



# impressions

LEGACIES OF LOVE AND FINGERPRINTS ON THE WORLD

TO HAVE AND  
TO HOLD  
page 2



**In this issue:**

- A cut above . . . . . page 4
- Party time . . . . . page 6
- Remembering hospice . . . . . page 11

# TO HAVE AND TO HOLD

## Patient's wish of renewing vows comes true

Steve Skeels walked into a restaurant and saw a woman named Sherry. It was love at first sight. He soon proposed and they married in a courthouse ceremony in 1989.

Twenty seven years later, Steve, now a hospice patient, wanted to renew his and Sherry's wedding vows. Senior Independence Hospice's Greater Toledo region was able to make Steve's wish come true through its Make it Happen program.

The ceremony "was nothing short of wonderful," said Volunteer Coordinator Jennifer VanVorhis.

A bit of rain didn't bother anyone and, surrounded by friends and family, this loving couple pledged their devotion to each other once again with the help of Senior Independence's Spiritual Care Coordinator, Vince Flippo, who officiated.

"This special pair and their children were so happy to have a day to recognize their love for one another," Jennifer shared.

Helping out with the big day were Maumee Bay State Park Resort, Birmingham Limo Services, Wiley Bakery, InBloom florist and Brenda Winchester of Memories Captured by Brenda, a professional photographer who is also a hospice volunteer.

Nurse Amey Raihala said the Skeels are still talking about the great day months later. "It was a special day and they were very excited. And then

they made handmade cards to thank everyone involved. It was so sweet," she said. ●

**ON THE COVER:** *Hospice patient Steve Skeels (far left) poses with his wife, Sherry (second from left), their daughter and her boyfriend. Steve and Sherry's wish of renewing their vows came true thanks to Senior Independence's Make it Happen program, which benefits from donor support.*

**BELOW:** *Professional photographer and hospice volunteer Brenda Winchester was on hand to help capture every special moment during the Skeels' big day, like the ceremony itself (left), sharing the cake (center) and just some candid, intimate moments between the husband and wife (right).*



# SENSE-ABLE THERAPY

## Grant provides for multisensory items

Thanks to a grant from the Theodore J. and Thelma G. Tobbe Fund of The Columbus Foundation, end-stage dementia patients in Senior Independence's Central Ohio region are benefiting from multisensory therapies.

The grant has helped pay for iPads, light therapy devices, and special muffs and blankets that stimulate or calm restless minds and hands when needed.

Senior Independence's multisensory therapies program focuses on improved quality of life for the patient, but also involves improved symptom management.

### iPads

Memory games are installed on iPads, as well as music for music therapy. The devices offer visual stimulation through a range of applications for drawing, game playing and video chatting with family members and friends. They also help to provide life reviews and photos.

### Stargazer light therapy

These devices cast a soothing show of stars in hues of blue and green – much like looking at a night sky – to calm anxiety and agitation.

One hospice patient, Betty, told her social worker that she likes to just lay in bed and watch the stars. Even Betty's family has said how much they love the stargazer and wish they had one for another family member!

### Activity muffs

To occupy the hands, each muff has a soft ball for squeezing. Marble-sized beads,



safely contained in a sealed pouch, can be manipulated by restless hands and there are trims such as buttons, ribbons and beads. Not only do the devices comfort those with diminished hand mobility and limited social interaction, but they also keep hands warm.

### Fidget blankets

These special blankets are designed for dementia patients and feature bright colors, different textures, and objects that offer calming and interesting entertainment as well as improving fine motor skills. ●

**ABOVE:** *A fidget blanket made by hospice nurse Cheryl Winigman, similar to those that will be used by patients in Senior Independence's Central Ohio region. A grant from The Columbus Foundation helped pay for these and other multisensory therapy items to help stimulate or calm restless minds and hands when needed.*

# A CUT ABOVE

## Hair salon helps hospice patients

Hospice patients who can no longer go to a hair salon miss more than just haircuts. They also miss the enjoyment and confidence boost that comes with feeling fresh, clean and well-groomed.

Getting professional stylists to bring their skills and equipment to hospice patients has been difficult. But when Sarah Hadley, executive director of Senior Independence's Mahoning Valley region, asked the right stylist, the answer was, "Sure! What do I have to do?"

Sarah Hadley had posed the question to Sarah Doyle, owner of Bang Studios in Youngstown, and she not only agreed to come to hospice patients who could not come

to her, but has found it most rewarding for herself and her stylists.

"Our experience has been so heartwarming. We have had the joy of working with so many amazing people and we look forward to our next visits with them," Doyle said.

"We have noticed how caring the caregivers and nurses are at each establishment. It's refreshing to see, in such a crazy world, that we are still surrounded by amazing people," she added.

Sarah Hadley has been trying to establish a visiting hairdresser program for years, after being inspired by her own grandmother who had been under hospice care

and would frequently ask to have her hair done.

"My mother and I tried to do it for her but we couldn't do it the same as her hairdresser. When friends and family came to visit, I often noticed her fidgeting with her hair and saw how uncomfortable it made her," she recalled.

The two Sarahs have known each other for years and one day at Bang Studios, Sarah Hadley noticed that Sarah Doyle had posted a flyer promoting an animal rescue fundraiser. This led her to wonder if maybe she'd finally found a hairdresser that would consider getting involved with a hospice project.

"Had I known that it was going to be that easy, I would have asked years earlier!" Hadley said.

Sarah Doyle explained, "We agreed to this because I feel like every one of us at one point has been affected directly or indirectly by a family member or friend in hospice. You want to do everything you can to make them feel better, even it is



just something as simple as a haircut.”

“The little things that we can do to help make someone feel better make it more than worth it to all of us,” she added.

The stylists are paid using unrestricted donations. And the costs are only for services, not mileage or excessive time.

“Our patients require a lot of time and, for that reason, I do feel the stylists go above and beyond. There is an added component of donated time that Sarah’s employees give but will never admit to,” Sarah Hadley said.

“This is what hospice is all about. It’s allowing everyone to use their gifts and talents to help others. And when they do, the blessing is returned tenfold,” she shared. ●

**LEFT:** *Hair stylist Brayon Rhodes from Bang Studios in Youngstown puts the finishing touches on hospice patient Kenneth Erdner’s haircut.*

**RIGHT:** *Thanks to help from charitable donations, hospice patients like Kenneth Erdner can have their hair done in the privacy and comfort of their own homes. This special initiative not only helps patients look their best, but gives them a confidence boost as well.*



People will forget what you *said*,  
people will forget what you *did*,  
but people will never forget how you made them *feel*.



~ Maya Angelou

# PARTY TIME AT PARKCLIFFE

## Hospice hosts special picnic for patients

Senior Independence's Greater Toledo region wanted to host a special event for its patients who live at Parkcliffe Alzheimer's Community, as they typically can't travel to enjoy such activities.

Senior Independence Hospice staff sprang into action to get started on a special Make it Happen event, and soon a patriotic picnic on the premises was planned and held during warmer weather. The event was a huge success, with about 200 people attending.

"Doing this Make it Happen picnic was an opportunity to give the families of the Parkcliffe residents a sense of normalcy. They got to do a fun activity that might have been too difficult for them to do with their loved one otherwise," said Jennifer VanVorhis, volunteer coordinator for the region.

Many helping hands got involved in the planning and preparation of food and fun. There were 14 staff members helping as well as many volunteers. They served 180 plates of food to Parkcliffe staff, residents and families. Meredith Rentals provided the tables and chairs, and Ragtime Rick and the Chefs of Dixieland entertained. The patients ate, clapped and some even danced.

Wendy Price-Kiser, executive director of Senior Independence's Greater Toledo region, also took the opportunity to present Parkcliffe's owner/director, Wayne Bucher, with an award to recognize the facility's 2015 Best of Senior Living honor.

"It was a phenomenal day from beginning to end. The weather was perfect and I've heard nothing but positive comments about how wonderful everything was," said Jennifer. ●



**ABOVE, TOP:** The Senior Independence staff members and volunteers who helped plan and carry out a special Make it Happen picnic for not just its patients, but everyone at Parkcliffe Alzheimer's Community.

**ABOVE, BOTTOM:** Hospice patient and Parkcliffe resident Jack Hoenig poses with Kim Navarette during the special picnic that was held at the facility thanks to Senior Independence's Make it Happen program.

**You can help Senior Independence Hospice patients enjoy special events like these – simply use the enclosed reply envelope to send your charitable gift today!**

# DIRECTOR'S COLUMN

By Sue Brookins, MSN, RN, ACHPN, CNS  
Corporate Director of Hospice



## Donors help us go the extra mile

The little things really do mean a lot. It's cliché because it's true.

Hospice care is full of little moments that mean a lot. But many of them wouldn't happen without donor support.

Christmas provides a great example of what I mean. One of our hospice teams made wreaths and took them to hospice patients who live in nursing facilities.

Staff chose to do wreaths instead of a traditional poinsettia so that the nursing facility staff would not be burdened by remembering to water it, and it wouldn't wither under fluorescent lights.

What's more, this team of staff and volunteers are leaving the wreaths in place, and switching out the decorations for each holiday.

**RIGHT:** *Renee Flickenger, a volunteer for Senior Independence's Mahoning Valley region, changes the decorations on a patient's wreath to celebrate Valentine's Day. Thanks to donor support, Senior Independence Hospice is able to do "small" things like this to help show patients how much we care.*

What a fantastic idea to keep the spirit of the seasons alive for each patient!

Yet as inexpensive as this may be, we wouldn't have the funds to purchase these wreaths and decorations if donors didn't boost our efforts with their charitable gifts.

Birthday flowers, a fluffy new afghan, sweet treats...these are often things that mean the most to the patients we serve. Because it shows we care about them.

Thank you to our donors for your charitable support – you help us show our patients how much we care. Your gift can help do a small thing, which is really a very big thing, for someone receiving hospice. ●





# Thank you for your generosity

The following donations were made between September 1, 2015 and November 30, 2015 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.

## **In Memory of:**

**Becca Alamere**  
Angelo J. Congin

**Lucille Allen**  
Monica & Jeffrey Dolman

**Eva Andersson**  
Cataline & daughter  
Elizabeth Berndt  
Lynn & John Mossbarger  
Daniel Ramentol

**John Ankney**  
Ken & Chris Bloch  
Charlotte Decker  
William & Jeanette Franklin  
Raymond & Mary  
Lewandowski

**Roger Aschenbach**  
Beth Wilson

**Ervin Baker**  
Butch & Debbie Thompson

**Lucille Barhorst**  
Gregory Barhorst  
David E. Schum

**Kathleen Behrendsen**  
Diane Deem  
Don & Karen Miller

**John Bitter**  
Clara Bitter

**Alvi Borgen**  
Sal Berg  
Gertrude Borgen  
Bud & Julia Bueng  
Rachel Downing  
Don & Rose Galvin  
Lee & Francine Runningen

**Joan Bowman**  
Fred & Sylvia Bolyard  
Nora Ludwig

**Rollo Bradford**  
Melissa Dixon  
Annette Sack

**H. James Brenneman**  
Norma Brenneman

**Jacqueline Bricker**  
Linda & Charles Choken  
Thomas & Shannon Corbett  
Nancy Jo Crebs  
Geraldine DeSciscio  
Richard & LeeKay  
Farnsworth  
Darlene Hartwig  
Jones & Associates  
Excavating  
Lois Moore  
Nancy Treichler  
Susan & Alan Zgrabik

**Barbara Busch**  
James Busch

**Blanche Canuto**  
Phillip & Debra Canuto

**John Colling**  
Alex & Donna Koler



Frank Sable  
Christine Sauber  
Thomas & Charlayne  
Schultz

**Velma Cooke**  
Barbara Rayden

**Frances Cramer**  
Richard Cramer

**Warren Dodson**  
Nancy B. Dodson

**Alfred Eggleston**  
John & Kathy Thackston

**Donna Elliott**  
Judith Elliott

**Robert Evans**  
Jeanne Barends  
Thomas H. Blakely, II  
Martha Bloom  
Paul & Alison Estes  
Mary Ann Evans  
Rebecca Herzog  
Christine Jackson  
LeadingAge Ohio  
Amy Liikala  
Marcia Lunka  
Marcia Mann  
Nancy Ruck  
Stephen & Carol Rugh  
Avalyn Shank  
Brian & Joyce Stark  
James P. Webster & Family  
Laurel Webster  
Martha Webster

**Eileen Faler**  
Nancy Carman

The John Thoma Family

**Robert Garhart**  
Betty J. Hancock

**Jerry Goodwin**  
Dean & Barb O'Malley

**Ruth Haddix**  
Therma-Tru Corp

**Alma Jane Hall**  
Elaine & Chuck Buroker  
Cathy Eckle  
First Presbyterian Church  
of Sidney  
James & Brenda Hall  
Ann & Andrew Jadach  
Eddie & Kay Miller  
Scott & Linda Piper  
Sharefax Credit Union Inc.  
Sophie Sigmunt  
Deidre Smith

**Robert Humphrey**  
Anonymous  
Thomas & Laura Behr  
Michael & Carla Eilerman  
John & Jennifer Hughes  
Jackson-Forest EMS  
Nancy Paul  
Charlotte & Larry Thomas  
John & Susan Wilding

**Robert Jackman**  
Linda Fenner

**William Johnson**  
Mary Anteau

**Sylvia Kerby**  
Jamey Fawcett

**Evon Kimerer**  
Donald Kimerer

**Lawrence Kirk**  
Marianne E. Johnson

**Phyllis Konicek**  
Jerry & Lori Shafer

**Dolores Kosarek**  
Jane & Michael Bridge  
Monica & Jeffrey Dolman

**Marjorie Krause**  
Pat & Ken Lozinak  
Mark & Catherine O'Neil  
Robert & Leslie Stockey

**John Leppert**  
Donna Lytle

**John & Marilyn Leppert**  
Kathy Stone

**Josephine Maly**  
Gerald Maly

**Kenneth Marapese**  
Vito & Donna Carchedi  
Allen & Judy Marshall  
Rockwell Automation, Inc.

**Margaret McCormick**  
Diane Cattaneo-Thompson  
Michael & Lorrie Durik  
Betty Jelts  
Syrus, Ltd.

**John McGowan**  
Baker & Hostetler LLP  
Brian Bash

Bruce Gaynor & Patricia  
O'Donnell  
Matt Goldman & Ann  
Pearson  
Raymond Malone  
Paula & Tom Seger

**Marvin Meininger**  
Linda Meininger

**Patrick Mooney**  
Mary Lou Nack

**Ella Owens**  
Jack Owens

**Carl Payne**  
Joel Potter

**Susan Peachey**  
Ted Peachey  
West Liberty Lions Club

**Robert Perry**  
Anonymous  
Carolyn Belair  
Leslie Branson  
Francis Forbes  
Horace & Joanne Huse  
Joseph & Donna Kramer  
Stanley & Patricia Mann  
Mercy Integrated  
Laboratories  
Jean Perry  
Cheryl Ruebush Andrus  
John & Dawn Schroeder  
Howard Torrence  
Jean Torrence  
Michael & Debra Welsh  
Mary Zimmerman

**Ruth Petty**  
Cheryl Reinel

**R. Gordon Reinel**  
Cheryl Reinel

**Bernard Rubal**  
Joseph & Isabel Benny  
Santo & Constance Bertino  
David & Martha Bremer  
Jerome & Elizabeth  
Marbach  
Ann Marie Rohmeyer  
Bernard & Diane Rubal  
Thomas & Linda Schiavone  
Michael & Tammy Simpson

**Anita Sbrochi**  
Fausto J. Sbrochi

**Hugo Schumacher**  
Marianne M. Schumacher

**Donna Seither**  
Kathy Slupecki

**Marjorie Smallwood**  
Ray Smallwood

**Mary Smith**  
Roger Cooley  
Johns Manville Corporation  
Shirley A. Smith  
Tri-County Block &  
Brick Inc.  
Ralph & Pam Zimmerman

**Alice Smith**  
Merrilyn Rees

**V. Charlene Snyder**  
Amy Smith

**Robert Taylor**  
James Bridgens  
Lisa Brophy  
Mark & Beth Fisher  
James & Berdina Lake

**Hazel Vernier**  
Rev. L. Michael Herbert

**Marion Whitbeck**  
Richard Whitbeck

**Eileen Wilson**  
Judith Campbell  
John & Annette  
Shaughnessy  
Randy Thompson  
Steven & Prudence Traut  
Pamela & Gary Wilson  
Richard Wilson

**Morris Young**  
James & Mary Anthony  
Jeanette & William Nuzum

**Walter Zaucha**  
Michael & Deborah Turk

**Myrna Zerbe**  
Mark & Michele Beard  
Keith & Felicia Cool  
Thomas & Kara Firestone  
Nancy Paccone  
Mike & Angela Pritchett  
O.J. & Joann Smith

### **Other Donations:**

Anonymous  
Darrell & Jennifer Alt  
Fredrick & Susan Ball

Jane Brodnik  
Elizabeth Buschmann  
Virginia Chapan  
Melissa & Eric Dardinger  
Linda Darlage  
Virginia Dillman  
John Kenneth Donaldson  
Elaine Echols  
Carol Edmonds  
Jamey Fawcett  
Tom & Kathie Gannon  
Marie George  
Deborah Graver  
Sarah Hadley  
Ruth & Francis Hemry  
James Lungo  
Cheryl & Sean McLaughlin  
The Harry C. Moores  
Foundation  
Whitney O'Neal  
Wendy Price Kiser  
Lorilyn Shandor  
Robert & Sandra Simpson  
Kalee Sparklin Scheer  
Lawrence & Donna  
Spengler  
Sue Welty

## REMEMBERING HOSPICE

### Donor leaves generous gift in will

Senior Independence Hospice received its first ever charitable gift made through a will, which is also its largest gift received to-date! The donor, a former hospice patient, gave a gift of \$300,000 to the Greater Cleveland region of Senior Independence Hospice.

“My staff feel encouraged in their day-to-day work because someone so appreciated their care that they provided this level of generosity to help us do the same for others,” said Executive Director Eileen Yates, adding, “This gift put a spotlight on just how important our employees are to their patients and families.”

Because the gift was locally restricted for hospice, it can be used for any purpose related to hospice care in the Greater Cleveland area.

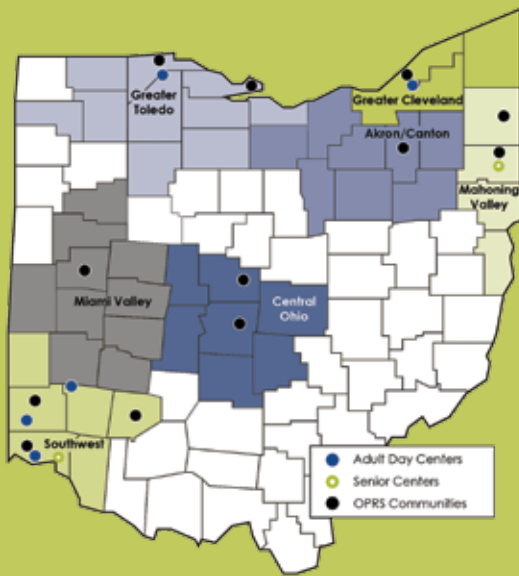
“We are carefully studying both our current needs and our hopes for the future, to decide how best to use this phenomenal gift to make the most impact possible for patients and their families,” Eileen shared. ●

## PARTNERS IN MISSION

SENIOR *i*NDPENDENCE  
Home Health & Hospice



Senior Independence and the OPRS Foundation are wholly owned subsidiaries of Ohio Presbyterian Retirement Services (OPRS), Ohio's largest and most experienced not-for-profit provider of continuing care retirement communities and services. The OPRS Foundation provides fundraising and gift administration services for OPRS, including Senior Independence. Please visit the OPRS Foundation website ([www.oprsfoundation.org](http://www.oprsfoundation.org)) for more information.



## Local Offices

Akron/Canton: 330-873-3468  
1815 W. Market St., Akron, OH 44313

Central Ohio: 614-433-0031  
2740 Airport Dr., Suite 140  
Columbus, OH 43219

Greater Cleveland: 440-953-1256  
38879 Mentor Ave., Suite A  
Willoughby, OH 44094

Mahoning Valley: 330-533-4350  
6715 Tippecanoe Rd., Canfield, OH 44406

Miami Valley: 937-415-5666  
6520 Poe Ave., Dayton, OH 45414

Southwest Ohio: 513-681-8174  
25 Indiana Ave., Monroe, OH 45050

Greater Toledo: 419-865-1499  
1730 S. Reynolds Rd., Toledo, OH 43614

24/7 Assistance: Phone: 855-579-4967  
Fax: 855-579-4968

## A DREAM COME TRUE

### Patient meets favorite singer

Thanks to Senior Independence's Make it Happen program, hospice patient Hilda "Jean" Pritchard lived out the dream of a lifetime when she got to meet one of her favorite musicians – Aaron Neville.

Jean was excited about attending his concert, but was over the moon when her hospice team was able to get her backstage to meet Aaron after the show.

Earlier in the day, Jean had been treated to a makeover and a special lunch with her daughter, Jodi, and granddaughter, Nikki. Hospice Volunteer Coordinator Daphne Massaro was also able to accompany Jean to the concert thanks to the generosity of Kent Stage, where the event was held.

Daphne said the event was memorable for everyone involved, as it meant so much to Jean. In fact, on their way home from the concert, Jean told Nikki it had been the best day of her life. ●



**ABOVE:** *As part of her Make it Happen wish, hospice patient Jean Pritchard got to meet legendary rhythm and blues singer Aaron Neville after attending his concert. Jean said on her way home that it had been the best day of her life.*

**You can help make wishes come true for hospice patients like Jean! See the enclosed reply envelope for more information about how you can make your charitable gift today.**