

Every Day Matters

A NEWSLETTER FOR FRIENDS OF GENESIS HOSPICE & PALLIATIVE CARE



LETTER FROM THE DIRECTOR



For the past 35 years, Genesis Hospice Care has served thousands of families through Morrison House, the region's only dedicated inpatient hospice facility. For anyone who has ever had a loved one at the Morrison House, you know the lasting impact this program has for families during the most difficult of times.

Morrison House opened in 1987 after the land was donated by Dr. Robert Morrison, a local physician. It was built by donations from the community and employees. The current Morrison House building has reached the end of its useful life and must be replaced. We have decided to build a new replacement inpatient facility to serve our patients and families for decades to come. The new building will be constructed on the greenspace across from the current Morrison House on Forest Avenue in Zanesville.

We are immensely grateful to the J.W. & M.H. Straker Charitable Foundation for the incredibly generous naming-level donation. Our thanks also go to the Franciscan Sisters of Christian Charity for their donation of the land. We are excited to begin this next stage in our commitment to continuing to provide high-quality, compassionate end-of-life care both at home and in a dedicated inpatient facility.

Pebbles Kieber

Pebbles Kieber, MSN, RN, OCN

Director, Genesis Cancer, Palliative Medicine and Hospice Services

Building for the future

The Genesis HealthCare Foundation has kicked off a \$6 million capital campaign to raise the necessary funds to construct and equip the new inpatient hospice facility. It will feature all private rooms with private bathrooms and access to the garden from each room. We plan to keep all current amenities, such as the Reflection Room, as well as some upgrades, such as larger patient rooms to accommodate family.

You can help us build for the future. Every donation, small or large, will get us closer to our \$6 million goal. Donations can be pledged to pay over 5 years. Thank you for your support.



Family Care Suites



Scan to donate to the Genesis Hospice Care Capital Campaign.

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Carla Reed treasures a young photo of her siblings, Katie and Hub.



Delbert Ross

FAMILY SPOTLIGHT

The Ross and Reed Family

Carla Reed saw Kathryn (Katie) Ross as more than her sister. With an 18-year age difference, Katie took pride in nurturing Carla as a young child. As one of five children, Carla appreciated how Katie was always willing to help their family.

"Katie was a great protector," said Carla. "She was determined and strong-willed."

When it came time for Carla to help Katie, she wanted to repay her aging sister with the best care.

"Katie bathed and changed me as a child," said Carla. "We laughed about this many years later because the roles were reversed. But Katie needed more care. It became challenging to help her in and out of the car for appointments."

Carla was familiar with Genesis Hospice Care because of the comfort provided to their brother, Hub, six years earlier. Carla knew that Hospice Care would also help Katie.

"Genesis was close and familiar," said Carla. "I trusted them."

Katie received hospice care for seven months, with three inpatient stays at Morrison House. Genesis also provided in-home nursing care at Katie's log cabin which she shared with her husband of 72 years, Delbert.

Cherished memories

Delbert, who affectionately called his wife Kathryn, said she was his best buddy. They met on the school bus and married at the age of 17. Delbert and Kathryn enjoyed the outdoors. He loved her cooking.

Kathryn grew up raising many animals, including horses and goats. She and Delbert owned 150 acres and shared a passion for farming.

Kathryn rescued many animals and nursed them back to health, including their beloved dog, Smokey Joe. Even with an impaired leg, Smokey Joe remained Kathryn's constant companion.

Kathryn and Delbert held multiple terms as township trustees, with Kathryn being the first woman in Muskingum County elected to Brush Creek Township. "She proudly served our community for eight years," said Delbert.

Personalized support

Carla said that Katie's in-home hospice care and her three stays at Morrison House were a blessing to their family.

Whether providing respite care or going above and beyond to make Katie feel special, Carla said Hospice Care adapted to their family's needs.

"They brought a cake to Katie's room to celebrate her 90th birthday," said Carla. "It was great to see her sing and smile."

Katie passed away a few months later at her home in September 2024.

In addition to the Hospice Nursing Care team, Carla appreciates the many Genesis services provided to their family, including Spiritual Care. A chaplain made home visits while Katie was a patient and continues to offer bereavement support to the family.

"Everyone is kind and compassionate," said Carla. "There's no question but to choose Genesis."



Supporting our community members through grief

Genesis Hospice Care also provides bereavement support for community members. Any person struggling with the loss of a loved one can benefit from our free bereavement support services, even if you haven't had a patient in Hospice care. Bereavement support is important as it helps those who are grieving and trying to adjust to life without their loved one. We offer one-on-one support as well as group support. Please call Kelli Ross at 740-454-5353 to schedule or for more information. Bereavement support for community members is made possible through generous donations and our non-profit status.

Help every day matter for hospice patients

Do you have a few hours to make every day matter for patients and their families as they near the end of life? If so, please consider becoming a Genesis Hospice Care volunteer. There are opportunities to support patients and their loved ones in the home setting as well as in Morrison House and nursing facilities. Here are examples of what our volunteers do.

Patients' homes

- Being a companion to patients so caregivers can run errands
- Listening to patients and families and assisting with mealtimes

Morrison House

- Being a companion to patients
- Assisting staff with patients and at mealtimes
- Greeting families and friends and assisting with wayfinding
- Keeping the family kitchen stocked

Other opportunities

- Clown troupe
- Beauticians/barbers in homes, Morrison House and nursing facilities
- Companion at nursing facilities, assisting with mealtimes
- Fundraising
- Pet or music therapy
- Deliveries to homes for birthdays and anniversaries

Training is provided. Call (740) 454-5364 or visit genesishcs.org/hospice and click on "Volunteer."

Spiritual matters

This is a short poem by Wendell Berry entitled "Like Snow."

*Suppose we did our work like the snow, quietly, quietly, leaving nothing out.**

For me, this poem says that whatever work we are doing, we do it not for praise or recognition, but because it's needed. The snow doesn't make a big deal of itself; it just silently falls. We also should not make a big deal of ourselves either. Carl Sagan, the astronomer and professor at Cornell University, once said that humankind is very insignificant and small when considered in the context of how vast the universe is.

While I understand his viewpoint on this, I believe we are certainly significant in God's eyes. But I also believe God would not want us to over-value ourselves. So how should we see ourselves in the bigger picture? How do we balance being humble and honest with our existence and contribution to society while also recognizing we are valued and loved by the God of creation and being the only thing like us in all of the universe?

This is a question of where our worth and value comes as human beings. As I understand the Christian faith, this comes from God. Our value is tied to God, who gives us life. We are worthy because we have been made in his image. Our self-appraisal should not come from parentage, profession, financial worth or even good deeds.

I realize this is easy to say, yet difficult to assimilate in our daily lives. It is all too easy to get caught up in our humanness and draw value from success and image. I don't imagine a lot of us walk around each day pondering how valuable and wonderful we are because God made us that way. We may believe that, but it is not necessarily at the forefront of our mind. We tend to go with what society or culture tells us about ourselves.

In the spirit of the above poem, what if we quietly reminded ourselves each day that our basic worth as a person, living in this small world, comes from the One who left nothing out? We should value others and be valued ourselves simply because God so desires it. It is nice and affirming to have praise from others and even our own conscious voice, but who we are deeply is quite simple. We are all fellow travelers on this earth – a planet that is but a speck of dim light in a vast, exquisite universe. And we are here to be that which God formed us to be, working things out quietly, not leaving anything out.

Tim Patton, Chaplain

Hospice and Palliative Care

* Berry, Wendell. *The Peace of Wild Things*. Penguin Random House UK. 2018.



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The purpose of Morrison House

You may have had a family member or friend spend time at Morrison House, but do you know the types of care patients can receive there? Here is a look at the three main reasons a Genesis Hospice Care patient may come to Morrison House.

Respite Care

Caregivers sometimes need a break to enable them to take care of personal needs or for other reasons. Patients can come to Morrison House for respite care five days per month if needed.

General Inpatient Care

This is a short stay at Morrison House to treat symptoms that are not able to be controlled in the home environment.

Interim Care

This care may be offered based on availability. It can be a bridge that allows family more time at Morrison House if they are in a transition period finalizing a change in a patient's home setting. For example, this might apply if a patient is transitioning from home to a nursing facility.



Winter Wonderland Gala raises funds for patients

The 2024 Winter Wonderland Gala benefiting Genesis Hospice Care was a resounding success. Held in November, more than 150 people gathered at EagleSticks Golf Club to support our hospice program. Through sponsorships and donations, including a Silent Auction and Snow Angel memorials, \$20,800 was raised to benefit Genesis Hospice Care's patients and families.

This year, the Gala will be held on Saturday, Nov. 8, at the Zanesville Country Club. As a non-profit hospice program, donations and fundraising are essential in enabling us to continue providing the highest level of care for our patients and their families. We are excited to grow the Gala's proceeds this year.

Every Day Matters
is published twice a year for friends of Genesis Hospice & Palliative Care.

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