Serenity Hospice and Home Newsletter

2015

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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,

Here at Serenity Hospice and Home we are always looking for ways to enhance our approach to be reavement and grief. The Serenity Shed is our latest project and is opening this month in downtown Oregon.

Studies show that people grieve in many different ways when faced with the loss of a loved one. Many people find that having a project to focus on alongside others in a similar situation helps a person work through their grief and sense of loss. The Serenity Shed, a new bereavement center in Oregon, will be a functional workshop where people can spend time working on the repurposing of donated items or just visit with others while enjoying a cup of coffee. All supplies, including power tools, will be available and the center always welcomes donations of your unused project supplies.

At Serenity we offer opportunities for people to handle their grief in new and creative ways. Working on projects with your hands and designing new pieces of furniture, or doing something as simple as painting, are all proven ways to therapeutically help people through the grieving process. If you have ever been lost in a project or had a great conversation while working alongside someone, you can see the power of using this type of facility to help people work through the bereavement process.

Items are donated to Angel Treasures, a resale shop that helps support hospice, that cannot be sold "as is." For example many pieces, such as a baby crib, cannot be legally resold, but they can be turned into a lovely bench or wine rack. Also pieces that are outdated can be repainted and look like new. Some of the repurposing gets quite creative and you do not need to have previous experience. We have people to help teach you the equipment and we have many ideas and instructions to get you started. We have had so many generous people giving us items to support this new program.

The Serenity Shed has received the support of a grant offered by The A. Charles and Lillemor Lawrence Foundation based in Oregon, IL. The foundation looks for innovative thinkers and ideas in the local community that they can collaborate with on many different projects.

The facility is located at 131 N. 3rd St. in Oregon, next to Conover Square. We are always in the need of volunteers and we invite you to stop by The Serenity Shed anytime Monday through Friday from 8 a.m.-4:30 p.m.to learn all about this new and exciting place!

Lynn

Lynn Knodle, Executive Director

Angel Treasures: How does my donation help?

You decide to be generous and donate that really great designer purse that you thought you would always use but never do.

The next week you go to Angel Treasures and it's not there!

Did the proceeds from your purse help hospice or not?

Absolutely! That generous donation made a lot of money for Serenity Hospice and Home. Serenity is always looking for innovative ways to sell the items donated to them. We use many resources to make sure we get the best price for all the items donated.

Items of higher value, such as designer purses, fine jewelry, etc. are often auctioned off at the annual Garden Luncheon fundraiser. Other items, such as antiques, are auctioned off on Ebay under a special program for non-profit organizations. This program allows Serenity to sell the items

Another way that we work to make sure we get the most for our donated items is through an online company called "Twice." This company pays a much higher price for the items than we charge at Angel Treasures and they allow us free shipping.

We often receive donations of yarn, aprons, tablecloths, etc. that are still in great condition. These items are often sold with Hilary Hanna at Stitches in Time located on Washington Street in Oregon. These items fetch a far higher price in a quilting shop than they would in a resale shop. Another volunteer vendor is Don Atkinson who sells large furniture items on consignment at his shop Flamingo Palace in Oregon.

We thank everyone who takes the time to donate items to Angel Treasures!

without paying a commission Hilary Hanna: Stitches in Time
Many generous people often donate to either Ebay or Paypal. Don Atkinson: Flamingo Palace Volunteer Vendor: their nice home items such as The limited space at Angel. Treasures makes the sale of Larger tablecloths, aprons, doilies, fabrics and of course sewing supplies. These items almost impossible. Don items fit in nicely with the store and makes space available at his they can charge a more fair market downtown Oregon store to sell Larger items on commission. Don value for the items. Hilary gives nelps in many other ways as well 100% of the proceeds to hospice. Stop vicite and his "always willing at hospice and his by the store anytime to check out the to Nelp" attitude attributed to Nis ever-changing display of products being named the united way whose proceeds all go to Serenity! volunteer of the year in 2013.



Help us every time you shop Amazon.

Earn money for Serenity each time you shop Amazon!

AmazonSmile is a simple and automatic way for you to support Serenity Hospice and Home every time you shop, at no cost to you. When you shop at smile.amazon.com, you'll find the exact same low prices, vast selection and convenient shopping experience as Amazon.com, with the added bonus that Amazon will donate a portion of the purchase price to Serenity.

To shop at AmazonSmile simply go to smile.amazon.com from the web browser on your computer or mobile device. On your first visit to AmazonSmile (smile.amazon.com), you need to select Serenity Hospice and Home to receive your donations from eligible purchases before you begin shopping. Amazon remembers your selection, and then every eligible purchase you make at smile.amazon.com will result in a donation.

This easy simple program adds up to big money for Serenity. Register today!

Looking for an easy way to help hospice?

The Serenity Shed Wish List:

- paper towels
- large trash bags
- plastic tablecloths/drop cloths . sanding block
- bristle or foam brushes
- chalk paint-any color
- cleaning supplies
- tack cloth
- wood glue
- stir sticks
- stain sticks

- plastic gloves
- sandpaper
- disposable coffee cups
- wood filler
- floor protector pads
- paint masks
- · coffee/soft drinks
- gift cards from DIY stores
- large shop vac



We Need Volunteers!

Do you enjoy working with wood or painting? Do you have experience with tools? Would you like to learn these skills?

We need as many people as possible to help get our program off the ground. Stop by The Serenity Shed Monday-Friday from 8-4:30 and find out how you can help or get started on a project!

Volunteer Training Class

October 21-22, 28-29 5:30-9:00 Call Serenity to sign up today! 815.732.2499

The Serenity Shed:

New Bereavement Center in Oregon

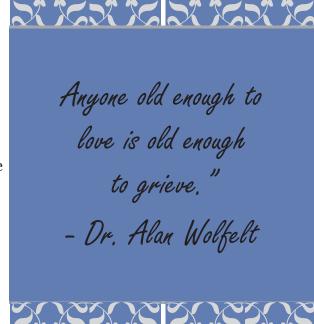
The bereavement department of Serenity Hospice and Home moved to its new location in downtown Oregon in August! The Serenity Shed is located at 131 N. 3rd St. and will house the bereavement department along with a full functioning workshop. Working with one's hands, creating, and working with others is a therapeutic way to work through grief, and Serenity is excited about this new service they providing are the community.

regularly attend any of the If you bereavement groups or activities, keep an eye on our schedule for a while because some of these programs will begin to be offered at the new center!

Sevenity Hospice and Home explores:

Helping a Child with Their Grief

- As soon as possible after the death, set time aside to talk to your child.
- Give your child the facts in a simple manner — be careful not to go into too much detail. Your child will ask more questions as they come up in his/her mind.
- If you can't answer your child's questions, it's okay to say, "I don't know how to answer that, but perhaps we can find someone to help us."
- Use the correct language –
 say the word "dead" etc. Do not use phrases such
 as: "He's sleeping," or "God took her," or "He
 went away," etc.
- Ask your child questions to better understand what he or she may be thinking or feeling. "What are you feeling?" "What have you heard from your friends?" "What do you think happened?" etc.
- Explain your feelings to your child, especially if you are crying. Give children permission to cry.
 We are their role models and it's appropriate for children to see our sadness and for us to share our feelings with them.
- Use the given name of the deceased when speaking of him or her.
- Understand the age and level of comprehension of your child. Speak to that level.
- Talk about feelings, such as: sad, angry, feeling responsible, scared, tearful, depressed, worried.



- Read an age-appropriate book on childhood grief so you have a better understanding of what your child may be experiencing.
- Read an age-appropriate book on death to your child. Take time to discuss what you have read and relate it to what is happening to you.
- Talk about the viewing and funeral. Explain what happens at these events and find out if your child wants to attend. Think about ways your child can say "goodbye" to the person who has died.
- Talk to your child about God, if appropriate, and what happens to people after they die.
- Invite your child to come back to you if he or she has more questions or has heard rumors tell your child you will help get the correct information.
- Talk about memories, good ones and ones not so good.
- Watch out for "bad dreams." Are they occurring often? Talk about the dreams.
- Watch for behavioral changes in your child both at home or at school.
- Friends, family, schoolmates, etc, frequently find solace and comfort in doing something in the name of the person who died a memorial.

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Childhood Grief

Military Kids: Responding to Their Grief

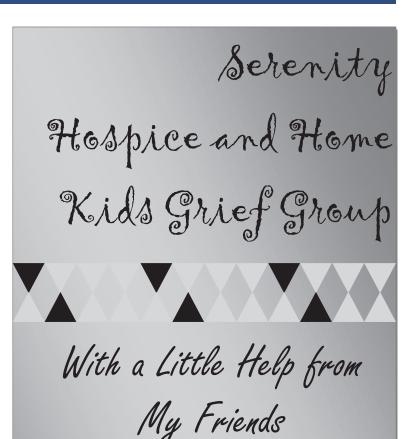
To fully understand what children go through when a parent is assigned to a war zone, we need to look at the nature of grief. Grief is experienced not only when a loved one dies, but whenever a significant loss occurs. Because childhood is so fleeting, important phases of a child's life may have to pass without the companionship of a father or mother who is fighting a war far

away. The loss felt by the child — the absence of nurturing, guidance, and role modeling — is a form of grief. Like all grief, it needs attention from the parent still at home or from another family member.



If you are a military parent holding down the home front, you might want to consider having a conversation with your children and talk with them about what your plans would be if your spouse is transferred, is hurt, or dies. Would it mean moving away somewhere? Would you have to get a job, or change jobs? Would there be changes in school plans? Children do not like uncertainty, so talking about such details could help them put some of their fears to rest.

The key to helping your child through this type of situation is communication. Always keep the line of communication open and do not ignore any behavior that you find different or significant.



This group offers a safe space for children and young adults ages 4-18 who have experienced a significant loss. They have the opportunity to learn about their grief and support each other. Please RSVP for this group to the Serenity Hospice and Home office at 815.732.4111 and provide the ages of the children who will attend.

Next meeting times:

Sunday, August 16 from 5-6 PM Church of God located at 860 W. Oregon Trail Road in Oregon

Sunday, Sept. 13 from 5-6 PM Church of God located at 860 W. Oregon Trail Road in Oregon

The following donations were made to Serenity Hospice and Home from January 1, 2015 through June 30, 2015

In Memory of

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The following donations were made to Serenity Hospice and Home from January 1, 2015 through June 30, 2015

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> "When we give cheerfully and accept gratefully, everyone is blessed." — Maya Angelou

Women of the Moose-Chapter 438

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"You may never know what results come of your action,
But if you do nothing there will be no result."

Mahatma Gandhi

These memorials, donations, and memberships have been received between

Renee Short

January 1, 2015 and June 30, 2015.

If you made a contribution during this time and your name does not appear, we apologize for the omission.

Please contact our office at 815-732-2499 so that we may correct our error.

Retirements from Serenity

Serenity Hospice and Home is very grateful for the years of service and dedication shown by three of its employees who retired in the first half of 2015.



Bonnie Hagemeyer 21 years



Dennis Bearrows
6 years



Cathy Pearson 7 years

New Additions to the Serenity Family

Serenity Hospice and Home was happy to welcome six new employees to their family in the first half of 2015.

Gary Greenwood, Maintenance Manager Bev Linzemann, Admissions Nurse Sandra Mellott, Community C.N.A Rana Peck, Serenity Home R.N. Jeannie Rowland, Angel Treasures Clerk Angie Theisen, Office Assistant

2015-2016 Dates to Remember

October TBD: Memory Pillow Day

October 21-22, 28-29: Volunteer Training Class

November: National Hospice and Palliative Care Month

November 1: Memorial Service

December 5: Oregon Rotary Foundation Angel Ball

May 14: Annual Garden Luncheon

June 18: Jonathon Knodle Memorial Golf Play Day

July 9: Memorial Butterfly Release

July 23: Miles in Memory Run/Walk

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

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