



Stillwater
HOSPICE

Stillwater Stories

Second Edition | 2024

HOSPICE CARE • HOSPICE HOME • PALLIATIVE CARE • CHRONIC DISEASE MANAGEMENT • GRIEF SUPPORT



Inside this Edition:

The cheerful giver
2023 Annual Report

The cheerful giver



Jim Pyle and his wife Alice were married nearly 71 years before Alice passed away at Hospice Home in August 2023.

In the months since then, Jim

also enrolled in hospice for his congestive heart failure. At 90, he enjoyed life at Golden Years Homestead, crafting a model train display for residents' enjoyment, and tinkering around with clocks that decorate his apartment.

After a career at International Harvester, during which time their children, Fred and Brenda, were born, Jim and Alice retired as snowbirds. They spent half the year at Sylvan Lake and the other half in Bradenton, Florida. There, the couple helped other snowbirds by preparing their homes for the season.

"She opened up people's mobile homes on the inside and I did the outside," Jim recalled, by pressure washing the exteriors. The couple bought a boat and enjoyed fishing in the Gulf, even once in a while catching a few sharks. They returned full time to Fort Wayne to be near their daughter Brenda Shaffer several years ago and moved into Golden Years Homestead.

Alice's decline was fast, Jim remembered.

"Alice was playing cards on a Monday and on Tuesday she couldn't get out of bed," he said. A trip to the emergency room and a couple of falls led to a diagnosis of heart failure and the family decided to enroll Alice as an inpatient at Hospice Home. A few days later, she passed peacefully.

"They were so nice to us," said Brenda of the staff at Hospice Home. "They checked on us, played music. It couldn't have been better."





“I don’t know what we would have done without you. I don’t do it because I’m getting something from you – you need the money. It’s not a lot, but we have always tithed. We never had a lot. I feel good about it. I think you’re all great people.”

Following Alice’s death, Jim was cared for by Stillwater Hospice staff and volunteers, including visits from spiritual care counselor John Morgan. A devoted Christian, Jim and John shared many conversations about life, love and what comes after – and plenty of discussions about sports, particularly the Cubs and the Indiana University Hoosiers basketball team. Jim spent many years refereeing basketball and baseball games across northeast Indiana. And he and Alice loved ARCA stock car racing at Baer Field, taking their kids over the years (though Brenda described the races as “loud, dusty and gross”). Son Fred, who lives in Illinois, said he was grateful for the extra layer of support Stillwater provided his family.

“I am grateful for the added layer of support for Dad, understanding I live out of state and can’t be here often,” Fred said.

As the primary caretaker, Brenda agreed that a weight was lifted with Stillwater Hospice’s team assisting with her father’s care, medication management and regular visitors who not only provided companionship but, most importantly, assessed his needs.”

Lifelong contributors to his church, Jim decided to tithe his contributions to Stillwater Hospice – a decision his children fully supported.

“I don’t know what we would have done without you,” Jim said. “I don’t do it because I’m getting something from you – you need the money. It’s not a lot, but we have always tithed. We never had a lot. I feel good about it. I think you’re all great people.”

It was an honor to sit down with Jim and his children to hear firsthand about his life and the many things that brought him joy. We were saddened by his passing in August, but grateful for his family’s encouragement to continue telling his story.

As the only community-based, non-profit hospice in Northern Indiana, donations to Stillwater Hospice are crucial to ensure everyone can have dignity as they near the end of their life. Every donation matters! Whether you give monthly, annually, through your IRA, or leave a gift in your will, your generosity helps individuals and families receive compassionate care at a time when they need it most. If you’d like to learn about other ways to give, please contact Monica Chamberlain at (260) 435-3222 or MonicaChamberlain@stillwater-hospice.org.



As we are over halfway through Stillwater Hospice's 136th year, I am in awe of our mission and the support we have received so far. We are putting the finishing touches on our Hospice Home renovations. What started out as a capital campaign to put on a new

roof, new windows and some flooring has grown into so much more through the generosity of our supporters. We have a new entrance to Hospice Home, a new door on every patient room so that our patients and their loved ones can experience our gardens while receiving care at Hospice Home, and so many more wonderful ways we have created a comforting environment for those experiencing discomfort and difficult times. I cannot wait to share the finished space with you.

Also this year, we had an amazing time at the 2nd Annual Women's Water Lily Luncheon, where 500 women came together to learn about Stillwater and honor our caregiving mission. Our hope is that the entire community knows us before they need us. I hope you take the information you learn from this magazine and share it with someone you know who may benefit from knowing about Stillwater's hospice, palliative or grief support programs. Knowing about the resources that are available is often a saving grace in times when it may feel like knowing what to say is difficult. Our 2023 Annual Report, enclosed in this magazine, highlights the incredible reach Stillwater Hospice has had in the 12 counties of northeast Indiana we are privileged to serve.

As we look towards the end of 2024, I look forward to seeing you at our annual Holiday Memorial Service and Tree Lighting on November 24th at Baker Street Train Station. If you have never attended, I encourage you to do so. Holidays following loss, whether it has been several years or a recent loss, can be challenging. This event is a wonderful way to honor your feelings and those you have lost.

Serving with you,

Leslie Friedel, CEO

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YOU'RE INVITED TO

Celebrate

the completion of our

Renovation

Friday, September 27, 2024

10:30 a.m.

5910 Homestead Rd., Fort Wayne, IN 46814

Please join us to celebrate the completion of the renovation of Hospice Home. Our \$1.7 million project included new roofing, flooring, windows and doors in each Hospice Home room that allow access to our beautiful gardens. Small group tours will follow remarks from Leslie Friedel, Stillwater Hospice's CEO.



Stillwater

HOSPICE

HOSPICE HOME



Support Stillwater while you shop:

Did you know that you can help Stillwater Hospice every time you shop at Kroger? Simply scan the QR code to sign up for Kroger Community Rewards. Stillwater Hospice's organization code is WL594. Join our family of supporters while you shop!

Why We Give

Larry and Sharon Reed



Sharon and I regularly donate to Stillwater Hospice because we have had several friends and relatives who have received hospice and grief services from them. The feedback we

receive from the families is that the care was so personal and comprehensive at the most difficult time of their lives. Consistently they have said, after the passing of their loved one, that they wish they would have made the decision for hospice sooner than they did.

The staff made the situation so much easier for the patient and the family and definitely reduced the patient's and family's anxiety through the process. Stillwater needs donations, primarily because they have never charged any family for grief services and don't intend to start. They have a beautiful Grief Center Building to maintain and a full staff that receives wages. These services are extremely beneficial for the families of patients who have passed, and Stillwater is one of the very few places in the area to provide grief services.



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www.stillwater-hospice.org



Staff Spotlight

Dr. Dustin J. Petersen

MD, MPH, FACS

HOSPICE PHYSICIAN



1. How did you come to Stillwater ?

I was very fortunate to arrive at Stillwater Hospice when I did. Physician burnout is on the rise and I had been reflecting deeply upon my work as a physician. I am lucky to have options in how I practice medicine, but I was repeatedly drawn to healing those who are suffering or grieving in other ways.

2. What do families not understand about hospice care?

There is a critical need to increase awareness of hospice services among both the public and health care practitioners. These services are grossly underutilized, even though they have so much to offer patients and families. Doctors are often ill-equipped, perhaps sometimes reluctant, to offer patients treatment without an opportunity for cure. Too often death is viewed as failure, when in fact we are mortal beings. However, it requires courage to face death and conversations which can be uncomfortable.

3. What is a typical day like for you?

I wear many hats and luckily for me and my personality, I do not have a typical day. My work at Stillwater Hospice includes palliative care consultations for hospitalized patients and also care for patients who are admitted to hospice. Navigating difficult conversations with patients and families can be challenging,

but also very rewarding. It is a privilege to be invited to hear the stories of loved ones and to have an opportunity to guide them through this period in their lives.

4. What's your personal motto?

I do not have a motto per se, but I do my best to follow the principal rules laid out by Robert Fulghum in "All I Really Need to Know I Learned in Kindergarten." It contains elements of humanism, empathy, and justice that I feel are so important to civilization.

5. What is one item on your bucket list?

I think a bucket list implies things that might be left undone. I appreciate the opportunities that I have had and look forward to new experiences, but I feel at peace with what I have accomplished in my life. If anything, I have one minor regret. I earned my undergraduate degree in microbiology at UC Davis. In retrospect, studying viticulture and enology would have provided me with a greater appreciation for wine, a unique opportunity to meet winemakers from nearby Napa and Sonoma Valleys, and still allowed me to complete the required prerequisites for medical school.

Lil Miss Eleanor Reckitt Rhonda (aka Ellie) is being trained by Dr. Petersen to become a service animal.





Volunteer Spotlight

Rosie Scranton



1. Why do you choose to volunteer at Stillwater Hospice?

I firmly believe in Stillwater's mission. I have financially supported them for a long time, and then when I retired, I chose them as one of the places that I wanted to volunteer. I've had several friends who have used their services, and nobody has ever said anything but great things about them. So that was where I decided to put my time.

2. As a volunteer, what have been your duties?

I'm a detailed, work behind the scenes person. I would not be a good person for client contact or visiting clients, and I know that. My whole background has been clerical and administrative work. That's where my strengths are, so that's where I serve.

3. What kept you motivated while working on a multiple-year project?

When we merged with Family LifeCare in Berne, and then Kosciusko Home Care and Hospice, all the patient records had to be scanned. First of all, you had to prep them, which meant going in and taking out all the paper clips, all the staples, and all the odd-sized sheets that would not scan easily. Then we scanned the records into a generic folder on the network. The last step, for me, was

going in and renaming them with patient names because when they scanned in, they just had the date, the machine it came from, and the time. Once that was done, they were boxed and Jill, another volunteer, would shred them. Then, we moved on to palliative, and now we're working on volunteer records. It was just something that had to be done, and it's the kind of thing that I'm good at. It makes more sense for me to be giving my time doing that than for an employee.

4. Who is your greatest inspiration?

I would say my friend Pat is my greatest inspiration. She has faced some really big family challenges with her daughter and son-in-law, and she just keeps going. She's always there for anybody at any time, no matter what's going on with her.

5. What is your greatest inspiration?

Do what makes you happy, where you feel appreciated. It's not that it's all about you; it's about giving to others, but it's always nice to be appreciated. And that is very true here.





Gov. Eric Holcomb presents Stillwater Hospice staff with a Century Business Award.

Gov. Eric J. Holcomb joined Indiana Secretary of Commerce David Rosenberg on Aug. 15 to celebrate longstanding Hoosier businesses, awarding the Governor's Century and Half Century Business Award to 48 businesses in recognition of each company's longevity and its impact on the state's economy, communities and people.

Stillwater Hospice was honored for 124 years of service to the community. The agency began providing services in Fort Wayne in 1888 and was incorporated by the state in 1900.

Write a Will Week

Monday,
October 21
9:30-11 a.m.

Tuesday,
October 22
11 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

Wednesday,
October 23
5:30-7:00 p.m.

LOCATED IN THE PEGGY F. MURPHY COMMUNITY GRIEF CENTER

Appointments are filling quickly, so don't delay!

Call Kaitlin Sanders-Krieger at (260) 435-3222 to schedule your appointment.

Are you prepared? Having a will is a lasting gift to your surviving loved ones that will guide your final wishes. During Write a Will Week, you can have a simple will created at no cost when you leave at least one gift to charity, no matter the size. Participants will have a 30-minute appointment with an estate attorney to review a previously completed questionnaire to help you identify your priorities as you look towards your family's future. The attorney will also identify any additional items you may need to be fully prepared and the cost of those (i.e. legal healthcare representative), which you can move forward with or decline.

You can help us continue our 136-year tradition of compassion, comfort and guidance through life's journey with a donation to the Stillwater Hospice Foundation.

Leaving a gift in your will to Stillwater Hospice helps ensure we can continue to provide hospice, palliative and grief support services for generations to come.

39TH ANNUAL

Holiday Memorial Service & Tree Lighting

Sunday, November 24, 2024 • 5-6 p.m.

Baker Street Train Station • 221 W. Baker Street, Fort Wayne, IN 46802

This season, remember someone special by adding a light to the Holiday Memorial Tree, and join us for the inspirational lighting ceremony.

Please reserve your symbolic memorial light by November 1.

RSVP required by Nov. 1. Attendees this year will receive a gift to take home and commemorate this event. Please RSVP to the event and reserve your memorial light online at [Stillwater-Hospice.org/HMT](https://stillwater-hospice.org/HMT), or call the Stillwater Foundation at (260) 435-3252.

RESERVE YOUR MEMORIAL LIGHT AND RSVP ONLINE AT
stillwater-hospice.org/HMT



2024 Betsy Waterfield Chapman Employee Education Fund recipients with supporters Howard and Stephen Chapman (center)



Stillwater
HOSPICE

IS PROUD TO BE A



FORT 4 FITNESS

CHARITY PARTNER

We encourage you to choose **Stillwater Hospice** on your registration form as your charity of choice when you sign up for a Fort4Fitness event!

Fall Festival | Sept. 28
Winter Wonder Dash | Nov. 15 & 16

2023 Annual Report

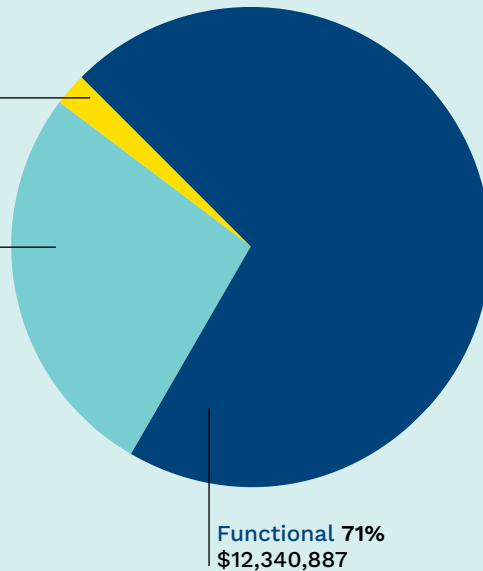
FINANCIAL INFORMATION

Expenses

Total: \$17,534,472

Fundraising 2%
\$394,351

Administrative 27%
\$4,799,234



Patient Services Revenue

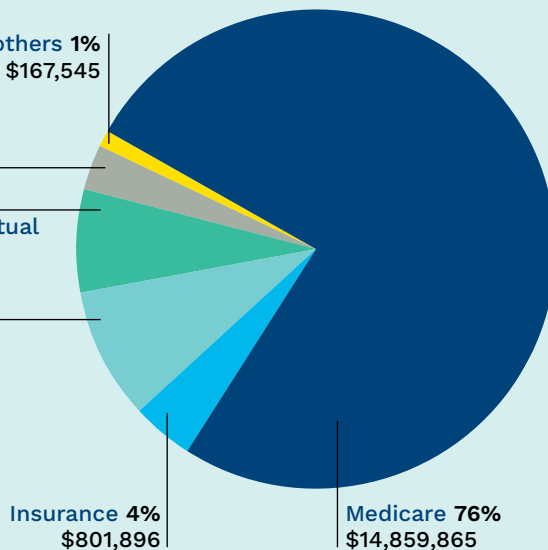
Total: \$19,557,582

Individuals and others 1%
\$167,545

Medicaid 3%
\$658,814

Charity and contractual allowances 7%
\$1,308,849

Investment gains, contributions and others 9%
\$1,760,613



Assets

Cash:.....	\$2,531,896
Investments:	\$15,413,166
Accounts receivable:	\$2,247,863
Prepaid expenses:.....	\$210,799
Contributions receivable:	\$190,929
Property and equipment:.....	\$5,620,555
Goodwill:.....	\$152,046
Total Assets	\$26,367,254

Liabilities

Accounts payable:.....	\$1,003,189
Provider Relief Fund-Refundable:.....	\$0
Accrued expenses:.....	\$780,242
Total Liabilities.....	\$1,783,431

Net Assets

Unrestricted:.....	\$23,807,823
Donor restricted:.....	\$776,000
Total Net Assets	\$24,583,823

Functional Expenses

Hospice at Home:.....	\$8,158,227
Inpatient facilities:.....	\$2,145,020
Palliative Care:.....	\$2,037,640
Total.....	\$12,340,887

* Goodwill is an intangible asset that accounts for the excess purchase price of another company. Items included in goodwill are proprietary or intellectual property and brand recognition, which are not easily quantifiable.

Our Mission:

Stillwater Hospice provides compassion, comfort and guidance through life's journey.

2023 Patient Data



1,344
RECEIVED
Hospice Care



1,198
RECEIVED
Palliative Care

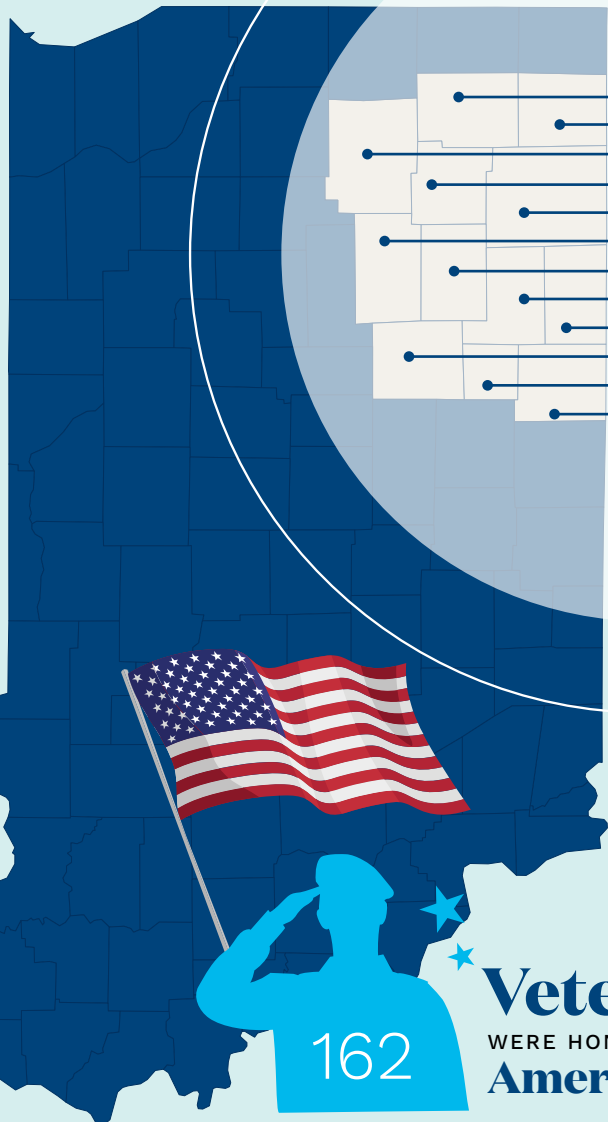


48,000+
TOTAL NUMBER OF
Patient Visits



2,077
Grief Counseling Sessions

Stillwater Hospice Patients by County



- Noble: 1%
- DeKalb: 1%
- Kosciusko: 5%
- Whitley: 2%
- Allen: 44%
- Wabash: 3%
- Huntington: 6%
- Wells: 5%
- Adams: 7%
- Grant: 7%
- Blackford: 1%
- Jay: 2%

Out of area*: 16%

**At Hospice Home, we care for patients that travel to us that do not have a primary residence in our current service area.*

4,791
SQUARE MILES OF
Service Area



Volunteers

141

TOTAL NUMBER OF
Volunteers

7,226.5

TOTAL NUMBER OF
Volunteer hours

Veterans

162

WERE HONORED WITH AN
American flag blanket



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Get the information you need. Prepare to Care.

The caregiving journey is difficult. We want to make it easier.

Join us for a transformative half-day event, the Prepare to Care, Caregiver Information Session, brought to you by AARP Indiana, Stillwater Hospice, Aging & In-Home Services of Northeast Indiana, and Beers Mallers LLP, Attorneys At Law. Prepare to Care empowers, educates, and supports current and future caregivers. Industry experts are ready to help you discover local resources and services that can make your caregiving experience more manageable and fulfilling.

October 3, 2024

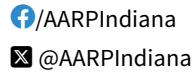
10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Eastern

Peggy F. Murphy Community Grief Center, Stillwater Hospice

5920 Homestead Rd, Fort Wayne, IN 46814

Space is limited. Registration required.

Scan the QR code or visit <https://events.aarp.org/PTCFW> to sign up.



Thank you

Jerry and Becky Henry

FOR YOUR SUPPORT OF OUR EVENT





We're still reveling in the glow from more than 500 women who attended our 2nd Annual Water Lily Luncheon on May 1 at the Mirro Center in Fort Wayne and raised needed funding to support Stillwater Hospice's full suite of compassion services. Missed the action? Don't worry: **our next Water Lily Luncheon is set for Wednesday, May 7, 2025.**

Learn more and show your support at Stillwater-Hospice.org/water-lily.



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Water Lily

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Water Lily

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Dan Pantos & Joe Frasor

Thank you Stillwater Hospice for all you do!

IMAGINE
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At Ambassador, we honor generations of strong women who built enduring legacies. We stand with **Stillwater Hospice** in supporting women caregivers, both professionally and personally. Together, we can ensure no families face their journeys alone.

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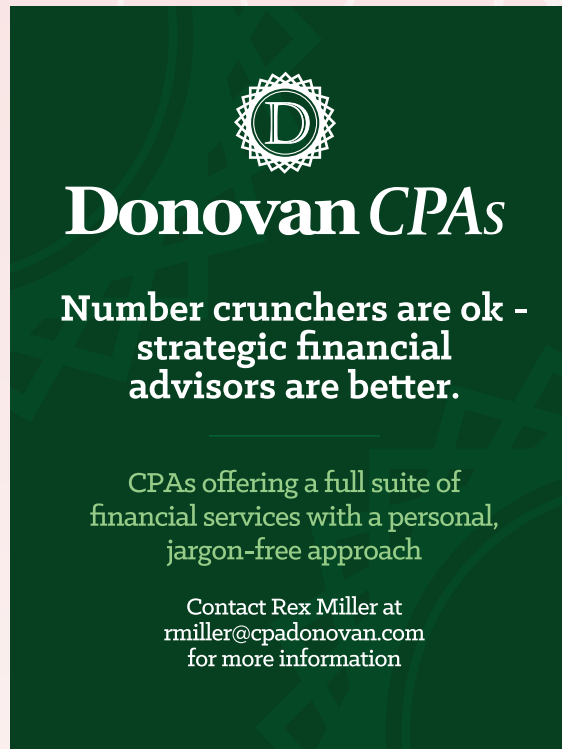
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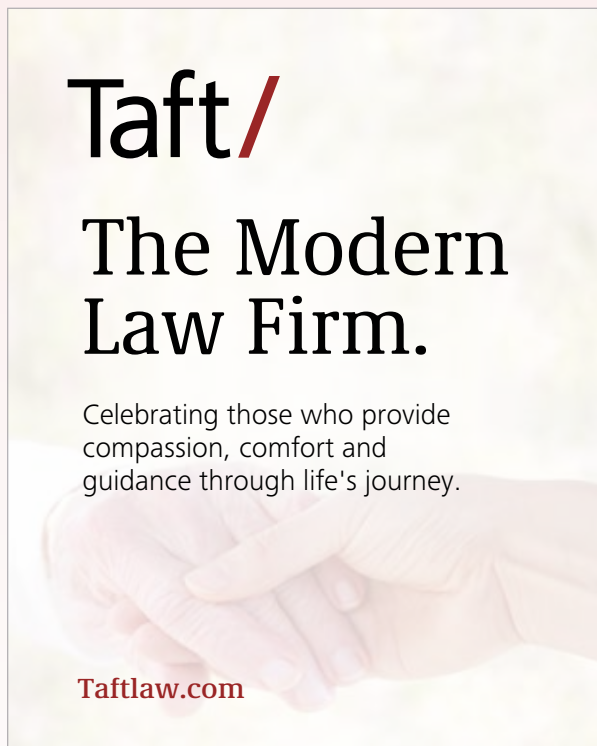
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Grief Support Special Programming

RSVP is required for all programs.

More information and registration available online.
(260)435-3261 | GriefCenter@stillwater-hospice.org

Grief support programs are designed to provide tools to cope with grief and stress, available at no charge for any adult who has experienced or is anticipating a death-related loss.

Monthly Programs

Yoga for Respite & Restoration | 5:30-6:20PM

1st & 3rd Wednesdays October-December, 2024

2nd & 4th Wednesdays January-March, 2025

Gentle, restful movements, open for anyone to practice on a mat or a chair.

RSVP by the Monday before meeting date.

Grief Hikes

Third Friday of every month | 10:00 AM

January-March, 2025

Process grief through a group hike at various ACRES trail locations.

RSVP by the Monday before meeting date.

4 Week Series

For continued participation, attendance the first week is required.

Colors of Grief

Tuesdays | 5:30-7:30 PM

October 8-29, 2024

Learn how to express the emotions of grief through the process of creating art.

RSVP by Friday, September 27th.

Invisible Ink

Mondays | 10:00-11:30 AM

November 4-25, 2024

Process and express grief through writing letters to their loved one.

RSVP by Friday, October 25th.

Healing Through Hula Hooping

Wednesdays | 6:45-7:45 PM

January 8-29, 2025

Explore emotions through mindful movement with a hula hoop.

RSVP by Friday, December 27th.

Healing Haiku

Mondays | 10:00-11:30 PM

February 3-24, 2025

Learn to express feelings and find ways to make sense of their loss through Haiku.

RSVP by Friday, January 24th.

Meditation & Mindfulness

Thursdays | 10:00-11:30 AM

March 6-27, 2025

An introduction to concepts & practices of meditation & mindfulness for daily living.

RSVP by Friday, February 28th.

Special Events

Griefsgiving

Saturday, November 2, 2024

10:30 AM- 2PM

Experiences to help navigate the holidays while grieving.

RSVP by Friday, October 25th.

Winterlude

Saturday, December 7, 2024

10:30 AM- 1PM

A collective experience to learn how to navigate the winter season with grief.

RSVP by Friday, November 29th.

Quarterly Programs

Held once a month each quarter starting in 2025. Check online for dates and descriptions.

Soma Dance

Book Club

**All programs and events are in-person and located at The Peggy F. Murphy Community Grief Center
5920 Homestead Road, Fort Wayne, IN 46814 unless otherwise specified.**

Ongoing Grief Support Groups



THE PEGGY F. MURPHY
**Community
Grief Center**

A service of Stillwater Hospice

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.

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

General Loss Grief Support Group

For any adult who has experienced loss due to death • 2nd & 4th Tuesday of each month • 5:30-7 p.m.

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.

Women's Evening Grief Support Group

After the death of a spouse or significant other
3rd Monday of each month • 5:45-7:15 p.m.

Pet Loss Support Group

For those who are grieving the loss of a pet
3rd Wednesday of each month • 6-7 p.m.

We the Living

For those who have lost a loved one to suicide
2nd Wednesday of each month • 7-8:30 p.m.

Finding Hope

For those who have lost a loved one to suicide
4th Monday of each month • 6:30-8 p.m.

Please call (260) 435-3261 or email griefcenter@stillwater-hospice.org to register in advance by the Wednesday prior to meeting date

Compassionate Friends

For grieving parents, grandparents & siblings
Thursday following 1st Tuesday
each month • 7 p.m.

Contact Kelly Pulley & Katy Leach for meeting locations, (260) 255-4530, leave a message to receive a return call. No meetings in July or December.

Please call (260) 435-3261 or email griefcenter@stillwater-hospice.org to register in advance by the Wednesday prior to meeting date:

▼ **Messiah Lutheran Church**

7211 Stellhorn Road, Fort Wayne, IN 46815

Stellhorn Grief Support Group

1st & 3rd Monday of each month • 6:30-7:30 p.m.

▼ **First Christian Church**

910 N. Indiana Ave., Auburn, IN 46706

Auburn Grief Support Group

For any loss due to death
2nd & 4th Tuesday of each month • 6-7:30 p.m.

▼ **Fort Wayne Pride Center**

527 W. Berry St., Fort Wayne, IN 46802

LGBTQ+ Grief Support Group

For members of the LGBTQ+ community who have lost partners or loved ones
2nd Monday of each month • 5:30-7 p.m.

▼ **Health Services Pavilion**

1515 Provident Dr., Warsaw, IN 46580

Warsaw Grief Support Group

Third Friday of each month • 2-3 p.m.

▼ **Marion Public Library**

600 S. Washington St., Marion, IN 46953

Marion Grief Support Group

Third Wednesday of each month • 6-7 p.m.

**For information: (260) 435-3261
or stillwater-hospice.org.**

Stillwater Stories

Second Edition 2024

Stillwater Hospice 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, Kosciusko, Noble, Wabash, Wells and Whitley.



Stillwater
HOSPICE

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Marion, IN 46953

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Berne, IN 46711

Warsaw

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Warsaw, IN 46580

Translation services available. To make a difference in the lives of Stillwater Hospice patients and families, consider making a gift to the Stillwater Foundation. Please visit stillwater-hospice.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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Phone: 260-435-3222 • Toll-Free: 800-288-4111

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

stillwater-hospice.org



CHAP Community Health Accreditation Partner



Because of people like you, Stillwater Hospice is able to continue our 136-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!



Quickly support Stillwater Foundation by scanning the QR code to make your safe, secure online donation. Thank you!

