



# impressions

LEGACIES OF LOVE AND FINGERPRINTS ON THE WORLD

**A WISH  
FULFILLED**  
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## A WISH FULFILLED

### Hospice team holds luau & vow renewal for couple

Hospice patient Doris Stabler and her husband, Al, had always dreamed of going to Hawaii to renew their vows on their 50th wedding anniversary.

Unfortunately, Doris' health prevented her from traveling, but the Senior Independence Hospice team stepped in to give her the next best thing.

Through the Make it Happen program, which provides special moments of joy to those nearing the end of their lives, Senior Independence helped plan a backyard luau celebration for Doris and Al.

The team worked with Doris' family to plan the event,

which they were able to keep a secret. In fact, Doris had no idea what was planned until she was being wheeled down the aisle by her brother!

Hospice Chaplain Bob Linsz, wearing his special wedding robe, performed a vow renewal ceremony.

"The love that Doris and Al share was evident to everyone there," said Volunteer Coordinator Shannon Good.

After the ceremony, guests enjoyed a feast that included Doris' favorite foods: fried chicken and watermelon. Doris said the day was a dream come true for her and her family. Her daughter

echoed those sentiments, saying it was a day their family would never forget. ●

**ON THE COVER:** *Hospice patient Doris Stabler posed with her family at the special anniversary luau that was made possible through Senior Independence Hospice's Make it Happen program.*

**ABOVE, LEFT:** *Hospice Chaplain Bob Linsz performed a vow renewal ceremony in honor of the 50th anniversary of hospice patient Doris Stabler and her husband, Al.*

**ABOVE, RIGHT:** *Even the cake had a luau theme!*

Want to help patients like Doris fulfill their wishes? You can – by sending your gift today in support of the Make it Happen program!

# HELPING HOSPICE

## Volunteer donates time & talents

Over the years, Arline Coleman (*below, right*) has given her time, helping hands and caring heart to many.

“Aunt Arline,” as she’s affectionately known, has a long history of volunteerism with various organizations that have touched her heart. Currently, Arline is helping out at Senior Independence Hospice’s Greater Cleveland office.

Senior Independence Executive Director Eileen Yates, who knew Arline in years past from her work with the Alzheimer’s Association, jumped at the chance to recruit Arline when she saw her at a spaghetti dinner.

“She’s such a sweetheart and a huge help,” Eileen said. “Although she insists we help her more than she helps us!”

Arline feels best volunteering in the office. She handles clerical duties like filing, putting together notebooks and manuals, stuffing mailings and hand-addressing invitations to memorial services.

“I love the work,” said Arline. “It gives me a purpose and I enjoy it.”

Arline also enjoys the people. “Everyone is so warm, friendly and caring,” she shared. “I couldn’t ask for anything better.” ●

## Give back

### Become a hospice volunteer

The contributions of volunteers like Arline are essential to the important services provided by Senior Independence Hospice.

You can share your skills and interests to help enrich the lives of hospice patients and their families.

Whether you prefer companionship visits or office work, there’s an opportunity for you!

Visit [www.seniorindependence.org/hospice/volunteer](http://www.seniorindependence.org/hospice/volunteer) for more information, or call the regional office closest to you (*listed on the back cover*).

You can make an impression in the lives of those we serve!



# PLAY BALL!

## Ohio sports teams help honor hospice patient fans



Martha Griffin (*above, left*) had one goal when she became a hospice patient: to be here to see the Cincinnati Reds on opening day. She was.

Thanks to Senior Independence Hospice's Make it Happen program, Martha was treated to a special gift package from the Reds to help her celebrate.

The hospice team contacted the Reds, who sent Martha a photo, blanket and letter, as well as an autographed baseball.

Martha's daughter, Shelly (*above, right*), was there when her mom opened the package. "She was truly moved," Shelly said. "I cannot thank the hospice team and the Reds organization enough for taking the time to make this happen."

The hospice team also planned a special opening day party to help Martha cheer on her beloved Reds. "It was another everlasting memory of my mother for our family," said Shelly. "I'm grateful."



From the start, Senior Independence Hospice nurse Lori Young knew that her patient, Dolores Zins (*above*), was a big Cleveland Browns fan. "She had trinkets around her home and would always talk about the games," Lori said.

Knowing this, Lori helped to create another Make it Happen wish come true.

Senior Independence contacted the Browns, who sent Dolores a personalized letter, jersey and hat. Senior Independence chipped in too, giving Dolores a Browns blanket and pillow.

Dolores took one look at the framed letter and started to cry. "It was such a great moment," said Lori. "Dolores was crying, and her daughter started crying too."

"It was wonderful. I'll remember it for the rest of my life," stated Dolores' daughter, Marlene. She said she and her mom were completely surprised by the gesture. "We were shocked. Mom was so grateful though; it really lifted her spirits."



Hospice patient Virginia Ritchie (*above, right*) didn't have much time for baseball in years past; she was too busy helping her husband run their turkey farm.

But over the past decade, following the Cleveland Indians has become her passion.

"She keeps an Indians schedule next to her bed, and her caregivers help her keep track of which games are going to be televised," said hospice nurse Lori Young.

For Virginia's birthday, her hospice team presented her with a variety of Cleveland Indians gifts, including a blanket, jersey, pants and other items.

"She was so touched that they thought of her," said Virginia's daughter, Ann.

Virginia's love of the team was also incorporated into a scrapbook that the hospice team made for her birthday. "She very much enjoyed it; it was a nice memory for her," Ann said.



"I grew up with baseball," said Senior Independence hospice patient Nancy Jessee (*above, right*), who is a devoted Cincinnati Reds fan.

Nancy now watches the Reds on TV, but said she never missed a home game back in the days when the team played at Crosley Field.

Knowing how much Nancy loves the Reds, her hospice team contacted the organization to ask for help with a special Make it Happen surprise.

The Reds sent Nancy a bobblehead doll, letter, schedule and an opening day pin.

"The letter is framed and hanging above my TV, and the bobblehead is in a glass case," Nancy said proudly.

Social worker Peg Smith said Nancy loved the items and is especially proud of the bobblehead. Nancy jokingly told Peg, "Wait until my friends see this – none of them have bobbleheads!" ●

# GRANTING GENEROSITY

## Local foundation helps bring alternative therapies to patients

Thanks to a generous grant from the Harry C. Moores Foundation, Senior Independence Hospice patients in central Ohio are benefitting from music, art and massage therapies.

The program was launched in January and is funded exclusively by the grant.

“Without the Harry C. Moores Foundation, this program would not exist,” said Volunteer Coordinator Stephanie Joseph.

Senior Independence employs three part-time, certified therapists that specialize in each of the distinct therapies.

### songs bring smiles

Music therapist Pam Richardson has brought many smiles to patients and their families with her unique

approach. Pam never has a pre-determined set list – she always gets to know the patients first and then plays whatever they like.

Pam surprised one patient with photos she found of the woman from when she was in an orchestra. Although the patient couldn’t speak, her eyes lit up and she smiled, clearly touched by Pam’s gesture.

### the art of therapy

Ali Bernstein is the art therapist, and enjoys working with patients who have different skill sets.

Two of Ali’s patients are beginners, so she does finger painting and other simple projects with them. Another patient is an artist himself, so Ali works with him on more complicated techniques.

Through the grant, Ali is able to purchase the supplies she needs to assist in her work.

### a hands on approach

Jill McMahon just started as the new massage therapist. She has worked with hospice patients in the past and said she is very excited to be back in the hospice field again.

Jill has studied a variety of techniques that are specific to the elderly and fragile, so her work will be very beneficial in bringing relief and relaxation to hospice patients. ●

**BELOW:** A grant from the Harry C. Moores Foundation has made alternative therapies possible for Senior Independence Hospice patients in central Ohio. Left: Music therapist Pam Richardson brightens a patient’s day through song. Right: Ali Bernstein, art therapist, works with a patient on his already excellent techniques.



## A SPECIAL SURPRISE

### Staff treated during nurses week

A massage and a breakfast buffet – what a way for a hardworking nurse to start the day!

During this year's National Nurses Week, nurses at Senior Independence's Mahoning Valley office were treated to a delightful surprise one morning before setting out for another busy day of visiting patients.

Volunteer Coordinator Carol Davis, who happens to be a licensed massage therapist, decided to treat her nurse co-workers to a relaxing massage in honor of nurses week.

A nearby table loaded with breakfast items was also part of the surprise. Carol and other office staff pitched in to help with all of the preparations.

“Carol showed what it means to volunteer,” said Senior Independence Executive Director Sarah Hadley. “She not only led by example by giving her time and talent, she also showed great care toward our staff.”

As part of her work as a massage therapist,



**ABOVE:** Carol Davis (standing), Senior Independence Hospice volunteer coordinator, showed what it means to give back. Carol, who is also a licensed massage therapist, treated her co-workers to chair massages during National Nurses Week.

Carol has worked with hospice patients for about 10 years, so she has a special appreciation for what hospice nurses do.

“Showing appreciation is essential for any staff, but particularly for nurses given what can be very stressful work,” Carol explained. She said she was delighted to help show her co-workers how much they’re appreciated. ●

## Saying Thanks

### Honoring caregivers through giving

Would you like to pay tribute to a nurse or other caregiver who helped care for you or your loved one?

Our Saying Thanks program lets you show

your appreciation in a lasting way – by making a charitable gift in his or her honor.

If you'd like to make a gift today in honor of a Senior Independence Hospice employee, simply fill out the appropriate section of the enclosed reply envelope.

# Thank you for your generosity

The following donations were made between March 1, 2014 and May 31, 2014 in support of Senior Independence Hospice. If you believe your name to be omitted or printed in error, please accept our sincerest apologies and call the OPRS Foundation at 800-686-7800.

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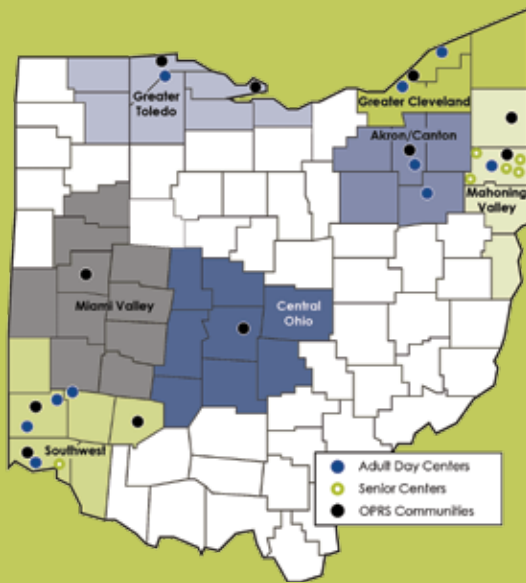
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24/7 Assistance: Phone: 855-579-4967  
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## Thank you for a successful year

Your support makes a difference for hospice patients and their families, every day.

During fiscal year 2014 (July 1, 2013 – June 30, 2014), generous donors like you gave more than \$100,000 in support of Senior Independence Hospice.

Here are some highlights of everything you helped us accomplish during this successful year:

- Charitable gifts in support of Senior Independence Hospice totaled \$100,174
- There were more than 1,000 gifts and nearly 1,000 donors – an all-time high
- Hospice received two grants:
  - From The Harry C. Moores Foundation for alternative therapies in the Central Ohio region
  - From the Midwest Care Alliance for aromatherapy in the Miami Valley region
- Almost 200 wishes were fulfilled through the Make it Happen program
- Nearly 1,000 patients were served

Thank you for your generosity!