

You Make Meaningful Moments *Possible*



FIRST EDITION 2021

Happy 20th Anniversary to Hospice Home

New year, new mission and values

Get to know: *Amy Hernandez*

Ambassadors of Compassion



Visiting Nurse

Visiting Nurse provides compassion, comfort and guidance through life's journey. We care for those who go on living as well. Our grief services are available at no charge for any adult who has experienced the loss of a loved one. We proudly serve these Indiana counties: Adams, Allen, Blackford, DeKalb, Grant, Huntington, Jay, Noble, Wabash, Wells and Whitley.

Rick Farrant holds a photo of his late wife, Mary Hoffman, in the gardens at Hospice Home. Photo by John Gevers.

HOSPICE HOME HOSPICE CARE PALLIATIVE CARE GRIEF SUPPORT

www.VNFW.org

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Letter from the CEO



Dear friends –

2020 was a year for the record books, and here at Visiting Nurse as well. Our team rose to the challenges posed by COVID-19. The Visiting Nurse Board of Directors also focused on developing a new mission statement and set of values that will guide the agency in the coming years. Our new mission statement is:

Visiting Nurse provides compassion, comfort and guidance through life's journey.

We have also developed five organizational values that outline how Visiting Nurse cares for patients, families and employees. Those five values are: **Compassion, Comfort, Guidance, Inclusivity, and Stewardship**. We believe these guiding values are instrumental in directing the best care to our patients and their loved ones.

In 2021, we are celebrating the 20th anniversary of the opening of Hospice Home, northeast Indiana's only free-standing inpatient hospice facility. Over two decades, we have cared for more than 10,000 patients and their loved ones, and like any home, have identified some areas that need to be replaced or improved. We are opening Hospice Home's doors to the support of the community as we seek to update this one-of-a-kind facility to prepare for the next 20 years. I hope you might consider making a gift to invest in Hospice Home's ability to continue to care for patients and families for the next 20 years and beyond.

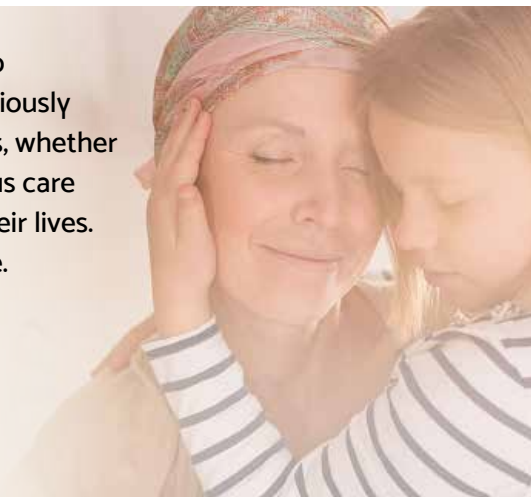
We appreciate all the support given to us in these challenging times. Our supporters make Visiting Nurse's compassionate care possible. You provide the means through which our families are comforted and cared for during the most difficult times in their lives. We could not provide that care without the support of people like you. Thank you.

Serving with you,

Leslie Friedel, CEO

Because of people like you, Visiting Nurse is able to continue our 133-year tradition of caring for the seriously ill of northeast Indiana and their families. Your gifts, whether they be your time, talent or treasure, have helped us care for people facing the most serious challenges in their lives. Your support makes meaningful moments possible.

Thank you



New year, new mission and values

Over the last year, Visiting Nurse embarked on a strategic planning process. Through review, surveys and feedback we identified the need to review our mission statement and expand on the values that we hold dear as an organization. Visiting Nurse's Board of Directors, along with staff members, developed a new mission statement that explains our purpose. We are excited to announce our new mission statement:

Visiting Nurse provides compassion,
comfort and guidance through life's journey.

We hope that you find our mission statement and values are reflective of the experiences that you and your loved ones have had with our programs and services. Thank you for your continued support of Visiting Nurse in so many ways. We look forward to engraining our mission statement and values in all that we do to support individuals and families in northeast Indiana.





Happy 20th Anniversary to

It started with compassion. The dream was to create a home-like environment to provide compassionate care to patients as they faced the end of life and comfort to families as they said their goodbyes.

Visiting Nurse's leadership and Board of Directors rallied around this dream and 20 years ago, Hospice Home opened at 5910 Homestead Road in southwest Fort Wayne.

Our previous inpatient unit – the first of its kind in northeast Indiana – was located on the eighth floor of the old Lutheran Hospital, 3024 Fairfield Ave., in central Fort Wayne. When plans were announced in 1997 to tear down the former hospital, Visiting Nurse's leadership began planning for a free-standing hospice facility. Hospice Home broke ground in May 2000, and the facility opened in February 2001.

In the intervening years, Hospice Home has provided care and support for over 10,000 individuals ranging in age from 5 months to 103 years old.

The ripple of impact in our community from those over 10,000 individuals served is immense, as family and friends of those loved ones were also supported by Visiting Nurse. If you have had a loved one cared for at Hospice Home, you experienced the extended love and care that the Visiting Nurse team provided to your entire family.

A unique home away from home

Hospice Home is the only free-standing inpatient hospice care facility in northeast Indiana. The 14-bed unit is anchored by our nurses' station. There are also family gathering areas set up much like a living room in someone's home, plus a kitchen, sunroom, chapel-like



Anniversary Hospice Home

reflection room and conference areas as well. Family members and loved ones are welcome any time of day or night. Even through the pandemic, Visiting Nurse has ensured that family members are able to see their loved ones who are being cared for at Hospice Home. Staff put additional safety measures in place by checking family members temperatures, limiting the amount of family visiting at one time and providing masks as well.

Because Visiting Nurse is a locally based non-profit agency, we provide care to anyone, regardless of their ability to pay for services. Reimbursement rates for care at Hospice Home from Medicare/Medicaid and private insurance reimbursement rates do not reflect the true cost of providing this important care. Yet with your donations, we made sure that anyone who needed Hospice Home's specialized care was supported. In 2020, Visiting Nurse provided more than \$200,000 in charity care to those with no other means to pay for their care. Donations from people like you have ensured that no one goes without Visiting Nurse's specialized hospice and palliative care.

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“A gentle landing place”



When Rick Farrant walked into Hospice Home in 2017 as his wife, Mary Hoffman, was being admitted, he had that “deer in the headlights” feeling – stunned, anxious and confused. Moments earlier, he had been at the hospital caring for Mary, who had fallen into a coma from liver disease. The beeping of monitors, the rushing feet and the bells calling for service were replaced by the hush and homey feeling of Hospice Home.

“It was a surreal experience,” Rick said. “I felt as if I was living someone else’s life.”

But the staff at Hospice Home projected an “air of calmness and dignity for the stricken,” he said.

“The staff was compassionate, full of understanding and grace,” Rick said. “They were sincerely dedicated to provide care.”

In the days that followed, Rick kept vigil by Mary’s side, often gazing out the window at the fountain in the gardens. “I kept wishing she would wake up to see the fountain,” Rick said. “I wish she had experienced the warmth of the staff.”

When he needed a minute to compose himself, he would walk through the gardens that surround Hospice Home, which provided him an escape from the end of Mary’s life.

“The gardens gave me a measure of solace,” he said, noting that even the garden volunteer who was “digging in the dirt” was compassionate and understanding.”

As kind and compassionate as the staff and volunteers were, “they didn’t ignore reality,” he added.

“Being by the side of a loved one as they slip away is a deeply personal and often somber experience that no one relishes,” Rick said. “But I can’t imagine what it would have been like for me and Mary in the absence of the grace offered by Visiting Nurse, which provided a gentle landing place for her final passage.”

“Visiting Nurse provided that big sigh that everyone needs when they come to terms with reality,” he added. “I was in a daze when I realized the only option left was hospice. Visiting Nurse was a godsend, and I will always think kindly of Hospice Home.”

Happy 20th Anniversary to Hospice Home

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The Need

Like any home over 20 years, a facility like Hospice Home experiences wear and tear. We are taking the opportunity to celebrate the anniversary of this gem and ask you to help us renovate and restore the building so we can continue to provide compassionate inpatient care for the next 20 years. Some of the items needing to be updated include the windows, the roof, flooring, paint and, most importantly, renovation of the nurses' station, the heart of Hospice Home.

Our goal is to raise \$750,000 to assist with replacing items, renovating spaces and setting funds aside for future repair and replacement needs. Please reach out to Mary Shankster, Chief Development Officer at (260) 435-3222, to learn more about this exciting project and to learn ways you can help celebrate Hospice Home's past and invest in it's future.





Hospice Home

20th Anniversary

CELEBRATING THE **PAST**.
INVESTING IN THE **FUTURE**.

How You Can Help

You can help Visiting Nurse's Hospice Home campaign by sending your contribution in the attached envelope or by visiting

www.vnfw.org/donate-now

Any contribution is welcome and will help ease the burden on families as they face the end of life for their loved one.

How You or Your Loved One Can Learn More about Hospice Home and Hospice in the Community

Reflecting on the 20 years that Hospice Home has been a haven of comfort for patients and families is only part of our effort this year. We also want to tell the community that you have a choice in hospice providers. Visiting Nurse has focused on hospice care for decades, and you can call Visiting Nurse to learn more about services and programs, 24 hours a day. You can also visit us online, at VNFW.org.





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QUESTIONS

GET TO KNOW

Amy Hernandez

Registered Nurse
Clinical Leader Hospice Home

1 When did you begin working at Visiting Nurse?

I worked for Visiting Nurse from 2012-2014, left to pursue NICU nursing, and returned in October 2018.

2 What drew you to hospice work?

My grandmother passed away at the age of 60 with metastatic breast cancer. She was able to die peacefully at home with hospice services. Our family was really impacted by the compassionate care she received.

3 What's something people don't realize about dying?

It can be a really beautiful thing, equally as beautiful as birth, in my opinion. After people and their families have fought a long battle with disease and they finally are able to resign to the peace that they don't have to struggle any longer, that things are going to be all right. Those beautiful moments are what keep me here. It's the good stuff that shines through the sadness of the separation death brings.

4 How do you recharge and relax?

I live for time with my family! My husband and my son are my world. They both entertain and inspire me. We try to make the most of vacations and weekends to connect.

5 What is your secret talent?

I write songs on occasion. I won a state award in high school for a song I wrote.

6 Who is your heroes?

My parents. They are just great people. They are tough, strong, successful, inspiring. I like to think I got some of the better of the two of them. My mom is a nurse; my dad is a businessperson... very people-oriented folks.

7 Hospice Home turns 20 this year. Why is it important to have an inpatient facility like Hospice Home?

Hospice Home is a true gem! We have lost both of my in-laws in the last 2 years. They were both put in comfort care while in ICU's, and remained here until they passed. My husband has said many times, he wished they had had access to a place like Hospice Home. The expertise of our physicians, the opportunity for a peaceful, private room with nearly immediate access to spiritual and social support, music therapy...we offer a great service to this community! It's really something to be proud of!

8 What is important to your patients at the end of life?

I think peace, comfort, family/loved ones' support. Those are what people tend to seek in their last days.

9 What is something nobody knows about you?

I'm a pretty awesome cook! My best dishes are spur of the moment stuff that I make up as I go.

10 Tell us about a special patient.

I have had 1 patient that I'll never forget, "Jerry." I just connected with him and his family immediately. He was really sick, but you could tell he had always been a strong man, worked hard for his family. It was apparent they adored him. His disease was difficult. He went through a lot, but he was so kind and encouraging to his family right to the end. He rarely complained of the pain and bleeding he suffered. Just unforgettable.

HONORING OUR

hospice heroes.

We are a proud supporter of
VISITING NURSE & HOSPICE HOME
and the
2021 TOAST TO LIFE event.



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visiting nurse

HOSPICE HOME HOSPICE CARE PALLIATIVE CARE GRIEF SUPPORT

5910 Homestead Rd., Fort Wayne, IN 46814 • P: 260-435-3222 • 800-288-4111

www.vnfw.org



BECOME AN Ambassador of Compassion

Ambassadors of Compassion are supporters of Visiting Nurse who have decided to support Visiting Nurse every month. Donating a designated amount each month allows you to spread your giving throughout the year. Your gifts help Visiting Nurse care for patients, support families and provide grief counseling for adults in our community who have experienced the loss of a loved one.

Choosing this giving option is simple by selecting “giving monthly” here at www.vnfw.org/donate. The monthly giving program automatically transfers your specified donation amount directly from your credit card or debit account to Visiting Nurse on the same day of each month. You have the opportunity to choose how you would like your gift allocated.

Thank you for choosing to be a
Visiting Nurse Ambassador of Compassion.



“I support Visiting Nurse because I believe in what we do to walk alongside patients, families and individuals who are grieving. I signed up to give monthly, and become

an Ambassador of Compassion, because it's easy! And it allows me to make gifts to the organization throughout the year! Join me in becoming an Ambassador of Compassion!”

- Mary Shankster

Why we give:

Heather Herron



Music has the power to inspire, comfort, and unite. It can ease stress, relieve pain, and provide hope. That's why Sweetwater is honored to help support the music therapy program at Visiting Nurse.

Heather Herron, Vice President of
Corporate Communications, Sweetwater





ONGOING GRIEF SUPPORT GROUPS

Awareness that grief may affect every aspect of our life is the beginning of our healing process. These programs, focusing on grief and loss, are designed to provide any adult who has suffered the death of a loved one an opportunity to explore, learn and feel supported in a safe environment. These community programs are available at no charge and hospice involvement is not required. For information on any of these programs or individual grief support please call (260) 435-3261 or visit our website: www.vnfw.org.

Recent Loss Support Group

For those who have lost a loved one within 2 years

2nd & 4th Tuesday of each month
5:30-7 p.m.

Peggy F. Murphy Community Grief Center
5920 Homestead Road, Fort Wayne, IN 46814

Women's Afternoon Grief Support Group

After the death of a spouse or significant other

2nd & 4th Wednesday of each month
2-3:30 p.m.

Peggy F. Murphy Community Grief Center
5920 Homestead Road, Fort Wayne IN 46814

Women's Evening Support Group

After the death of a spouse or significant other

3rd Monday of each month
6-7:30 p.m.

Peggy F. Murphy Community Grief Center
5920 Homestead Road, Fort Wayne IN 46814

The Men's Group

After the death of a spouse or significant other

1st & 3rd Tuesday of each month
5:30-7 p.m.

Peggy F. Murphy Community Grief Center
5920 Homestead Road, Fort Wayne, IN 46814

We the Living

After the suicide of a loved one

2nd Wednesday of each month
7-8:30 p.m.

Peggy F. Murphy Community Grief Center
5920 Homestead Road, Fort Wayne, IN 46814

Compassionate Friends

For grieving parents, grandparents & siblings

1st Tuesday of each month
7 p.m.

First Presbyterian Church
300 W. Wayne St., Fort Wayne, IN 46802

and the following Thursday of each month
7 p.m.

Peggy F. Murphy Community Grief Center
5920 Homestead Road, Fort Wayne, IN 46814

Auburn Grief Support Group

For any loss due to death

2nd & 4th Tuesday of each month
6-7:30 p.m.

First Christian Church
910 N. Indiana Ave., Auburn, IN 46706

Anticipatory Grief Support Group

For those in anticipation of a death

2nd Monday of each month
5:30-7 p.m.

Please call (260) 435-3261 or
email davidwust@vnfw.org to register
and receive Zoom link

Pet Loss Support Group

For those who are grieving the loss of a pet

3rd Wednesday of each month
6-7 p.m.

Peggy F. Murphy Community Grief Center
5920 Homestead Road, Fort Wayne, IN 46814

Finding Hope

For those who have lost a loved one to suicide

4th Monday of each month
6:30-8 p.m.

Peggy F. Murphy Community Grief Center
5920 Homestead Road, Fort Wayne, IN 46814

and the 2nd Tuesday of each month
6:30-8 p.m.

Peggy F. Murphy Community Grief Center
5920 Homestead Road, Fort Wayne, IN 46814

Dupont Grief Support Group

For any loss due to death

1st & 3rd Tuesday of each month
5:30-7 p.m.

2514 Dupont Circle Drive East, 2nd Floor,
RC Classroom #1 (follow the signs)

Fort Wayne, IN 46825
RSVP to (260) 435-3261. COVID screening
and masks are required.

20+

For young people 20-35 grieving
any loss due to death

1st Monday of each month
via Zoom, 4 p.m.

and the 3rd Wednesday of each month
via Zoom, 4 p.m.

Please email DavidWust@vnfw.org for link
and details or call (260) 435-3261.

If you live in Adams, Blackford,
Grant, Jay, Huntington, Wabash
or Wells counties, you might be
interested in the support groups
that we provide listed below:

Companions of Hope - Marion

For any loss due to death

1st Monday of each month
6-7:30 p.m.

Visiting Nurse/Family LifeCare facility
705 S. Baldwin Ave., Marion, IN 46953



visitingNurse



You Make Meaningful Moments *Possible*

Did You Know

Did you know that Visiting Nurse is a 501c3 qualified to accept gifts from Donor Advised Funds? Call Monica Chamberlain at 260-432-3222 for more information.

Visiting Nurse provides compassion, comfort and guidance through life's journey, regardless of race, age, creed, sexual orientation, disability or nationality. We care for those who go on living as well. Our grief services are available at no charge for any adult who has experienced the loss of a loved one.

We proudly serve these Indiana counties:

Adams, Allen, Blackford, DeKalb, Grant, Huntington, Jay, Noble, Wabash, Wells and Whitley.

Translation services available. To make a difference in the lives of Visiting Nurse patients and families, consider making a gift to the Visiting Nurse Foundation. Please visit www.vnfw.org/donate or call (260) 435-3222.

Please let us know if you would like to be removed from our mailing list.
Call 260-435-3222 or 800-288-4111

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FIRST EDITION 2021



Visiting Nurse

HOSPICE HOME HOSPICE CARE PALLIATIVE CARE GRIEF SUPPORT

Main Office: Fort Wayne

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Fort Wayne, IN 46814

Berne

108 S Jefferson Street
Berne, IN 46711

Marion

705 S Baldwin Avenue
Marion, IN 46953

Phone: 260-435-3222

Toll-Free: 800-288-4111

Nursing and Patient Referral Line:
24 hours a day, 7 days a week

CHAP

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Health
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WE HONOR VETERANS

www.VNFW.org