

Serenity Hospice & Home
1658 S. IL Route 2
P.O. Box 462
Oregon, IL 61061

Non-profit Org.
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Serenity Hospice & Home

Fall/Winter 2013

Serenity Hospice & Home

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Mission Statement

Believing in the dignity of life,
Serenity Hospice & Home
offers care to the terminally
ill and their families.

This encompasses physical,
spiritual and emotional needs
of the family unit with
emphasis on the desires of
the patient and family.

Serenity Hospice & Home
believes that living
continues until the moment
of death and our focus
is on promoting optimal
living through this
final journey of life.

Dear Friends,

How would you handle hearing that your dear friend has decided to give up fighting for a few more months of life and instead made the decision to spend his or her final days ministering to others?

For those who knew Luther Frazier, it was no surprise. Suffering from end-stage renal disease and facing years of kidney dialysis, Luther knew God had plans for his final days. Making the decision to forego further treatments, at age 62, he was ready to die.

Having been a hospice volunteer for many years, Luther knew about hospice services. He learned about the Serenity Home from an internet search and decided to come for a tour. Shortly after walking through the doors, Luther tearfully stated he felt completely at peace and knew the Serenity Home was where he wanted to spend his final days. Having no remaining family, Luther spent the next month giving away most of his possessions to those in need. He brought with him only the comforts he would need for the remainder of his life: a computer, videos, CDs, and a few items of clothing.

It soon became clear to the staff of Serenity Hospice and Home that Luther was indeed an ambassador of God. Within the first week, it became necessary to set up a separate bed in his room for the many friends that visited and stayed with him to share in his final days and bid him goodbye. One friend even traveled all the way from Switzerland.

Luther became part of our family, making us laugh, cry, and contemplate the meaning of life. He led Bible studies, hosted "Lunch with Luther" accompanied with the showing of Christian comedy videos, and taught our beloved house mother, Colleen, how to make bread in the bread maker he donated. Although dying himself, Luther continually provided loving comfort to patients and family members that stayed in the Serenity Home. He brought out the best in everyone he came into contact with and the staff tirelessly made sure he was comfortable and at peace. One staff member even worked through many connections in an effort to bring his hero, Roger Staubach, to pay him a visit. Although not quite successful, a beautiful hand-signed photo with a personal message from Mr. Staubach arrived a couple of days prior to Luther's peaceful death.

It was the courage and dignity with which Luther faced his mortality that impacted so many in his time with us. Each of our patients has a story, some of grandeur and some of heartbreak, those who are ready to go and those still questioning, "Why?" and, "What lies beyond?"

As we look back on the past year, we find ourselves reflecting on what a gift it is to be entrusted to care for those we serve. Each remains forever in our memories. We also realize that none of what we do would be possible without your supportive gifts of prayer, time, and monetary donations. THANK YOU! Thank you for allowing us to impact so many lives and for allowing those lives to impact us.

We remain steadfast in our mission to provide end of life care to all with whom we are entrusted. Please take a moment and reflect how you might become more involved with us in the coming year so we may continue to serve those in need of our services. May God Bless you abundantly in the coming year.

Happy Holidays!



Lynn Knodle
Executive Director

2014 Dates to Remember

January 2014 marks the beginning of Serenity Hospice & Home's 30th Year of Service to our Community. Watch for events throughout the year to celebrate this milestone.

May 10: Annual Garden Luncheon

June 14: Jonathon Knodle Memorial Golf Play Day

June 28: Memorial Butterfly Release

August 9: Rick Hahn Memorial Run

November: National Hospice and Palliative Care Month

November 2: Memorial Service

December 5: Oregon Rotary Club Angel Ball



The Griever's Holiday Bill of Rights

1. You have the right to say, "TIME OUT" anytime you need. Time out to let up, blow off a little steam, step away from the bustle of events, have a "huddle," and start over.
2. You have the right to "TELL IT LIKE IT IS". When people ask, "How are you?" you have the right to tell them how you really feel, not just what they want to hear. You also have a right to say, "I'm fine," because the choice is yours.
3. You have the right to some "BAH HUMBUG" days. You don't have to put on a "happy face" for the benefit of others. You are not a bad person because you don't feel like smiling and cheering up others all day long. Accept your limitations. Don't be afraid to ask for and accept help.
4. You have the right to **DO THINGS DIFFERENTLY**. There is no law that says you must always celebrate a special day in the same way. You can send fewer cards, or no cards at all! You can open gifts at someone else's house. You can put up special decorations or leave them in the box this year. Have pizza instead of that traditional dinner. The list is endless!
5. You have the right to **BE WHERE YOU WANT TO BE**. Be at home or with friends, in any city or state you choose, or have dinner at a restaurant instead of in the traditional place. Feel free to make changes or observe that special day in the usual way.
6. You have the right to **SOME FUN**. When you have a day that isn't so bad and you feel like doing something for fun, then do it. You don't have to be afraid of what someone else may say if they see you laughing and having a good time. Laughter is every bit as important, and healing, as tears.
7. You have the right to **CHANGE DIRECTION IN MIDSTREAM**. Grief is unpredictable. You may be all ready to go somewhere or do something and suddenly you are overwhelmed. When that happens, it's okay to change your mind. There's plenty of time in life to be predictable, exercise your right to change when you need to change.
8. You have the right to **DO THINGS AT DIFFERENT TIMES**. You can go to church at a different time than you have in the past. You can serve a meal at a different time; go to bed at a different time. You don't have to be a slave to the clock.
9. You have the right to **REST, PEACE, AND SOLITUDE**. You don't need to be busy all the time. Take a nap whenever you need one. Take time to pray and to meditate, to recharge your spirit. It may do much more good than eating another huge meal.
10. You have the right to **DO IT ALL DIFFERENT AGAIN NEXT TIME**. Just because you change things one year, doesn't mean you have written it in stone. Next year you can change it back or do it in yet another way.

From "Handling the Holidays" © 1992, by Bruce H. Conley. Reprinted with permission of Conley Outreach, Elburn, IL

Monthly Support Groups

Groups are open to ALL bereaved persons in the community.

Movie and Discussion Night
Meets the first Monday of each month from 5:30 P.M.- 7:30 P.M. at Serenity Home. We view a movie, and then discuss how it relates to grief and healing.

Serenity Lunch Bunch
Meets the first Thursday of each month from 12:00 Noon - 1:00 P.M. at KSB Hospital in Dixon, in the private dining room by the cafeteria. Bring a sack lunch or purchase lunch from the cafeteria.

First Steps
Meets the second Thursday of each month for lunch at 11:30 A.M. Please call the Hospice office for restaurant location. If you like to eat out, but don't like to eat alone, join us for lunch.

C.A.F.E. (Coffee and Friends Etc.)
Meets the second Friday of each month from 9:00 A.M.-10:00 A.M. at Serenity Home.

The Breakfast Club
Meets the third Wednesday of each month at 8:30 A.M. at the River's Edge Inn in Dixon.

H.U.G.S. (Helping Understand Grief for Survivors)
Meets the third Thursday of each month, from 5:30 P.M. - 7:00 P.M. at Serenity Home.

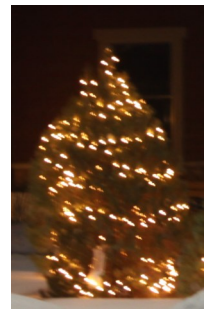
Coffee & Comfort
Meets on the fourth Monday of each month from 10:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. at Anam Care, 8104 Sayer Road, Rockford.

For more information on any of these groups or to schedule an individual meeting, please call Bereavement Coordinator, Cathy Warren, at 815-732-2499.

*We search so much for the right choices,
the right paths to walk, the right time,
the right reasons, and the right person.
But life isn't just about searching for things.
It's also about letting the unexpected
happen and finding joy in things
and people we never searched for.
Anonymous*



Angel Lights Memorial Christmas Trees and Memorial Angel Ornaments



As we prepare to celebrate the holidays, Serenity Hospice & Home is offering an unique opportunity to sponsor an Angel Lights Christmas Tree in honor or remembrance of a loved one, to say thank you to the Angels in your life, or simply to support the mission of Serenity Hospice & Home.

These beautiful trees, covered in lights, will grace the grounds of Serenity Home. Each will have the name of the honoree displayed prominently at the center of the tree. Additional decorations may be added, or the tree can remain in its beautiful simplicity. The donation for an Angel Tree (ornament included) is \$150.



Also this year we are offering the option to purchase a Memorial Angel Ornament. These ornaments will adorn trees within the Serenity Home. The donation for a Memorial Angel Ornament is \$40.

All proceeds benefit Serenity Hospice & Home. Your generosity will help provide beautiful decorations for Serenity Home, offering peace, joy, and comfort to our patients and their families.

Fill out the form below and return with payment to 1658 S. IL Route 2, Oregon, IL 61061 or go to our website at www.serenityhospiceandhome.org to register and/or pay online.

Please reserve ___ Angel Lights Tree ___ Memorial Angel Ornament(s)

Donor Name(s): _____

Address: _____ City: _____ Zip: _____

Name of honoree, group, or loved one (please print): _____

Trees and ornaments must be reserved by Friday, December 6th. Any questions, please call 815-732-2499.

Rada Fundraiser



Serenity Hospice & Home is offering Rada knives, quick mixes, stoneware, cookbooks, and soy wax candles as a fundraiser.

If you would like to view a catalog, place an order, or be willing to have a 'book party' and share the catalog with family, friends, and neighbors, please call Margaret at 815-732-2499 for more information.

Speakers Available...
Are you planning a program for your club or organization in the new year? If so, please keep Serenity Hospice & Home in mind. We appreciate the opportunity to educate within the community about the care and services Serenity Hospice & Home offers. There is no cost. **Call us today at 815-732-2499**



Serenity Hospice & Home Recycling Fundraiser

We are collecting working or non-working:

- cell phones (any type) and their batteries
- ink jet printer cartridges that have not been previously refilled

Please bring your recyclable items to: Angel Treasures Resale Shop, 4045 West IL Route 64 in Mt. Morris or to Serenity Home, 1658 S. IL Route 2 in Oregon. Please contact Margaret Clark at 815-732-2499 with questions.

Angel Treasures Resale Shop

Angel Treasure's Mount Morris location will be open until 8:00 p.m. the three Wednesdays leading up to Christmas December 4th, 11th, and 18th.

Stop in to shop for your holiday decorating, party, and gift giving needs.

In addition to finding name brand items at extremely affordable prices, shopping at Angel Treasures is an environmentally friendly option for your holiday gifts. Give a "recycled" item a chance to be enjoyed by someone new!

Gift Certificates Available

REGULAR STORE HOURS:
Monday to Saturday - 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM
December 4, 11, & 18 - 9:00 AM to 8:00 PM

DONATIONS ACCEPTED DAILY
Tax receipts available. Large donation? Please call ahead.

4045 W IL Route 64 in Mount Morris, IL
Phone: 779-545-0092