

2016 Community Guide and Annual Report

Serenity Hospice & Home

The Serenity Shed * Angel Treasures Resale Shop



Photo by Serenity Volunteer, Kathy Stucker



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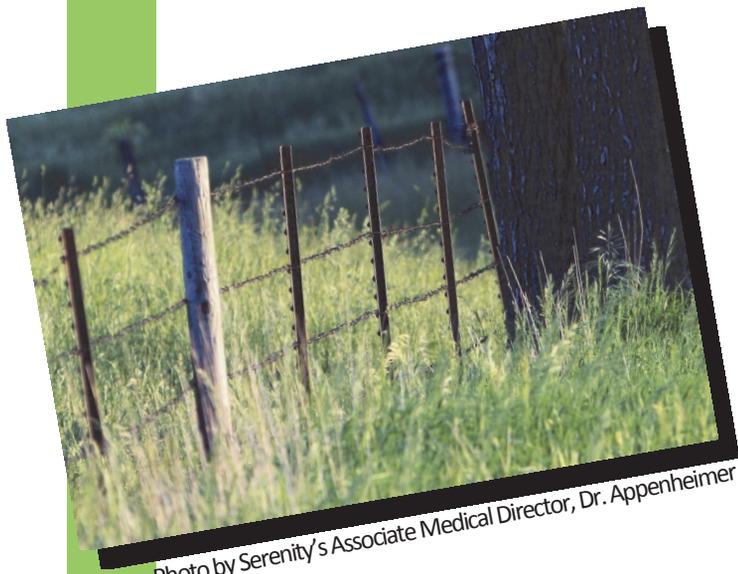


Photo by Serenity's Associate Medical Director, Dr. Appenheimer

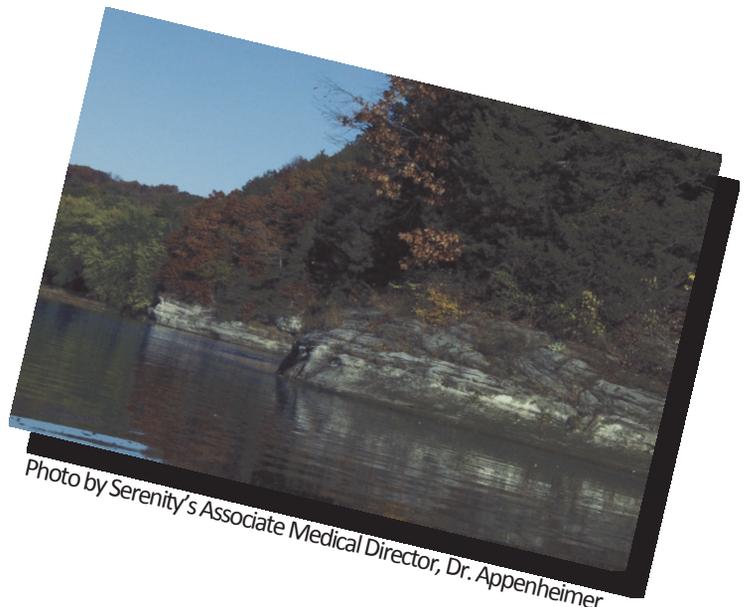


Photo by Serenity's Associate Medical Director, Dr. Appenheimer



Honoring the Seasons of Life



Exciting Announcement From our Director...

It's hard to believe Serenity Home has been serving our local communities since April of 2009! When it was built, it was only the second standalone inpatient facility in the state. We remain the only rural stand-alone facility in Northern Illinois. With the tremendous support of our community and those whom we have served, we were pleased to pay off the mortgage on the facility in August of 2014.

The Serenity Home was built to provide symptom control and respite care for the terminally ill in a homelike environment, with 24/7 access for family and visitors. Since those early days, our average daily census (the number of individuals we serve each day) has continued to grow and we have added staff to accommodate this increase.

Before this facility was built, our staff occupied leased space on Pines Road. We brought them into Serenity Home in 2010 to enhance communication within and beyond the organization, which has been a key factor in our success. However, this growth has resulted in staff, patients and visitors all occupying the same limited space. It has become very challenging to provide a workplace conducive to high productivity and confidentiality while protecting the serene environment cherished by our patients and their families. For these reasons, the Foundation and Serenity Hospice and Home Boards have decided to build a small administrative facility on the grounds behind Serenity Home. Construction will begin in the spring of 2016. The Foundation has sufficient funds available to cover the vast majority of the cost, making a debt agreement unnecessary.

We are confident this new building will retain the benefits of proximity while supporting future growth. It will allow staff to be more productive, simplify the process of maintaining patient confidentiality, and allow all who enter Serenity Home to experience the homelike environment it was intended to be.

Our commitment to top quality, consistent, heartfelt care is evident by the many achievements of our staff. Here are just a few ...



Serenity's Medical Director, Dr. Juliette Kalweit was advanced to the status of Fellow by the American Academy of Hospice and Palliative Medicine. Kudos Dr. K!



Associate Medical Director, Dr. Tim Appenheimer, earned his Hospice Medical Director Certification. Accolades Dr. A!



Minnette Scott, Director of Nursing for Serenity, passed her exams to become a Board Certified Pain Management Nurse. Way to go Minnette!



Staff & Board

SH&H
Board Members
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Kathleen Isley
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Ferol Labash has joined the Board of Directors for Serenity Hospice and Home

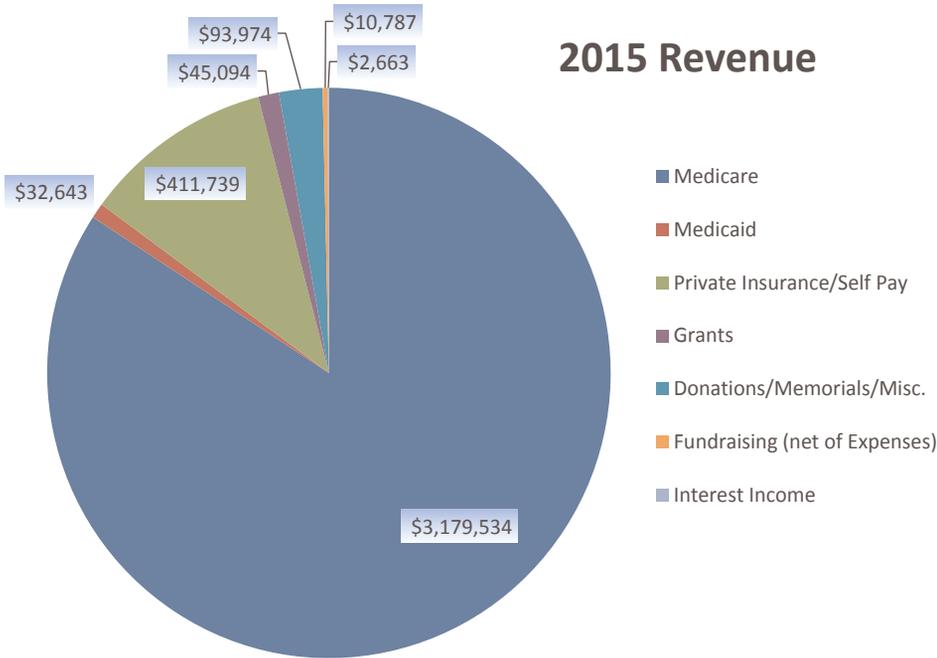
Association. She is from Mt. Morris and is the Chief Executive Officer of Pinecrest Community. Welcome Ferol!



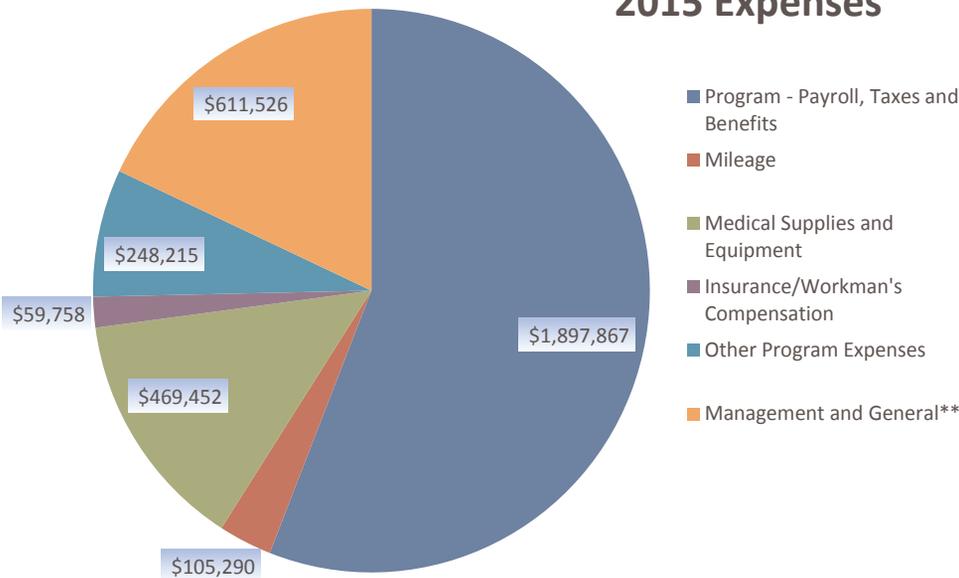
Finances

If you spend any amount of time at Serenity Hospice and Home in Oregon, IL you will realize that this not-for-profit, 501(c)3 charity is nothing less than extraordinary. In a time of financial hardship for our state, Serenity has been able to sustain steady growth and maintain healthy bottom lines," says CFO Kathy Groenhagen. "Like all not-for-profits and for profit businesses the last few years have had its challenges, but we have spent wisely, saved consistently and never once cut corners on patient care or quality of life here at Serenity."

2015 Revenue



2015 Expenses



2015 Fundraisers - Income

Serenity Hospice and Home	
Butterfly Release	\$ 2,093.60
Angel Lights/Trees	\$ 3,969.21
Petal Pushers	\$ 6,262.71

Serenity Hospice and Home Foundation

Jonathon Knodle Golf Outing	\$ 7,962.74
Angel Ball - Income	\$ 8,000.00
Miles in Memory	\$ 5,647.37
We Honor Veterans	\$ 550.00
Garden Party Luncheon	\$ 8,772.07
RADA Sales	\$ 278.00
Textile Recycling Operation	\$ 5,652.51
Shed Project	\$ 2,426.32
Craft and Miscellaneous Items	\$ 540.00

Key Statistics 2015

- 9** Counties Served
- 395** Patients Served
- 115** Patients Served in Serenity Home
- 53** Employees
- 224** Volunteers
- 96** Direct Patient Volunteers
- 6,050** Volunteer Hours

Angel Treasures' Volunteers Honored at Holiday Dinner

The dependable and reliable volunteers who help run Serenity's resale shop, Angel Treasures, are treasures in themselves. "We could not be as successful with our resale shop as we are without our volunteers," said Christy Ghibellini Manager of the Angel Treasures store. "They do so much for us and work so hard."

All of the regular Angel Treasures volunteers along with the two employees, Christy and Laura Medlar, were invited to Alfano's in Oregon for dinner a few weeks before Christmas. "It was so generous of Serenity to think of us during the holidays," said one volunteer. "It shows they do appreciate what we do at Angel Treasures."



Angel Treasures' volunteers enjoyed Alfano's pizza, spaghetti, salad and homemade cookies brought by house mom Colleen Miller.



Angel Treasures
RESALE SHOP



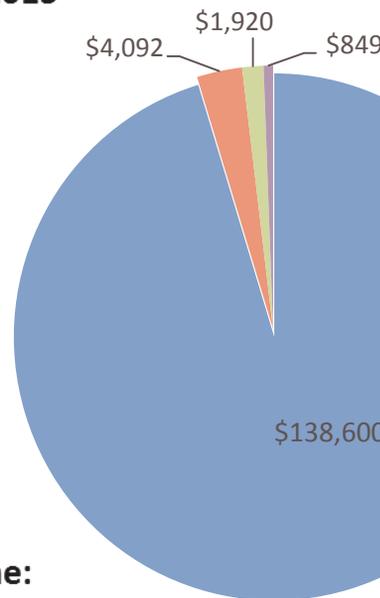
Hardworking girls! If you have visited Angel Treasures anytime in the last year, you know how hard Christy and Laura work. The place is always busy! Thank you to Christy Ghibellini and Laura Medlar for all your hard work!

Angel Treasures Resale Shop 2015

Kathy Groenhagen presents a check for \$900 to Ruth Carter from HOPE Domestic Violence Shelter. The money was raised by Serenity staff during the holidays!



Serenity's Walking Club members committed to walking at 8 different events throughout the year!



Income:
\$144,452
Expenses:
\$ 82,382
Proceeds:
\$ 63,069



Carol Flesch Dedication In Every Bite



Volunteer bakes fresh cookies every Wednesday at Serenity Home - since the day it opened.

“Do you want to clean or bake?” This was the question that Carol Flesch was asked each Saturday morning on the farm by her mother. “Of course I would choose baking,” laughs Carol. This choice definitely paid off and Carol is now a wonderful baker. Since Serenity Home opened in 2009, Carol has spent most Wednesdays in the home’s commercial kitchen. “I saw that they needed someone to bake for the families and patients,” Carol said. “I knew I could do that so I started coming in.” Carol bakes approximately 240 cookies each week along with other delicious goodies such as bread, muffins, and brownies. Her peanut butter cookies seem to be her specialty, but her other varieties are just as delicious. Carol is also willing to bake special orders such as Valentine shaped cookies and she even baked cookies shaped like tools for the opening of The Serenity Shed. Carol lives in Oregon with her husband. In her free time she enjoys baking for her husband, three children, seven grandchildren and five great-grandchildren. Next time you visit Serenity Home, be sure to sample some of Carol’s delicious homemade treats located in the family kitchen.

Doctor and Volunteer Share Love of Photography

Watching the birds from his Serenity room became one of Bob’s favorite pastimes. He learned to identify them and he seemed to know all about them. “I spent a lot of time in his room discussing those birds,” said Kathy Stucker, a volunteer at Serenity. “I then began photographing them and I even made him an album of the pictures I took.”

The hobby of Serenity’s Associate Medical Director and one of Serenity’s busiest volunteers just happens to be the same thing: photography.

“I took up photography when my first two grandchildren were born,” said Stucker. “Then some travel opportunities meant that I took even more photos and that’s how I started.” That was in the early 2000s and Stucker has continued to perfect her hobby through the years.

Dr. Tim Appenheimer, Associate Medical Director for Serenity, had always enjoyed dabbling in photography, but when digital cameras came along he was hooked.

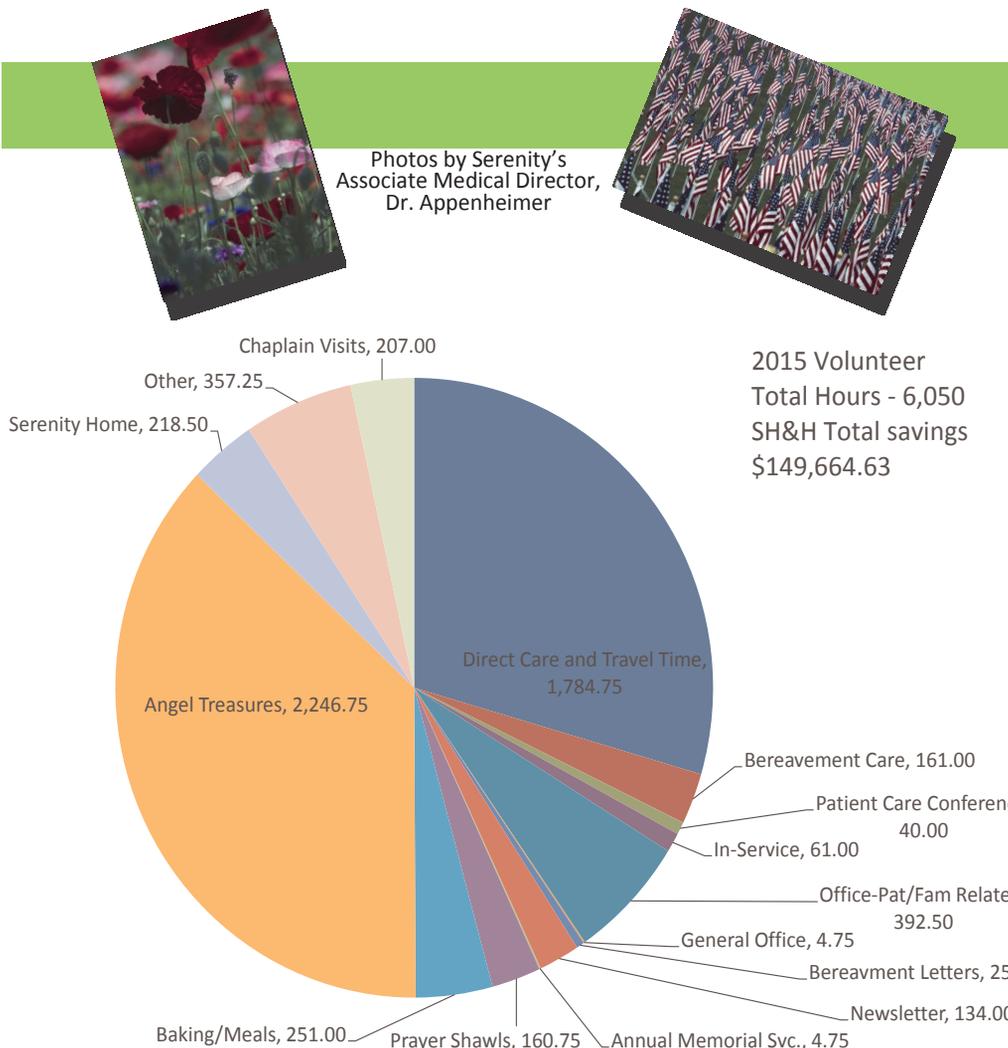
“With digital you can take photos and delete the bad ones,” said Appenheimer. “Sometimes the pose or expression is exciting, but it is not quite in focus. You just delete it and go on.”

Appenheimer’s photographs brighten the halls at Serenity Home. He donated canvas

Continued on page 6 . . .



Serenity patient, Bob, loved watching this particular bird so much that volunteer Stucker was inspired to make him a book of the many birds outside his Serenity Home window.



100 Mile Hike for Serenity Hospice

"I really do believe that we should not shy away from people or challenges that can add to our enjoyment in our short time on earth," wrote Jim Cole. "Heading into the unknown is basically how we go through life. Or should." And that is just what Cole is doing - heading into the unknown. He is preparing to walk 100 miles of the Pacific Crest Trail in California and the pledges he receives will all go to Serenity Hospice and Home in Oregon, IL.



"My wife attended Serenity's Garden Luncheon last year and she told me what a wonderful facility it was," Cole said. "I decided that perhaps my goal of walking 100 miles of the trail could possibly do some good, so I had this idea to take pledges per mile and donate the money to Serenity."

"We could not be more thrilled that Jim has chosen to benefit Serenity with his 100 mile hike," said Angie Theisen, Community Relations Manager at Serenity. "Bringing awareness to Serenity Hospice through this personal endeavor is extraordinary. We support him 110% and hope that others will also support him through donations."

Cole, along with his two sons, will endure snow and 100 degree temperatures along the trail. They will sleep along the trail in tents they are carrying themselves. He plans to begin their journey at the Mexican border and estimates the 100 miles will take six days. Cole, 69, is a retired teacher and lives in Polo with his wife, Gina. He will be writing a blog during his adventure and his progress will be posted on the Serenity Hospice and Home Facebook page. You may make pledges by phoning 815.732.2499 or you can make an online pledge or donation at gofundme.com/xfvmvns. "If you can pledge a nickel a mile--great. If you can pledge \$5 a mile---great," Theisen said. "Any amount will help Serenity and you will know you are supporting a generous, adventurous man and a great cause."

Amazon Smile

amazonsmile

You shop. Amazon gives.

If you shop Amazon online, check out Amazon Smile. Amazon Foundation will give a percentage of each eligible purchase to charity for registered users. Serenity Hospice and Home is now registered to participate in this program. If you already have an account with Amazon, your account will follow you to Amazon Smile.

Go to smile.amazon.com to registered, select Serenity Hospice and Home as your charity of choice, then shop as you normally would.

Do you sell items on Ebay?

If the answer is yes, then you can easily donate a portion of all your proceeds to Serenity! We would be happy to show you how to set this up. Just give Rose or Angie a call at 815.732.2499 and we can help you get setup or visit our website www.serenityhospiceandhome.org for all the specifics.

It's an easy way to help Serenity!



Rada Fundraiser

Serenity Hospice and 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 815.732.2499 for more information.

Continued from page 5 . . . Doctor and Volunteer Share Love of Photography

copies of some of his favorites for the halls. "It is unique for a doctor's art of any kind to be the main decorations of a hospice or clinic or any setting," said Lynn Knodle, Executive Director of Serenity. "We are so lucky to have Dr. Appenheimer's photographs. People always comment on them and we are always proud to share that they were taken by one of our doctors. We found it so unique and his work so good, that we decided to highlight them in our new marketing materials for Serenity."

Stucker has also been generous enough in the past to photograph some of Serenity's garden luncheons and butterfly releases. She is always willing to share her talent with Serenity in whatever way we need it. Serenity is lucky to have a very talented volunteer and a very talented doctor whose shared love of photography has touched so many patients, donors, volunteers and staff.

Veterans Served a Free Lunch at The Serenity Shed

With the help of Ralphie and Lu Lu's located in Ashton, IL, The Serenity Shed served over 50 Veterans on Veteran's Day

"The lunch was great, really good," said Veteran Doug Rowe. "The piece of apple pie I had made me want to go back and run off with the rest of it! It was very nice and much appreciated. I hope all the people involved were as happy with the whole thing as I was. Last word: Awesome!"

The Serenity Shed, located in downtown Oregon, was pleased to invite Veterans to their facility on Veterans Day for a free lunch. Over 50 Veterans stopped by to enjoy fried chicken and scalloped potatoes provided free by Ralphie and Lu Lu's along with all the fixings and



Veterans and their spouses enjoyed a free lunch at The Shed on Veterans Day.

homemade apple pies donated by Serenity volunteers. Serenity employees were privileged to speak with the Veterans, hear their stories, and thank them for their service. "I felt so privileged to be a part of this," said Nancy Tracy, Provider Relations Liaison for Serenity. "These Veterans and their families gave so much and this is just a small way to show our appreciation."

Serenity Hospice and Home is part of the *We Honor Veterans* Program. This campaign focuses on providing the best quality end-of-life care and services for Veterans and their families while also providing education for the public, Veterans and hospice providers throughout the country.



The Shed

One of the most exciting things for Serenity in 2015 was the opening of The Shed. This full functioning workshop and bereavement center opened in August to much attention and praise. Hailed as possibly one of the first of its kind in the US, The Shed has hosted scouting troops, school groups, organizations, factories, churches and many individual volunteers.



Brownie Troop 1235 volunteered at The Shed!

Generosity and Donations Help Keep The Shed Running Smoothly

The Serenity Shed was happy to receive a very generous donation of wood from Timber Industries in Dixon. "We use the wood to create many different items," said Cathy Warren Coordinator of The Shed and a bereavement coordinator with Serenity Hospice. "Finding good wood has often been a challenge and we are so thankful that Timber Industries thought of us." The wood ranged in size and type and was delivered by P and C Lawn Service of Dixon. Pictured is Becky Mulford, a volunteer with The Shed, helping to unload the wood. The community has really supported The Shed during its



first year. "I went into the new Ace the other day," Warren said. "And the guy had paint for me! It's just been amazing the show of support we have received from the community."



Crest Foods spent a Saturday working at the Shed and made a sizeable donation!



Students from Faith Christian School spent an afternoon volunteering at The Shed!

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

Non-profit Org.
U.S. Postage
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Oregon, IL
Permit No. 3

Save The Dates:

Sunday at The Shed: No work— only fun, games, music, and food.

Everyone welcome.

1-4 PM every second Sunday of the month.

May 14: Garden Luncheon. Theme: Hats off to Hospice

June 18: Jonathon Knodle Memorial Golf Outing

July 9: Memorial Butterfly Release

July 23: Miles in Memory Run/Walk

December 3: Angel Ball



Photo by Serenity Volunteer,
Kathy Stucker

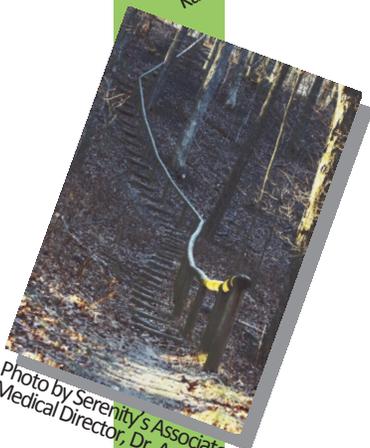


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Medical Director, Dr. Appenheimer