



celebrate GIVING

Agency Embraces Local Family
After Tragic Accident

Summer 2019 | Issue 7



aligning excellence



A Message from Paula Thomas

It is the time of year that new life blooms in a season of growth for the future. We are in the same season within our organization.

We recently saw some transitions in key leadership positions, as Vice President of Home Health Janie Christner retired in March after 36 years of service. Janie's contributions – most notably in her tenure as a senior leader – have been invaluable and will continue to impact what we do in the years to come. I am proud to share that Laurie Karstetter, former Director of Clinical Operations, was promoted to Vice President of Clinical Operations. April McCall, former Clinician/Supervisor for Home Health, Roaring Spring office, has also been promoted to assume Laurie's previous role. The depth of expertise at Home Nursing Agency is truly impressive and has allowed us to draw successive leadership within our ranks.

Earlier this year we received certification to begin home healthcare operations in our new Harrisburg office, operating as UPMC Home Healthcare of Central Pennsylvania. Our team was very well-prepared, thanks to many leaders within Home Nursing Agency who stepped up to provide training for our growing team there. We look forward to expanding our home healthcare services in this area as we partner with the nearby UPMC Pinnacle hospitals and physicians.

For the past 51 years, Home Nursing Agency has served the residents of Central Pennsylvania with vital support that allows them to remain safely in their homes and communities. This mission and high quality of care remain unchanged. As we grow, we have and will continue to evolve in our position as part of the larger whole of UPMC. We are privileged to be part of a healthcare system that is leading the way throughout Pennsylvania and beyond.

One of the most significant changes we will undergo is a change in legal entity and rebranding this summer. As of July 2019, our home healthcare services and Pediatric Home Connection will begin operating as UPMC Home Healthcare of Central Pennsylvania. We are also changing Family Hospice and Palliative Care to Family Hospice.

Our community-based programs, including Adult Day Services, Private Duty Home Care, Nurse-Family Partnership®, WIC, Early Intervention, and AIDS Intervention Project will continue to do business as Home Nursing Agency. Our fundraising efforts will continue to be driven through the Home Nursing Agency Foundation, aptly drawing from the history and legacy that has been so firmly established in our region.

Within the UPMC system, our leaders and staff are involved on various teams coming together to strategically provide the right care at the right time and in the right place. As "home" is identified as the right place for more patients, the need for our post-acute services becomes increasingly evident. We are called to care for patients of all ages and walks of life. As our teams identify patient needs outside the scope of our reimbursement, we rely on the financial support you provide through the Home Nursing Agency Foundation in order to meet those needs. Your donations remain as important now as ever, and we can assure you that your support remains local to truly impact the lives of your family, friends, and neighbors.

Thank you for your partnership over the past five decades. We look forward to being here to serve you now and in the years to come.

Sincerely,

Paula Thomas
President, UPMC Home Healthcare

headlines

Home Nursing Agency Private Duty Home Care Repeats as a Best of Home Care Provider of Choice



For seven years running, HNA Private Duty Home Care has been recognized as one of the top-ranking home care providers in the nation, based on client satisfaction scores gathered by Home Care Pulse, an independent satisfaction research firm for home care.

"We are very humbled and appreciative that our clients have recognized us for the excellent work that we do every day in support of our mission to help keep people living in the comfort of their own home," says Bill McManus, Home Nursing Agency Vice President of Business Development and Client Relations. "Seven consecutive years of receiving this award truly shows that our staff are dedicated to providing excellent service to our clients."



5th Annual Life O'Riley Memorial Ride Gives \$7,400 to Healing Patch

The Life O'Riley Memorial Ride Planning Team recently shared a check for \$7,400 from the proceeds of its 5th Annual and final ride in July 2018 to benefit the Healing Patch: A Program for Loss and Hope for Grieving Children and Their Families. The Life O'Riley Memorial Ride was started by the family and friends of Michael Patrick Riley, who passed away unexpectedly in April 2013, leaving behind three young daughters. The 2018 event was also in memory of Troy Hughes. Over the past five years, the Life O'Riley Memorial Ride has raised nearly \$23,000 to support children who are mourning the death of a loved one.

"On behalf of the grieving children and families we serve, thank you to all of the Life O'Riley team for their hard work to support the Healing Patch," says Melody Ray, Healing Patch Volunteer Coordinator/Grief Specialist. "This passionate group saw an opportunity to remember Michael and help others in the community. They put an idea to action five years ago and have impacted countless lives as a result. Thank you for your generous support!"

8th Annual Patched Together Raises \$9,500 for Healing Patch

The planning committee for Patched Together: A Day of Music recently presented a check for \$9,500 raised to benefit the Healing Patch: A Program for Loss and Hope for Grieving Children and Their Families. The 8th Annual Patched Together concert was held in November 2018. Fueled by the volunteers' love of music and desire to showcase local talent for a great cause, Patched Together was created to raise funds for the Healing Patch, increase awareness of the prevalence of children's grief, and demonstrate how important it is to support those children and their families. Patched Together has raised more than \$117,000 since 2011. This year's event is set for Saturday, November 16, 2019.

"This dedicated group of volunteers has given countless hours to ensure grieving children in our community have access to the Healing Patch services, and we are so thankful," shares Allison Stockley, Manager of Volunteers and Bereavement Services. "It has been a privilege to work alongside this selfless group for the past eight years!"



From left are Committee Members Sherry Hayford and James Gerraughty; Allison Stockley, Manager, Volunteers and Bereavement Services; Kent and Missy Tonkin; Melody Ray, Volunteer Coordinator and Grief Specialist; Debra Welch; Brenda Swope; Adriene Yingling; Jordanna Gerraughty; and Gabrielle Cronin, Patched Together Chairperson.

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giving specialization

LOCAL FAMILY RELIES ON AGENCY SERVICES AFTER TRAGIC ACCIDENT

June 5, 2017 dawned a beautiful day. Basking in the excitement of their oldest son's high school graduation, the Matherne family of Duncansville was ready to kick off summer with their daughter's first softball game of the season. Just a few moments later, their family was changed forever.

The youngest child, 14-month-old Adam, had left the tent where he was playing in the family room and quietly slipped out a back patio door, making his way to the family's pool, where his mom Shannon saw him floating a couple minutes later.

"My mind wouldn't let me comprehend that it was him at first," Shannon reflects. After she processed, she quickly went into action, assessing that he had no pulse and beginning CPR immediately. Her father-in-law who was visiting also did CPR, and Adam still had no pulse when the EMS team arrived on scene. He was transported to UPMC Altoona, where the team worked on him for over an hour, all the while detecting no pulse.

It wasn't until a priest came into the room to baptize Adam that his heart miraculously started beating again - nearly 90 minutes after he was pulled from the pool. Shannon and her husband Rickey know the priest's

presence was an answer to their desperate prayers. Adam was flown to UPMC Children's Hospital of Pittsburgh, where he remained for eight weeks still fighting for his life.

After he was released to be transported, Shannon and Adam returned to her hometown in Louisiana for Adam to undergo two months of Hyperbaric Oxygen Therapy (HBOT). While the treatments didn't have the dramatic healing impact that they had hoped, they did see improvements in Adam's muscle tone before they were reunited with their family at home in Blair County. Shortly after their return, Adam was enrolled in Home Nursing Agency Early Intervention for physical, occupational, speech, and cranial sacral therapies.

Occupational Therapist Nicole Gioiosa focused on Adam's functional vision and hand skills. Drawing from a course she was taking on Cortical Visual Impairment (CVI), Nicole was able to recommend strategies for Adam and link Shannon to a renowned specialist. Nicole also focused on building the hand skills Adam displayed in practical ways.

"When he could turn his hands upward, we asked, 'Do you want to play? Show me,' and would encourage him to use that new skill to communicate," Nicole says. "When we found he was beginning to move his fingers, we would encourage making a crinkle toy make noise, holding and releasing toys, or imitating a thumbs up."

As his hand skills developed, Speech Therapist Becky Burns used that as the basis for other modes of communication. "Adam's ability to respond to questions by turning his wrist or giving thumbs up allowed us to introduce adaptive switches, including one that was purchased through a Home Nursing Agency Foundation grant. This worked well for Adam, and he smiled when he was able to access a toy duck himself or access a voice output button to request his favorite activity: Pattycake!"

As Adam's primary caregiver since the accident, Shannon knew that the round-the-clock care Adam required was more than they could handle as a family. He became a patient of Home Nursing Agency Pediatric Home Connection for nursing care during the day and at night so that Shannon and Rickey can work, sleep, and spend time with their four other kids.



"I knew immediately when we came home that I would need nursing help," Shannon admits. "It is a relief to know that you can trust your child with someone else. I don't know where I'd be without them."

Adam's primary Pediatric Home Connection nurse Heather Feather enjoys interacting with Adam as she monitors his vital signs, does tracheotomy care, administers tube feedings, and provides any other clinical care he needs. Being technology-dependent, Adam's condition requires constant monitoring and attention if his oxygen levels drop or he has a seizure. In addition to nursing care, Heather and the other nurses have played a vital role in Adam's therapy, learning the exercises

from his therapists to work with him between sessions and beyond, as he was discharged from Early Intervention earlier this year when he turned three.

While the Pediatric Home Connection team focuses on Adam's well-being, Shannon and Rickey continue to pursue additional treatments to improve Adam's future - in the midst of their family's daily life.

"We try to be as normal as possible," Shannon shares. "We hang out at home a lot and include Adam as much as we can. The other kids have adapted to having nurses in the house. It's second nature now, and our nurses are part of our family."

Through this personal tragedy, the Matherne family has passionately embraced the opportunity to combat childhood drowning. Shannon uses her "Prayers for Adam" Facebook

page to update their community of more than 5,000 followers on Adam's condition and share valuable messages related to water safety. Plans for a nonprofit organization called *Because of ADAM* (Adolescent Drowning Awareness Movement) are underway focusing on education and layers of protection.

"This is a preventable tragedy. Everyone thinks, 'This won't happen to me. I watch my kids.' But it can happen," Shannon says gently. "For the sake of our kids, we need to show them this tragic event can be used for good."

Home Nursing Agency's specialized children's services, such as Early Intervention and Pediatric Home Connection, can help families whose children need therapy, nursing, and personal care services from birth or like Adam, as a result of an unexpected accident. For more information, visit us online at homenursingagency.com or call 1-800-445-6262.

Photo on previous page: Adam's mom Shannon proudly displays her Because of ADAM shirt as she and Heather Feather, Adam's primary nurse through Home Nursing Agency Pediatric Home Connection, enjoy time with Adam.

Photo below: Adam's Early Intervention team gathered for a photo at his last visit before being discharged earlier this year. Pictured from left are Julie Nardoza, Early Intervention Coordinator through North Star Support Services; Becky Burns, HNA Speech Therapist; Marla Wyland, HNA Physical Therapist; Nicole Gioiosa, HNA Occupational Therapist; and Molly, Hearing Specialist with Kids First.

On the cover: Early Intervention Therapist Marla Wyland exercises Adam's upper body.



giving hope

FAMILY HOSPICE OFFERS WIDOWS RETREAT

Finding hope for the future may seem impossible after the death of a loved one. A daylong "Widows Retreat" last fall allowed a local group of widows who started the day as strangers to find connections, friendship, and that elusive hope for the future.

After widow Denice Rodaniche interacted with fellow widow and Certified Grief Recovery Specialist Donna Marie Todd while traveling in North Carolina, she passionately shared her experiences with Family Hospice Bereavement Coordinator Jen Cox. Jen took Denice's feedback seriously and began planning to bring Donna Marie, a national retreat leader, singer, and actress, to Central Pennsylvania. Through your financial support of the Home Nursing Agency Foundation, this daylong workshop allowed local widows to bond through sharing laughter, sorrow, and dreams for the future.

"Donna Marie helped us to rethink goals for ourselves and to look ahead to our future in a more positive way," shared one attendee. "It is good to be in the company of other women, Donna Marie included, who 'get it'. We supported each other, found humor together, and explored techniques to keep us healthy in body and spirit."

In her role as Bereavement Coordinator Jen works with grieving individuals daily,

"I am walking out the door at the end of the day feeling lighter, happier, and more secured that my future, without my husband, deserves to be happy and fulfilled rather than sad and feeling useless."

but the retreat experience revealed the power of community and the impact of bringing people together to share and learn.

"I watched these women connect with and support each other emotionally," she shared. Over the course of the day, she observed the women making progress for the future by verbalizing their hopes and dreams (whether big or small) and identifying some action steps to bring these goals to fruition.

"I did not realize that Donna Marie would make this retreat so personal to my journey as a widow," another participant said. "I am walking out the door at the end of the day feeling lighter, happier, and more secured that my future, without my husband, deserves to be happy and fulfilled rather than sad and feeling useless."

For several of the women, future plans included remaining in connection with their fellow widows. "The women made plans to stay in touch after

the retreat and shared their contact information with each other," Jen said. "These women found a safe place to share, bond, connect, and grow that has flourished outside of the one-day retreat."

Since the retreat in October, several members of the group have continued to meet on a regular basis, gathering to share and encourage one another, validating the sentiments shared by another participant: "It was very uplifting - knowing that you are not alone in this journey and that a lot of your feelings are shared by so many."

The next Widows Retreat will be held on Thursday, September 19, 2019 from 9:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. at White Sulphur Springs (Heritage House), 4500 Milligans Cove, Manns Choice. There is a \$25 registration fee, which includes lunch. Please contact Family Hospice Bereavement Secretary Charlene Ebersole at 814-947-7060 to reserve your spot. Space is limited.

To give a financial donation, visit homenursingagency.com or call 1-855-GIVE-HNA.

Photo above: The first annual Widows Retreat last fall was a time of rebuilding hope through sharing laughter and tears. This was made possible through support of the Home Nursing Agency Foundation.

Home Nursing Agency WIC Program Chosen for Electronic Card Pilot

This February, the Home Nursing Agency Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) nutrition program was one of only two providers in Pennsylvania selected to participate in the pilot program for rolling out the electronic transfer (eWIC) card.

“The eWIC card allows us to continue our mission to ensure Pennsylvania has healthy moms and healthy kids,” Department of Health Deputy Secretary Dr. Loren Robinson says. “The eWIC card will allow families quick, easy and convenient shopping for food, and will get rid of paper checks. Our WIC program is excited to offer this new, convenient way for WIC families to shop.”

WIC participants will save time at the checkout with the eWIC card and can buy WIC foods in as many shopping trips as they need throughout the month. Participants also have access to a new WICShopper Smart Phone App, which allows them to scan a product’s bar code to determine if it is a WIC-allowed food.

Tracy Kelley, Director of HNA WIC, has been with the program for 22 years and is excited about the expanded access and ease for families to utilize WIC’s benefits.

“It’s a seamless transaction,” Tracy says. “Our parents can put all of their groceries together and use their WIC card as their first form of payment. It automatically takes off all of the eligible items that are covered, and then they just pay the balance.”

The team is still transitioning the 4,000 participants served through the Agency’s Blair and Centre County locations, but they have already had great feedback.

“This is so nice for the families,” Tracy shares. “There is no more stigma with being singled out as they separate items and pay with checks. Now our families have much more convenient access to purchase the foods they can get throughout the month.”

The WIC program in Pennsylvania provides services at more than 260 locations and serves more than 205,000 pregnant women, infants and children under age 5. WIC families shop at more than 1,500 Pennsylvania grocery stores and spend \$248 million a year with their WIC food benefits.

Participant-centered nutrition education, healthy food, and

breastfeeding support has been part of the WIC program for over 40 years. In addition, the program serves as a gateway for preventative health, and is considered one of the most successful, cost-effective, and important nutrition intervention programs in the country.

For more information about WIC, including information on appointment openings, visit www.pawic.com or call 1-800-WIC-WINS. The Pennsylvania WIC program is funded by the United States Department of Agriculture. The USDA is an equal opportunity provider.

For more information on how Pennsylvania is working to ensure healthy moms and healthy kids, visit the Department of Health website at health.pa.gov or follow us on Facebook and Twitter.



Jenny Summers was the first WIC participant to receive the e-WIC card when Home Nursing Agency began as a pilot program in February. Jenny is a participant at the State College WIC office.

HOME HEALTHCARE ALLOWS JOHNSTOWN WOMAN TO HEAL AT HOME

Florence “Flo” Bischof of Johnstown first experienced the caring team from Home Nursing Agency for her husband Ronald as he faced a chronic illness. After he passed away in April 2017, Flo didn’t anticipate seeing the team of nurses and home health aide any time soon. However, less than six months later when she experienced complications from a lumpectomy for breast cancer, Flo knew where to turn.

“They took care of my husband for four years,” shares Flo. “When I needed them, they were there for me.”

Her lumpectomy recovery was going smoothly for a month, and then she began having issues as her incision would not heal. She’s relied on Home Nursing Agency Home Health off and on over the past year and a half, as she underwent two more surgeries and various wound healing techniques in an effort to hasten the healing process.

Deanna Mangus, Professional Staff Nurse (right); Tiffany Kelley, Professional Staff Nurse, BSN (left); and Wendy Schuster, Home Health Aide (left center), have all been instrumental in Flo’s care. With the team serving as her physician’s eyes and ears, she has been able to remain safely at home where she is most comfortable.

“Whenever any issues come up, they take care of contacting the physician,” she says. “They help me to deal with the pain and help me through this. When they come here, they make me feel good, and they listen to me.” Along with addressing her physical symptoms, the team’s presence has given Flo confidence and peace of mind.

In addition to wound care, home healthcare offers skilled nursing; physical, occupational, and speech therapy; home health aide services; and other specialty services to meet each patient’s individualized care needs. To learn more about Home Nursing Agency Home Health, call 1-800-445-6262 or visit homenursingagency.com.



giving purpose

Adult Day Services Ignites Passion for Life

It's about living.

At the Home Nursing Agency Adult Daily Living Center in Ebensburg, the adults and seniors who attend are encouraged to make the most of life. They gather at this "home away from home" during the weekdays to benefit from socialization, nutritious foods, medical monitoring, and assistance with daily living tasks.

"Attending our center gives members a sense of purpose," explains Center Coordinator Cathy Knutelsky, who has been with the program for more than two decades. "They have a reason to get up in the morning, put on their favorite clothes, and maybe put on makeup and their special jewelry."

As the primary caregiver for her sister-in-law Francine, Mary Farabaugh has seen the impact of the Center on Francine's quality of life, as she watched Francine become increasingly withdrawn over the past six years.

"She just wanted to sit in her room, would not do any type of activities such as puzzle or crafts, and didn't spend much time with the family," Mary says. "Since attending Adult Day Services, Francine has become very talkative. She gets off the van each day telling all about the fun she had!"

As Cathy shares, engaging the members is a result of a collaborative effort of the team, family, and the member to help them have the best day possible at the Center.

"We develop care plans for each of our members and help them to meet the goals established," Cathy says. "Upon admission, their families will tell us what the member enjoys doing – either now or in the past – and we try to incorporate something that each member enjoys doing in our activity calendar each day."

Francine's former love of baking has resurfaced, as she has some help and oversight to create delicious treats to share with her fellow members at the center. Another member Becky enjoys cooking, so she will bring her cookbook and partner with one of the staff to prepare foods for everyone.

"We encourage all of our members to participate to their highest abilities," Cathy explains. "If someone wants to

help with the center chores, such as cleaning off the table or placemats after lunch, we encourage them to do that to instill a sense of accomplishment for them."

As some members thrive from having simple responsibilities, others from doing their favorite activities and making new friends, others enjoy coming to the center to benefit from a different kind of companionship.



"Several members used to have pets and can no longer care for them," Cathy shares. "We have pet therapy with our dogs Bailey and Sparkey at least twice weekly so the members have an opportunity to pet them and show love and affection."

In addition to pet therapy, the Center's robust activity calendar includes trivia challenges, birthday celebrations, puzzles and games, Name That Tune, and special visitors to interact and share their talents, such as magic tricks or music. As members become more involved at the Center, it doesn't take long for the families to notice the difference in their loved ones and appreciate the peace of mind it offers the caregivers. Mary shares that Francine's brothers were both hesitant about sending Francine to the Center because they did not feel it would benefit her.

"They both see and are very happy with Francine's transformation," Mary says. "It's also helped me to have some relief and have time to do things on my own without worrying about Francine. I know she is in good hands!"

Photo at left: Adult Daily Living Center member Francine Farabaugh enjoys baking treats to share with her friends as Center Assistant Patty Westrick observes.

COULD THE ADULT DAILY LIVING CENTER HELP YOUR LOVED ONE?

CONSIDER THESE QUESTIONS:

- Are you worried about leaving your loved one alone during the day?
- Is your loved one no longer able to prepare meals independently?
- Do you see your loved one's quality of life slipping away?
- Has your loved one lost interest in hobbies or activities?
- Do you have difficulty maintaining your job because you are caring for a loved one?
- Are you feeling overwhelmed as a caregiver?

If you've answered "yes" to any of these questions, the Adult Daily Living Center in Ebensburg may be able to help.

For more information or to set up a visit, contact Center Coordinator Cathy Knutelsky at 814-472-1282 or knutelskyc@upmc.edu.



Healing Patch Helps Local Family “Move On” After Loss

After Adam Anneski’s beloved wife Lori passed away unexpectedly in June 2017, he suddenly found himself the single father – or as he calls it, the “sole father” – of 16-year-old Noah and 11-year-old Elizabeth. Reeling from his own loss, Adam was unsure how to help Noah and Elizabeth cope with their new reality and find hope for the future.

Nearly two years later, Adam knows that the support he and the children received from their peers and the volunteers at Home Nursing Agency’s Healing Patch was critical in their journey of healing. The Healing Patch is a free program for loss and hope for grieving children and their families.

“After our time here [at the Healing Patch], there is hope,” Adam shares. “It’s a nice, intimate haven for people who have this type of experience. When you have an opportunity to sit and talk with others, you realize it’s going to be okay.”

Personally, Adam benefitted from interacting with the fellow adult participants, learning about how to express his own grief and how to interact with his children and support them through the loss. He is also able to see how the Healing Patch has impacted Noah and Elizabeth.

“Noah and I got to a point where we weren’t communicating at all,” Adam admits. “Now we are speaking a lot better. He has been able to talk to his peers and express his grief. Elizabeth really benefitted from our first year in the program and wanted to come back again. It is helpful to see the kids grouped with others around their ages for them to exchange their own experiences and memories.”

The Healing Patch was started in 2006 as a local resource for hurting families and is built on the foundation of peer support.



“At the Healing Patch the families can share feelings and tears with others who understand 100%.”

“The Healing Patch is an amazing place for families to come together to share time, memories, and difficulties with families that are going through the same things,” says volunteer Jessica White. “I’ve witnessed families who weren’t communicating with each other about their loss open up to finally talk about their loved ones and their own grieving process. I’ve seen teens and adults bond over their losses and finally feel like they have others who understand what they are going through.”

Returning to the Healing Patch a second year, the Anneski family has embraced opportunities for healing—for themselves and the other families.

“I have known Adam since he first started coming to Healing Patch, and watching his growth in very difficult times has been inspiring,” shares volunteer Katie Fiore. “He has gone from a very tearful observer to a leader in the group who helps newcomers feel welcome while validating their feelings and stories.”

In addition to encouraging fellow participants, Adam has been led to

give back and began supporting the Healing Patch financially last year.

“I can see directly how the program is helping others,” Adam shares. Although Adam, Noah, and Elizabeth still grieve the loss of their wife and mom, they have recognized an important truth: “Life still moves on.” At the Healing Patch, they have learned the value of moving on together.

“As a volunteer, I’ve seen adults and teens who are facing grief and an unwanted new way of life come together,” says Jessica. “At the Healing Patch the families can share feelings and tears with others who understand 100%. I have had families share that they love coming to Healing Patch because it gives them some place to finally be themselves in their grieving process and not feel judged by others for it.”

Katie echoes Jessica’s perspective as a volunteer: “I have come to see how the death of a loved one can be unbearably hard and life changing. I have also come to see how sharing your story with others who have gone

through a similar loss can be one of the greatest gifts in hard times.”

One in seven children in America will lose a parent or sibling to death by the time they are 20 years old. You can help local grieving families like the Anneskis to have access to the support they need as life moves on. Join Adam in supporting the Healing Patch by making a financial gift. Simply note “Healing Patch” on the return envelope with your donation, or make a donation online at homenursingagency.com.

You can also join Jessica and Katie by serving as a Healing Patch volunteer to make a profound impact in the lives of grieving children and families. For more information or to apply, contact Melody Ray, Volunteer Coordinator/Grief Specialist, at 814-947-7200 or raym@upmc.edu.

Like the “Healing Patch by Home Nursing Agency” Facebook page to see updates and access resources related to children’s grief.

volunteer - Support Children & Families Dealing With Grief

What is Home Nursing Agency’s Healing Patch?

Home Nursing Agency’s Healing Patch offers a soft place to fall for children and their families who have lost a loved one. A free service for children of preschool age through 18 years, the Healing Patch is a safe environment where children and their families can discover they are not alone in their grief by interacting with others who have encountered similar losses.

Why are volunteers so essential?

Volunteers are the heart of the Healing Patch. Without them, these free services could not exist for the grieving children and families of our community. While volunteers must understand they are unable to “fix” what has happened, volunteers are able to help bring hope and healing back into the life of a child.

When are volunteers needed?

Volunteers are essential for group nights. Sessions are two evenings a month from September-May, which equals just 14-17 times a year.

Who can be a Healing Patch volunteer?

Volunteers are adults who can be present for grieving children and their families. If you work well with children and could assist with leading activities and discussions related to loss, you can make an impact in the lives of local children.

How do volunteers get started?

Interested individuals can complete a volunteer application online at homenursingagency.com or can call 814-947-7200 to ask questions and start the process. In order to be eligible to work with children and families, volunteers are required to complete TB testing and receive a flu vaccine (during flu season). New volunteers receive comprehensive training and have assistance in obtaining clearances.

For more information, please contact Melody Ray, Grief Specialist and Volunteer Coordinator, at 814-947-7200 or raym@upmc.edu.



giving support

LOCAL FAMILY GIVES BACK

Getting and giving. Giving and getting.

This cycle of getting services and giving financial support has been in action for decades for the Stefanon family of Altoona. As various family members have received home health or hospice care through Home Nursing Agency, Steve and Marti Stefanon have seen the impact and have stepped up to help others in the community.

"We've had care for Marti, my dad, my mom, and our daughter Stephanie when she was sick. It has touched almost everybody in our family," Steve shares. "They don't just come and provide the care, but they become friends. They would go above and beyond to help."

Grateful for the vital services their family has received, Steve and Marti began contributing financially more than 25 years ago and continue to support the Home Nursing Agency Foundation annually.

"We like to help people," Marti says. "And we know that giving is a way to do that."

Beyond the personal support the Stefanons have shared, Steve and his brother Denny are consistent business sponsors of Home Nursing Agency Foundation events. Quality Services has sponsored Mercedes Moment and the Decades Club to benefit the Healing Patch, as well as doing the Lights of Love displays in Altoona and Ebensburg.

"We've been a vendor for HNA since the 1980s," Steve shares. "As small business owners, we like to give back to the organizations that have helped our business. We've also gotten to meet many people over the years to see those who are helped. It really tugs at my heart and reminds me that we're supporting the right cause."

In 2009, Steve and Denny were delighted to hold the winning ticket for the Mercedes Moment fundraiser. After opting to take the cash prize of \$30,000, they each donated a portion of their winnings back.

"Home Nursing Agency is a fine organization run by exceptional people. I'm not sure what the community would do without Home Nursing Agency services," Steve says. "We are grateful to have HNA in our area and proud to be supporters!"

Photo at left: Steve and Marti Stefanon began supporting Home Nursing Agency more than 25 years ago.

Photo at bottom: Steve (left center) and his brother Denny (right center) support the Home Nursing Agency Foundation through their business - Quality Services. Also pictured are Bill Mollica (left) and Mike Mincin (right).



Mark your calendar for these 2019 events, and stay tuned for more details!

WIDOWS RETREAT

Thursday, September 19, 2019
White Sulfur Springs, Manns Choice

DECADES CLUB

Reverse Raffle Drawing to Benefit the Healing Patch
Saturday, September 21, 2019
Jaffa Shrine, Altoona

9TH ANNUAL PATCHED TOGETHER:

A Day of Music to Benefit the Healing Patch
Saturday, November 16, 2019
Bavarian Aid Society, Altoona

CHILDREN'S GRIEF AWARENESS DAY

Thursday, November 21, 2019
Wear blue to show your support!



To Benefit the Home Nursing Agency
Healing Patch Children's Grief Program

Saturday, September 21, 2019
Jaffa Shrine, Altoona

5:00 p.m. - Reverse Raffle Drawing



giving thanks

For 51 years, Home Nursing Agency has depended upon the generosity of community partners - individuals, businesses, local governments, and organizations - to help ensure that our mission of providing care and services for those in need will continue.

Every dollar matters. Every gift has a story.

The following donations were received July 1, 2018 through December 31, 2018.

We apologize for any errors or omissions to this list. Every effort is made to assure that proper information is recorded. Please call Carol Galioto at 1-800-992-2554 to make us aware of any corrections or changes.

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HNA shall accept referrals and provide services to all persons in need in its defined service area regardless of race, color, religion, sex, age, national origin, creed, limited English proficiency, handicap or disability, ability to pay, ancestry, sexual orientation, diagnosis, infectious disease, or DNR status, if applicable.

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Deutsch (Pennsylvania Dutch): Wann du [Deitsch (Pennsylvania German / Dutch)] schwetzsch, kantscht du mitaus Koschte ebber gricke, ass dihr helft mit die englisch Schpooch. Ruf selli Nummer uff: 1-888-302-7497.

MERCEDES MOMENT winner

Margie Navarro of Duncansville (pictured with husband Joe Dymond) held the winning number -159- for the Home Nursing Agency Foundation's Mercedes Moment held on May 16, 2019. This year's event culminated in Mercedes Moment Night at the Altoona Curve and gave Margie the choice of a new Mercedes CLA250 4Matic Coupe or \$30,000 cash prize.

Proceeds from Mercedes Moment support individuals and families in our care who have needs beyond normal circumstances and need additional services not covered by insurance. In addition to our ticket buyers, the Home Nursing Agency Foundation is grateful for the support of the following sponsors: UPMC Altoona and UPMC Health Plan; FOREVER Media; Mercedes Benz of State College; Reliance Bank; Encompass Health Rehabilitation Hospital of Altoona; Gazette Printers; Ravine, Inc.; Sheetz, Inc.; Stifel; Stuckey Automotive; The Lakemont Partnership; Altoona Curve; CleanService Corporation; Friend of the Foundation; Quality Services; Reilly, Creppage & Co., Inc.; and Roaring Spring Water.

