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Our newsletter is mailed twice a year to patients and family members, donors, community supporters, and other friends of Hospicare. If you have received multiple copies of this newsletter, please let us know so we can correct the mailing error. In addition, we welcome your thoughts or feedback about the contents. Contact us at communications@hospicare.org.

Find more articles and information on hospice, palliative care, advance care planning, and grief support at hospicare.org.

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Dear Friends,

I hope this newsletter finds you and your family well as we walk the rocky road between winter and spring! It always lifts my heart to arrive, at last, to warm days, blue skies and green fields.

At Hospicare, despite the dark clouds swirling around our government and body politic, I want to share with you—our closest friends—that we have a quiet, steady confidence in our ability to deliver our unique model of care for everyone who needs it for many years to come.

How can we be confident given current events? The answer is not as complicated as you might think. It's the hearts and hands of people who care. They are the ones who do the work and who believe in the simple truth that human beings deserve to be treated with dignity and respect all throughout their lives and especially at the end of their life.

There is no computer that can do this work. There aren't any fancy strategies or complicated funding contracts that can secure our future. The only resource we need—the only thing we've ever needed—is people who care.

In this newsletter, you'll meet some of these people for Hospicare—some who are new to our team, some who have served and supported us for many years. They will tell you their stories of why this work matters, and how they are going to help guide Hospicare to a future where every single patient and family in our community will have access to our services regardless of income or insurance.

The truth is, we are blessed with an abundance of people who care and contribute in so many ways to the mission and work of Hospicare. Although rarely easy, this work is extraordinarily life-affirming, and we simply couldn't do it without everyone whose time, treasure, and talent makes this work possible today and for many years into the future.

In spring, the earth turns inexorably toward warmth and sun. At Hospicare, the people in and around our organization do the same thing for those we serve. Thank you for being part of the Hospicare community.

Joe Sammons  
Executive Director

## Upcoming Events

### Grieving Together: Online Ongoing General Support Group

First and third Wednesday of every month via Zoom  
5:30-7:00 pm



### Illuminations, a Community Memorial Event

Thursday, June 12, 7:00 pm–sundown  
Location: Lifelong, 119 W. Court Street, Ithaca, NY

### On the Cover

Health aide **Tina Wilbur**, who has worked at the Hospicare Residence for 16 years, visits with a resident.  
Registration required.  
Email [dhavas@hospicare.org](mailto:dhavas@hospicare.org) for more information.



## Women Swimmin' for Hospicare!

The 22nd Annual Women Swimmin' for Hospicare opens for registration on Monday, May 5, at 7:00 am. Sign up to swim the lake, be a support paddler, form a fundraising team, or "Go the Distance for Hospicare," by choosing your own activity like bikin', knittin', writin', or walkin'!

## Calling All Confident Paddlers!

"Women Swimmin' for Hospicare wouldn't be possible without all the paddlers!" said volunteer safety lead, **Chris Burnett**, who oversees the course and multiple layers of safety in place on the water.

We're seeking 140+ competent kayakers, canoeists, and SUPers, plus a few powerboaters and experienced wave runners to register at [womenswimmin.org](http://womenswimmin.org) starting May 5.

Sign up is easy, and volunteering involves one mandatory pre-event orientation meeting and around 4 hours of your time on Saturday, August 9. Join us and spread the word! The event is both meaningful and fun.



## New Events and Communications Staff



**Dana Havas**, who joined the Hospicare team as the new community events and development associate in the first week of January, will coordinate this year's Women Swimmin' for Hospicare event with the help of dedicated volunteers.

Dana has served in the agricultural sector as a senior project manager at American Farm-land Trust and before that as the agriculture team leader at Cortland County Cooperative Extension.



**Margo Holley**, who for many years worked at the Cortland YMCA, most recently as director of operations, joined Hospicare in February as the marketing and communications manager.

We are so thrilled to welcome Margo and Dana to the team!



"**Hospicare partners with every provider," Sammon said, "and takes all insurances.**"

the Rev. David Evans, Patricia Trethaway, Ruth Pettengill, Matt Herson, Bill Scott, and Dr. Willard Schmitt all played key roles in founding Hospicare."

In recounting the community generosity that led to the construction of the Hospicare Residence, the first freestanding hospice residence in New York State, Beverly is quick to highlight the involvement of **Chris Malloy**, **Bernie Malloy** and his wife **Judy Malloy**, who served as president of the Hospicare Board after Beverly's terms.

Beverly explained, "Working with **Jerry Nye**, the second executive director of Hospicare, the Malloys rallied their colleagues in the construction trades and skilled volunteers to donate their labor to build a house in the Horizon residential development in Lansing to then sell at public auction. They also recruited local suppliers to donate the building materials. The proceeds provided the substantial down payment for the present Hospicare facility."

"Beverly has a unique perspective on the role Hospicare plays in the community health care system," said **Joe Sammons**, Hospicare's executive director.

"There are two factors that make Hospicare so special," said Beverly. "The first is its remarkable commitment to high-quality care that is independent of any existing health system or insurance company. Everyone gets the best care possible, regardless of their insurance, their income, or the health system they are served by. The second factor is that the community is such a big part of the service, in volunteering and, of course, in donations. People like

Director Sammons emphasized how the Beverly Hammons Challenge Match and the Hospicare Future Fund will offer community members another chance to support accessible care that is also financially stable and independent.

"Hospicare partners with every provider," Sammon said, "and takes all insurances."

## Celebrating Betsy East



Each year, Assemblymember Anna Kelles asks for nominations from the community for a Women of Distinction award. On March 13, it was announced that **Betsy East** (pictured left), who has not only been involved with Women Swimmin' for Hospicare since its early years but is also a cherished board member and friend to Hospicare, was nominated for this award.

In the recognition announcement, Assemblymember Kelles shared that Betsy, "is a formidable force when it comes to supporting this agency and this event, and her influence can be seen in every aspect of it—from fundraising to safety protocols to the after-event celebration. She is an inspiration and a quiet and remarkable supporter of Hospicare and this community."

Congratulations, Betsy!