who meet her. Pictured left to right are Rev. Greg Schultz, Spiritual Care Counselor, Tracy Reed and Linda O’Connor.
Accepting a generous donation from the 12th Annual Jack Beatty Hospice Cruise are (L-R) Niagara Hospice Alliance Director of Development, Brendan McIntyre; Event Coordinator Mandy Raff; members of the Regatta Committee: Gary Tisdale, Melanie Tisdale, Paul Beatty, Sr., Adam Burns, Lori Burns & Paul Beatty, Jr.

Jack Beatty Memorial Hospice Cruise sets record sail

A record 200 participants set sail under sunny skies on July 13th last summer for the 12th Annual Jack Beatty Memorial Hospice Cruise. Local sailors, many of them members of the Youngstown Yacht club, donated 39 boats and their sailing skills to take participants up the Niagara River for a leisurely cruise that included cocktails, hors d’oeuvres and live on-the-water entertainment from local musicians. This marked the largest fleet of yachts since the cruise began in 2001. A record $36,000 was raised for Niagara Hospice.

After the cruise, participants enjoyed a clambake with all the trimmings at the Youngstown Yacht Club while enjoying the music of Soul Committee. The Youngstown Yacht club has been a partner of this event each year along with many area businesses who continue to make this event a huge success by donating food and prizes for the basket auction.

Co-chairs Lori and Adam Burns, Melanie and Gary Tisdale, along with the Beatty family, are grateful for all the local support the event receives from businesses and the community. Adam Burns said, “In addition to the boat owning members, this event could not have been possible without the businesses in Western New York that have helped and donated items year after year. We truly appreciate the support they give.” Proceeds from the cruise provide revenue for Niagara Hospice to use in their work with individuals and families dealing with end-of-life illnesses.

Mighty Niagara Half Marathon and Hospice Dash 5K place spotlight on lower Niagara River region

The Mighty Niagara Half Marathon and Hospice Dash 5K Walk/Run will be held on Saturday, September 21. The half marathon begins with a pre-race concert at Artpark and offers one of the most scenic routes in New York State. Promoted as a destination family event to marathoners throughout New York, Southern Ontario and Northern Pennsylvania, some participants have already registered from as far away as California, Florida and even Australia! The race route includes views of the famous French Castle and lighthouse on Historic Old Fort Niagara’s compound.

The Half Marathon will be held in conjunction with the 5th Annual Hospice Dash 5K which begins at 9 a.m. The Hospice Dash 5K begins on Lake Road in Youngstown and follows the last 3.1 miles of the half marathon route. Runners and walkers will enjoy live bands along the route and finish at the same post race party at Porter on the Lake Park. Unlike most 5K Run/Walks, every runner will receive a custom finisher medal with the option of an In memory of tab for the back of their medal.

New features for 2013 include a complementary beer tent, a Dress Like your Favorite Rock Star contest with prizes, and the brand new Jaguar timing system providing immediate results. The race will continue to offer awards for winners in each age group, cash prizes to overall winners, custom race shirts and The Mighty Niagara Discount Card that is valid at local businesses. The half marathon was added to the Hospice 5k Dash event in 2011 and had an impressive turnout of over 1,000 participants in its first year. Held each year to benefit patients and families served by Niagara Hospice, the events have grown tremendously thanks to the generous support of local businesses and participants. Both events put the spotlight on the Lower Niagara River Region, providing a unique opportunity to highlight local businesses through a sponsorship or inclusion on the Mighty Niagara Discount Card. Sponsors are still being accepted and

2013 Jack Beatty Memorial Hospice Cruise & Clambake
FRIDAY, JULY 12TH
Visit www.niagarahospiceregatta.com for registration and information. Be sure to sign up early to avoid missing the boat!

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Viatran hosts Chiavetta’s Barbeque for Niagara Hospice

Viatran Corporation of Wheatfield raised $8,060 for Niagara Hospice largely through a Chiavetta’s Barbeque. This is the second year that Viatran has hosted a fundraiser to support the programs and services of Niagara Hospice. “Without donations like this we wouldn’t be able to go above and beyond for our patients and families, as our staff often do,” states Special Events Coordinator Mandy Raff. “We are so grateful to Viatran employees for their hard work and continued support.”

Domstock raises $11,000 for Niagara Hospice

All Metal Works in Gasport held their 4th Annual Domstock BBQ and concert fundraiser that raised $11,000 for Niagara Hospice. All Metal Works owner Dominick Ciliberto said: “The event has become very popular among our employees and has grown each year. We decided to make the event an opportunity to give back to our community.” Ciliberto said they chose Niagara Hospice as the beneficiary of this year’s event because his family has experienced first-hand the excellent and compassionate care that Niagara Hospice provides to Niagara County residents in need of end-of-life services. Most recently, Niagara Hospice helped care for Ciliberto’s grandfather, also named Dominick Ciliberto. Several other family members have received hospice care at home and at Niagara Hospice House.

Niagara Hospice Alliance Director of Development, Brendan McIntyre said, “Niagara County is fortunate to have residents like Jennifer, Dominick, his family, employees and friends who want to help make Niagara County a better place to work, live and volunteer. Their support and the support of so many others in the community allow Niagara Hospice to provide outstanding and unmatched services to people when it’s needed most, regardless of their ability to pay or availability of insurance. We are truly grateful for their commitment, hard work and support.”

volunteers are needed to assist with a variety of tasks for the events that expect to break records of previous years. Area businesses and service groups are invited to assemble teams of volunteers to help the cause while also promoting their group to the several thousands of participants expected to be in the area for the day.

To learn how you can support this unique, local event while supporting hospice care in Niagara County, call Maureen Rizzo at the Niagara Hospice Alliance at (716) 280-0728. Visit www.MightyNiagaraHalfMarathon.com or www.HospiceDash.com for details and online race registration.
Power of One eases final journeys

Niagara Hospice is looking to grow the number of volunteer services the organization provides to hospice patients and has launched a volunteer campaign to recruit dedicated and compassionate individuals looking for fulfilling volunteer experiences that truly make a difference – qualities all hospice volunteers are known for. The Power of One campaign illustrates how one hour a week from one volunteer can result in many lives changed, including that of the volunteer. Niagara Hospice volunteer Barbara Reed said, “Hospice volunteers feel privileged to be part of each patient’s journey. When one of my patients learned I was a volunteer, she asked me why I do it. I told her it was because I didn’t want her to be alone. She smiled and was so touched by that, and that made me feel good.”

To help grow the volunteer force, the Niagara Hospice Alliance offers regular trainings in both Lockport and Niagara Falls. Anyone interested in registering for training should call the Niagara Hospice Alliance at 280-0780.

“Many Hospice volunteers say they get more from their volunteer experience than what they give. If you can give even as little as an hour a week, we have rewarding experiences waiting for you,” said Mandy Raff, Event and Volunteer Services Coordinator. Raff said volunteer positions include patient related and non-patient related jobs. Volunteers are especially needed to simply visit with patients and to serve on the volunteer Vigil Team. Visits take place in the patient’s or caregiver’s home, at Niagara Hospice House and Hospice at Jeanne’s House – A Northgate and Niagara Hospice Collaboration, and at other area long term care facilities where hospice patients reside. While visiting patients, volunteers may just talk, read the paper or a book to the patient, play cards or do other activities. They may also perform light housework or home repairs, provide transportation for shopping or medical visits for patients who are able to get out, or just provide a hand to hold while the family caregivers take a much deserved break. Veterans are also needed to visit with hospice patients who are veterans as part of the Niagara Hospice We Honor Veterans program.

Raff also said that there are non-patient related volunteer opportunities available with the agency Speakers Bureau, working with events and other fundraisers, maintaining the Memorial Gardens and helping with mailings and office work. For more information and to complete an application, contact the Niagara Hospice Alliance at 280-0780 or e-mail Raff at MRaff@NiagaraHospice.com.

SAVE THE DATES

2013 Niagara Hospice Car Raffle
Get your ticket for $20 and be in the running to win a 2013 Cadillac ATS or one of 15 cash prizes! 1st prize: 2013 Cadillac ATS or $25,000 in cash; 2nd prize: $1000; 3rd-16th prizes: $500 each. Drawing 6/25/13 1:00pm at Niagara Hospice - need not be present to win.

2013 Niagara County Teachers Softball Tournament
Sunday, June 2 at Fairmont Park

10th Annual Red Jacket Lodge #646 Masons Golf Tournament
Saturday, June 8 at Willowbrook Golf Course

7th Annual Lorrie Janese Memorial Golf Tournament & Chinese Auction
Saturday, June 29 at Hyde Park Golf Course

2013 Jack Beatty Memorial Cruise & Clambake
Friday, July 12 at Youngstown Yacht Club

2013 Memorial Butterfly Release
Saturday, July 20 at 1-3:00pm at the Niagara Hospice Memorial Gardens

Niagara Hospice 25th Anniversary Gala Under the Stars
Friday, August 16 under the Dominic Lariccia Family Pavilion at Hospice House

The Mighty Niagara Half Marathon and Hospice Dash 5K
Saturday, September 21

Visit www.NiagaraHospice.org for event details or call the Niagara Hospice Alliance Events Department at (716) 280-0780.
Lockport residents Thomas and Catherine Rotondo celebrated their 80th wedding anniversary on April 5th of last year. Their Niagara Hospice volunteer, Joanne Hamner, delivered a vase of flowers to commemorate the couple’s joyous occasion. Their story was featured in the local newspaper and on Channel 4 news. When asked the secret to staying together for 80 years, 100-year-old Tom replied: “We do everything together!” Tom and Catherine agreed that family is the secret to a fulfilling lifetime.

Thomas received hospice care at home, where he wanted to be, but did make several visits to Niagara Hospice House. During one stay, he received a very special visit from a film crew producing a documentary on the military school Tom attended, the Kentucky Military Institute. At the time, Tom was the oldest living alum of the school that was established in 1845 and then eventually closed in 1971. During its 126-year history, the Kentucky Military Institute enrolled and educated approximately 12,000 young men and boy cadets.

Tom left his cherished family this past March at the tender age of 101 but left behind many fond memories that were remembered at a celebration of his life. His family wrote: “Thomas was loved by countless people. He was our wise great grandfather, funny grandpa, proud father, dignified uncle, reliable brother, respectable son, and loving husband. Being married to Catherine for nearly 81 years brought out his best qualities that his whole family adored. He was a devoted man who loved the family he and Catherine created together. Our entire family will miss him more than words can say but we are all so thankful for the generous amount of time spent with Thomas that we were blessed with.”