



celebrate **GIVING**

Spring 2018 | Issue 5



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aligning excellence



After serving most recently as the Chief Nursing Officer at UPMC Bedford Memorial, I am grateful that my career has come full circle as I return to my roots in home health and hospice - especially in this region as a native and resident of Hastings, PA. Last year, I began working with the leaders of our UPMC home health and hospice agencies, including Home Nursing Agency and Family Hospice, that serve residents of more than 35 counties throughout our Commonwealth. Over the past year, we have worked on preparing for regulatory changes and aligning best practices that have been developed, many of them within Home Nursing Agency, to elevate all of our entities to an exceptional level of clinical excellence.

Throughout Fiscal Year 2016-2017, Home Nursing Agency's programs and services continued filling a vital role in our communities to keep individuals at home and as independent as possible. This year was marked by tremendous accomplishments and growth. To highlight a few:

- 90.8% of all customers surveyed through all of HNA's service lines in Fiscal Year 2016-2017 highly recommended HNA to family and friends.
- Home Nursing Agency served more than 23,450 people last year with services spanning the generations.
- 4,137 blood pressures taken through free community screenings.
- 22% growth in hours of service in HNA Pediatric Home Connection for medically fragile and technology-dependent children.
- Family Hospice offered more than 130 hours of free grief support for adults through community groups and bereavement education.
- Healing Patch staff and volunteers provided more than 1,900 hours of free grief support for children/families and education in local schools and the community.
- Telepsychiatry services were initiated for adults in October 2016 and for children and adolescents in January 2017 utilizing Western Psychiatric Institute and Clinic psychiatrists.
- Early Intervention services expanded into Bedford and Somerset counties.

Home Nursing Agency's programs are a vital resource in caring for the physical, emotional, and mental well-being of those who call our region home. As you will read through the stories in this magazine, your support is an important part of the outreach and impact of Home Nursing Agency and Family Hospice. Thank you for partnering with us to serve our community.

Sincerely,

Paula Thomas
President of UPMC Home Healthcare

agency headlines

HNA Home Health Recognized Nationally and Locally

HNA Home Health was ranked as a Top Agency of the 2017 HomeCare Elite®, a recognition of the top-performing home health agencies in the United States. HNA Home Health has been named to this list every year since its inception, 12 years running. This listing annually identifies the top 25 percent of Medicare-certified home health agencies in the nation.



Janie Christner, HNA Vice President of Home Health Clinical Operations, credits the team's focus on keeping patients first with HNA's consistent recognition as one of the HomeCare Elite. "Taking care of our patients is at the core of everything we do," Janie shares. "Our clinicians do a wonderful job of keeping that patient-centric philosophy. We set the bar high, evaluate data to identify areas for improvement, and align our efforts to consistently press forward."

HNA Home Health was also recognized as the *Altoona Mirror* "Hometown Favorite" Home Health in 2017.

Medical Record System Transition to Improve Care Integration

In late fall, our HNA Home Health and Family Hospice teams worked diligently to transition to a new electronic medical record software. Using this system, our patients will benefit from greater integration with other healthcare partners. The new platform allows necessary medical information to be shared among providers within the UPMC system and improve patients' care and experience as they transition from various care settings, such as from the hospital to home.

HNA Private Duty Home Care Repeats as National Award Winner

For the sixth consecutive year, Home Nursing Agency has ranked among a select few home care providers across the country who have proven their ability to provide outstanding care and has earned the 2018 Best of Home Care - Provider of Choice Award from Home Care Pulse. The Provider of Choice Award is granted only to the top-ranking home care providers, based on client satisfaction scores.



"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, HNA Vice President of Business Development and Client Relations. "Six consecutive years of receiving this award truly shows that our staff are dedicated to providing excellent service to our clients."

Vice President Recognized in "Women Making a Difference"

Congratulations to Janie Christner, HNA Vice President of Home Health Clinical Operations, who was recently selected as one of the local "Women Making a Difference" as published in the *Pennsylvania Business Central* in October 2017.



Mark your calendar for these 2018 events, and stay tuned for more details!

Friday, May 18, 2018
MERCEDES MOMENT

Saturday, July 21, 2018
5TH ANNUAL LIFE O'RILEY MEMORIAL RIDE
4D's Lounge, Altoona

Saturday, September 8, 2018
DECADES CLUB
200 Club Reverse Raffle Drawing & Dance Event to Benefit the Healing Patch
Jaffa Shrine, Altoona

Saturday, November 17, 2018
8TH ANNUAL PATCHED TOGETHER:
A Day of Music to Benefit the Healing Patch
Bavarian Aid Society, Altoona

DECADES CLUB

*Benefitting the Home Nursing Agency
Healing Patch Children's Grief Program*

September 8, 2018
JAFFA SHRINE, ALTOONA

200 Club Reverse Raffle Drawing
5:00 PM

Evening of Dancing thru the Decades
7:00 PM

giving normalcy

History-Making Liver Transplant Recipient Rehabs at Home with HNA Home Health

After a liver transplant and 48 days at UPMC Montefiore, Allen “Bud” Mitchell and his wife Ruth were more than ready to return to their home in Altoona – and a normal life.

“We told them that we have good people and could get the help we needed at home,” Ruth says. The case management team made arrangements with Home Nursing Agency Home Health and so began the final stretch in Bud’s history-making return to health.

A year earlier, Bud began having serious symptoms from what was diagnosed as a fatty liver. As his symptoms worsened to the point of needing to have fluid in his abdomen drained weekly, he sought out a second opinion about his future and quality of life with Dr. Mordechai Rabinovitz, physician at the UPMC Center for Liver Diseases in Pittsburgh.

“I asked the doctor if he thought about a transplant for me, and he said he hadn’t,” Bud recalls. At age 77, Bud exceeded the traditional age limit for potential transplant recipients. More extensive screenings revealed that he was in otherwise good health, and he was given the green light to pursue a transplant. However, with thousands of people on the transplant list, his best chance of survival was to find a living donor.

The Mitchells’ prayers for a donor were answered when Rachelle Jeffers, fellow member of the Fourth Street Church of God, told them that she would be tested.

“I could see the changes in him, and the thought of him being on a list just waiting was too much. I had this in my heart to offer, and I figured if God wanted me to do it, it would be okay,” Rachelle says with a smile.

Rachelle was a perfect match, and the two went into surgery June 1, 2017, with Bud becoming UPMC’s oldest living donor transplant recipient to date. Rachelle was discharged just a week later and has been in good health since, but Bud was there for an additional 41 days before his health stabilized enough to be discharged into Home Nursing Agency’s care.

HNA Home Health RN Case Manager Susan Bloom began visiting frequently to provide clinical care and be his physician’s eyes and ears in the home. Susan did weekly blood draws for his physicians to carefully monitor his levels and adjust Bud’s medications or order any follow-up care as needed. One week’s test revealed low blood levels, requiring an unexpected trip to Pittsburgh the following day for a blood transfusion.

“The people who came to our home were great – they were right on top of it,” Ruth shares. She and Bud affectionately named HNA Home Health Physical Therapist Sheri Wineland as Bud’s “Little Pusher” and credited her with his return to independence and functionality.

As a veteran of the United States Marine Corps and various other branches of service, Bud was no stranger to hard work. He found himself physically depleted from what his body had faced, and his recovery came in phases with various goals along the way.

“Initially we had to work on him just getting up 13 steps so he could sleep upstairs,” Sheri recalls. Then came building his endurance and mobility, which couldn’t happen until he began drinking the protein shakes as his nurse Susan advised. “That’s when it all changed, and we worked toward his next goal to get back outside.”

Sheri accompanied him outside, offering a steady hand and encouragement as Bud’s strength improved. His final phase of rehab was focused on rebuilding independence as he worked to get his driver’s license back. Bud was discharged



from HNA Home Health in September and renewed his license in October. In addition to checking the "organ donor" box for the first time in his life, Bud is using his second lease on life to reflect on how their journey can be used to help others.

With buttons declaring "I gave life!" and "I received life!", Rachelle and Bud have become spokespeople for CORE (Center for Organ Recovery & Education) in Pittsburgh to share their experiences as a living organ donor and recipient.

"They got a standing ovation at their last presentation, and they have opened the door for older people to get transplants," Ruth says with pride. "We are writing a book about all of this!"

As Rachelle, Ruth, and Bud prepare to share their story to a wider audience, Bud continues to set goals for his own recovery. He is back to teaching Sunday School at church and now has his sights set on returning to the ski slopes where he has gone weekly since his children were teenagers.

"I'm thinking maybe February I can try again," he says. "I haven't given up!"

At left, liver transplant recipient Bud Mitchell and his wife Ruth (right) are pictured with his donor Rachelle Jeffers, who volunteered to be tested after learning of Bud's condition and was a perfect match.

For more information or to make a referral to HNA Home Health, please call 1.800.445.6262 or visit homenursingagency.com.



HNA Home Health Physical Therapist Sheri Wineland walks Bud throughout his mastery of the stairs. This was the first priority in regaining independence after he returned home from a liver transplant and extensive hospital stay.

Long-term Patient Rises to the Challenge of Pediatric Home Connection Nurse

When HNA Pediatric Home Connection nurse Nancy Wertz first met six-year-old Sha-Maaz Breon, she treated him just like she would treat any other child despite the medical conditions affecting his daily life.

Although Sha-Maaz cannot verbalize his thoughts or move independently, Nancy's philosophy hasn't changed in the nearly 14 years caring for Sha-Maaz. In that time she has brought out the best in Sha-Maaz – and he in her – as she provides overnight care so his parents can sleep.

Last year, Nancy was chosen as one of UPMC's ACES (Award for Commitment and Excellence in Service), an elite recognition given to less than one percent of the UPMC workforce annually. Along with the clinical skills needed to care for Sha-Maaz, her tough love and dedication to his well-being have given her a special place in the Breon family, as shared by Sha-Maaz's mother Kathryn in a letter of appreciation:

"Many wonderful nurses have been in our home, caring for our son. Today, I want to recognize Nancy Wertz, one of our nurses who has gone above and beyond what could be desired in a nurse. Nancy has been a nurse for more than 45 years, serving in an area hospital, a retirement home, and currently full time caring for our son for the past 13 years. Nursing is not only her profession, but her life.

We welcomed our son Sha-Maaz into our home first as a foster child, then as an adopted son, thinking of how we could be of help to him, desiring to care for him even as Jesus would do if He were here. We saw our son as a helpless individual who needed everything done for him, not as a person who has a ministry on this earth and who could reach out to others, thus we unwittingly limited him to our small world. However, Nancy has from the beginning of her care for him seen his potential, and has worked unceasingly to develop and further that potential, with success.

Our son is a medical challenge for anyone who cares for him, including us. He requires constant care, immediate response to his airway that may collapse and is in danger of aspiration, both of which can happen without a moment's warning. He has a chronic lung disease, cerebral palsy, epilepsy, is microcephalic, spastic, and has dysphagia. He has a Mickey button for feeding which he sometimes causes to come out, breathing issues, pain in the abdomen, and frequent severe muscle cramping. When he is ill, usually with a respiratory issue, it is life-threatening. Nancy's expert nursing skills are of the best we have seen. She utilizes her previous training and focuses on every way possible to meet his needs. She will do anything she can think of to make him more comfortable and as pain free as possible, working tirelessly her entire shift.

Not only does Nancy provide the best medical care possible for Sha-Maaz, but she also enables him to be a 'giver'. Nancy and Sha-Maaz spend happy hours together planning surprises for family members and for other nurses who care for him, on the evenings when he is unable to sleep due to pain issues. Nancy does the legwork in completing the surprises, but gives him all the credit for what they do. This brings him immeasurable delight.

I cannot properly convey how much Nancy has been instrumental in the development of Sha-Maaz. She has been able to correct undesirable behaviors in him, and continues to treat him as a 'normal' child, expecting good things from him, and he responds to her very well. She shares stories of her home life, especially her animals, thus involving him in a part of the world that otherwise would be inaccessible to him. She and Sha-Maaz have times of 'camping out', where she will bring little battery lanterns, flashlights, and appropriate books for camping stories, and they will have a delightful time incorporated into his medical care."

As his mom reveals, there is much more to Sha-Maaz than what can be seen at face value. He has many complexities but ultimately a heart that loves people unconditionally. Sha-Maaz knows Nancy can see his true potential, as evidenced in the sheer delight of his smile and the way he listens carefully as she speaks.

"I know you're thinking, 'I've heard it a million times,' but you're like my child, and I have to lecture you," Nancy says to Sha-Maaz, as she gives a firm reminder to use his voice.

"Coughing was how he communicated, but I tell him that people will think that he's sick when he coughs. Instead I tell him to use his voice to make noise, and he does," Nancy says proudly. "I expect a lot from him because I know what he's capable of!"

Photo left: HNA Pediatric Home Connection nurse Nancy Wertz and her patient Sha-Maaz Breon spend some of the nighttime hours she cares for him listening to bird sounds from an interactive book. On rare daytime visits for the two, they enjoy bird-watching from the windows in the dining room.

Photo below: Even a decade ago when this photo was captured, Nancy and Sha-Maaz shared a special bond.

For more information about HNA Pediatric Home Connection, please call 1.800.445.6262 or visit homenursingagency.com.



giving direction

5 in 5: tips to connect with your child daily

by Shannon Tronzo,
Director of Child Services

Parent-Child Interaction Therapy Helps Parents to Relate More Effectively

With their four-year-old son John* displaying poor behavior, Andy and Mary knew they needed some guidance to change the path that John was on and to feel more connected to him. In addition to disobeying adults, John was hitting and kicking his parents, peers, and teachers at school. As a family, the three enrolled in Home Nursing Agency's Parent-Child Interaction Therapy (PCIT).

"Over the course of four months the family reported that John had begun expressing his feelings with words," shares Wendy Whitlock, Behavioral Therapist III. "There was no more aggression, and he had been able to listen to adult directions with ease and pride in being a fast listener."

Initiated in 2015 through Home Nursing Agency, Parent-Child Interaction Therapy is a supportive, direct coaching intervention that is done through play - the language of a child. By observing through a one-way mirror, a highly trained therapist coaches caregivers using an ear piece on very specific ways to engage their child and manage their child's behavior. This specialized coaching allows each family to receive individualized treatment during real-life situations. Parent-Child Interaction Therapy is an evidence-based program for families with children ages 24 months to seven years.

Formerly concerned with John's risk for preschool expulsion and his tendency to run away in public places, Andy and Mary shared that their connection with John greatly improved because of their daily efforts to give him undivided attention through Child-Directed play. They also



felt more confident with discipline but rarely needed to use it, as he responded favorably to Parent-Directed strategies.

"John turned five years old during our time together," Wendy says. "He is now thriving at home and in his pre-K school setting!"

*All client names have been changed to protect confidentiality.

Photo above: Lauren Caputo (right), Behavioral Health Therapist I, and her daughter Layla demonstrate a typical session for families who participate in Parent-Child Interaction Therapy. Wendy Whitlock, Behavioral Therapist III, provides specialized guidance for parents through an earpiece as she observes through a two-way mirror about how parents interact with their children. PCIT parents have reported improved relationships and behaviors in their children by carrying those directives through daily life.

For more information, about Parent-Child Interaction Therapy, please call 814.946.0261 or visit homenursingagency.com.

Spend 5 minutes of uninterrupted, undivided attention playing with your child each day. During this time:

1. Let your child use their imagination while playing. If they want to pretend that a lion is a fish, let them.
2. Provide your child with praise for specific behaviors that he/she performs that you like. For instance: The child is coloring a picture of a minion. Parent says: "I like the way that you are coloring the minion."
3. Repeat the words that your child says back to him/her. For instance: Child says: "I have a red car." Parent says: "You have a red car."
4. Describe out loud the positive behavior that your child is performing. For instance: A child is stacking blocks quietly. Parent says: "You are stacking the blocks."
5. Have fun! This is a very special time in your child's life.

giving reassurance

Family Hospice Allows Caregivers to Keep Loved One at Home

"Neither of my parents wanted to go to a nursing home," explains Mifflin County native Darla DiSalvo. "Thanks to your hospice, we were able to do that for my Dad."

Darla knew that at 96 years of age, her dad Samuel Reed was declining. After multiple falls and a low heart rate, a nurse from Geisinger suggested hospice care.

"I remember thinking, 'I don't think Dad's ready to die yet'," Darla says. After the Family Hospice nurse assessed Samuel's health, it was determined that he was eligible for care in April 2017.

Darla and her mom Harriet, Samuel's beloved wife of 70 years, were relieved to find out that he could be discharged from Family Hospice if his health improved. As time went on, it became clear that he was getting the care he needed, and the Family Hospice team supported the family as Samuel's symptoms worsened.

"If I had a question or concern, I could call at any point in time, and someone would be able to answer my questions or calm my fears," Darla shares gratefully. "The very first time I had to give one of the stronger pain medicines, I remember being so nervous. I called, and they walked me through it."

With Family Hospice providing the appropriate medications, equipment, and support, Darla and Harriet served as Samuel's full-time caregivers, allowing them to honor his wishes and keep him home in Reedsville. When Samuel had trouble getting out of his recliner, the team coordinated the delivery of a lift chair a short time later. Medications were also delivered to their doorstep, saving them a trip to the pharmacy.



Family Hospice enabled Harriet Reed (right) and her daughter Darla DiSalvo to honor her beloved husband Samuel's wishes to remain at their home in Reedsville.

"There wasn't anything we needed that wasn't provided," Darla shares. Once the medications came, Professional Staff Nurse Missy Diven helped sort and prepare them so that Harriet could easily administer them at the right time. The personal interaction with the Family Hospice team was something the whole family enjoyed.

"I know he loved all of the staff who came in. He would tease and joke with them, and they would brighten his day," Darla recalls. "Every person who came into the house was knowledgeable and helpful."

After Samuel's passing at home in June 2017, Harriet and Darla chose to give a financial gift in Samuel's memory in appreciation for the Family Hospice team that cared for him. Memorial gifts to the Home Nursing Agency Foundation are used to provide additional support and resources for patients and families served by Family Hospice.

For more information about Family Hospice or to make a gift to the Home Nursing Agency Foundation, please call 1.800.445.6262 or visit homenursingagency.com.

WAYS TO GIVE CHANGE A LIFE

How can you make a difference for patients, clients, and families served by Home Nursing Agency?

- Make an outright donation by calling 1.855.GIVE.HNA, going online at homenursingagency.com or by mailing a donation to:
Home Nursing Agency Foundation
201 Chestnut Avenue
Altoona, PA 16601
- Consider remembering Home Nursing Agency in your will with a gift of a specific property, dollar amount, or percentage of your estate.
- Volunteer to share your time and talents through Family Hospice, the Healing Patch children's grief program, ACEL (Adult Center for Exceptional Learning) for individuals with intellectual and physical disabilities, or other Agency programs/services. Learn more about volunteer opportunities by checking out our website at homenursingagency.com.

For more information about ways you can help, please contact: Kim Helsel, Director of Development/Marketing Communications, 814.947.7024 or khelsel@homenursingagency.com.

The official registration and financial information of Home Nursing Agency may be obtained from the Pennsylvania Department of State by calling toll-free, within Pennsylvania, 1-800-732-0999. Registration does not imply endorsement.

If you would like to be removed from our mailing list please contact the Home Nursing Agency at 1-800-992-2554.



giving back

Glendale Resident Encourages Others to "Retire to" Volunteer Work

After losing his beloved wife in 2010, Glendale resident John Soldo had to make the decision to move forward – and pay it forward – by serving others.

As his wife was a Home Nursing Agency patient, John was invited to join a local grief support group and recognizes that the experience allowed him to process his grief in a healthy way. He was then able to reflect on his own life purpose and pursue a new calling to help others.

"The bereavement support group saved my life," he says. "I began volunteering as a form of payback."

Now involved in various volunteer efforts for hospices and hospitals in both Pennsylvania and Florida, John has found his passion in serving others and helping them through difficult seasons of life.

"Doing something to help others is like medicine – it extends our longevity," he shares. "As human beings, we need to be needed!"

As a Home Nursing Agency volunteer, John serves in the Family Hospice program to support patients with life-limiting illnesses and their caregivers. With humor and a genuine care for others, John embraces the opportunity to visit with patients, provide relief for caregivers, and support grieving family members.

Since beginning his volunteer efforts, John has interacted with more than 2,000 people and enjoys learning from and meeting people from all different walks of life.

"I usually sit with male patients and talk, play cards, or whatever," he says. "I get to know the patients and families and share meaningful conversations. All I have to do is get them started."

While many others would choose to embrace retirement as a time to focus on hobbies and other interests, John encourages others to take a step out and make a difference for others. He cited a recent article from AARP that urged retirees to retire "to" something – not "from" anything.

"It's healthy to be needed to serve others outside of yourself," John says. "We may not realize it or think about it, but we need to be needed. Volunteering gives a reward I can't measure."



When a child loses a loved one to death, life is filled with gaps emotionally, mentally, and physically. Home Nursing Agency's sewing volunteers give their time and talents to bridge that physical gap and give children a tangible connection through memory bears and pillows from items belonging to the loved one.

"It's something they can hold and hug to find comfort in and be able to heal," shares volunteer Janet Smith of Ebensburg, who wanted to get involved after personally experiencing the security and support of hospice for her dad and father-in-law. "I pray over the materials when I get them and ask God to guide my hands as I give them life again. I never meet the families, but it's like I help them to receive a gift from their loved one."

Sewing volunteers create memory bears and pillows for children enrolled in the Healing Patch: A Program for Loss and Hope for Grieving Children and Their Families, as well as children significantly impacted by the passing of patients in the Family Hospice program.

Last year, Janet created her first bear - one with the image of a lighthouse - for the nephew of a young man in Huntingdon County who passed away in the care of Family Hospice. Fellow sewing volunteer Patty Doty, who is also a Nurse Home Visitor for the Nurse-Family Partnership® program in Centre County, created three bears for the other children in the family. Patty took the extra step to also sew pillows, preserving the images on the clothing items the children selected - many from fundraising efforts the patient supported in his long-term cancer battle.

"Sewing is therapy for me," Patty shares. "It's one way to help out. I want the families to know that someone is thinking of them and our social workers, nurses, and other Family Hospice staff to know that their work is important."

Family Hospice Bereavement Coordinator Jennifer Cox had the privilege of presenting the bears and pillows to the children and could see how quickly they became treasured items for each of the children.

"In the times I met with them later, the kids still held the bears on their laps and hugged them," Jen says. "I know they have brought such comfort in a time of sadness."

giving hugs

Sewing Volunteers Allow Children to Have Physical Connection to Loved Ones

Photo: Thanks to the efforts of sewing volunteers Patty Doty and Janet Smith, the children in the Puchalo and Duvall family have treasured memory bears and pillows as a physical connection to their father and uncle. On the floor is Desirae and on the couch from left are Kyleah, Matthew, and Micah.

Are YOU interested in volunteering?

Volunteer opportunities through Home Nursing Agency and Family Hospice include the following:

- Providing companionship for Family Hospice patients and relief for their caregivers
- Giving support to grieving family members through visits, phone calls, or notes
- Making weekly phone calls to ensure patients have the supplies and medications they need
- Assisting clerical staff with office work
- Working with children at the Healing Patch children's grief program
- Completing sewing projects to create items that will help children remember their loved ones

For more information about volunteer opportunities or to apply, call 1.800.445.6262 or visit homenursingagency.com.

giving hope

Local Community Supports the Healing Patch Children's Grief Program

As a free program for grieving children and their families, the Healing Patch relies on individual and community dollars, grants, and fundraising events for support. Home Nursing Agency gratefully acknowledges the individuals and community groups that have generously invested in the Healing Patch and the grieving children in our community!

The Pittsburgh Pro Sports Triple Play Raffle

Last fall, many of you supported our Pittsburgh Pro Sports Triple Play Raffle. Although the winner of the Raffle pulled on Oct. 14 was Jay Drenning of Altoona, the real winners - in more ways than one - are the families served through the Healing Patch children's grief program! Jay generously donated the sports tickets back for families in the program to use. Three families were randomly selected to receive the ticket packages for the Steelers, Penguins, and Pirates games. Pictured with Jay Drenning (center) are two of the winning families: the Way family (left) and Gohn family (right). Jay also serves as the Chair of the HNA Community Services Board of Directors.



Life O'Riley Memorial Ride

The Fourth Annual Life O'Riley Memorial Ride Committee and supporters recently presented a \$3,000 check to the Healing Patch. The ride annually honors the memory of Michael Riley and has raised more than \$15,500 over the past four years. Pictured from left are Travis Hughes, Mark Earhart, Gwen Hamilton, Bob Brumbaugh, (back) Josh "Cash" Hinterberger, Steve "Panda" Wilt, Kelly Powers, James Pipetti, (front) Nicole Riley Earhart, Michael's sister and Planning Committee co-chair; Kathy and Bernard Riley, Michael's parents; Shealyn Riley, Michael's daughter; Erin Masone, Riley family friend and Planning Committee co-chair, and Allison Stockley, HNA Manager of Volunteers and Bereavement Services. Not pictured are Harry and Tina Irwin, Michael's daughter Sofia Riley, and stepdaughter Grace Eaton. The Fifth Annual Life O'Riley will also honor the memory of Troy Hughes on Sat., July 21, 2018.



Patched Together: A Day of Music

The Planning Committee for Patched Together: A Day of Music to Benefit the Healing Patch recently presented a check for the 2017 event proceeds totaling \$18,134 in support of grieving children and their families. Started in 2011, the event is fueled by this passionate group of volunteers whose tireless efforts have raised more than \$107,000 for the Healing Patch in the past seven years. Pictured from left are Planning Committee members Jordanna Gerraughty; James Gerraughty; Sue LeCrone; Rebecca Keefe; Sue Richard; Gabrielle Cronin, Committee Chair; Allison Stockley, HNA Manager of Volunteers and Bereavement Services; Melody Ray, HNA Volunteer Coordinator/Grief Specialist; Missy Tonkin; and Kent Tonkin.



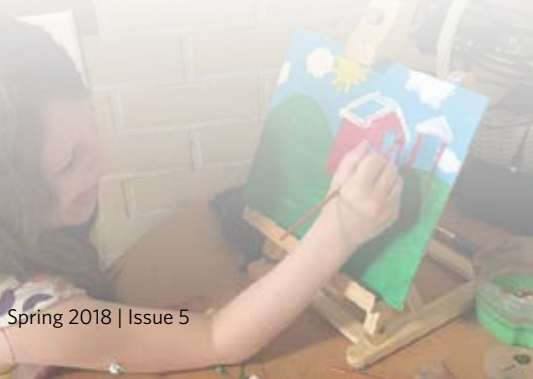


Claire North-Smyers

Claire North-Smyers is not only honing her talents as an artist at the young age of 7, she is also one of Central Pennsylvania's youngest philanthropists. This young lady has been using her gift of artistry to help others and is making a big impact on the wellness of children throughout our region.

Claire is a compassionate young lady who saw the need to help others in her community who are less fortunate, those suffering, especially young children her own age, and she was inspired to help however she could. Claire and her mother Emily began researching different projects they could help and came up with the fundraising idea for Claire to sell her paintings and donate the money. A few months ago, Home Nursing Agency Foundation office staff received an envelope from Claire containing a hand-written note and a donation check representing 100% of the proceeds of the sale of Claire's recent painting to support our very own Healing Patch.

Claire is an example that compassion and philanthropy come in all sizes! We are very thankful to all of our donors - like Claire - who see the opportunity to make a difference!



giving peace

Your Support Eases Stress for Family Hospice Caregivers

As our Family Hospice patients' caregivers have the physically and emotionally demanding role of caring for their loved ones, they are stretched in every direction and frequently unable to take care of themselves. Social Worker Shannon Chille shares a recent experience supporting a husband who was the full-time caregiver for his wife, who was a Family Hospice patient.

"They slept in different rooms, but the husband was always up at night because he was worried that his wife would fall or was restless because she was in pain," Shannon says. With your support funding the purchase of a baby monitoring system, the husband was able to rest peacefully at night. "He could relax and let himself sleep knowing that he would be able to hear if his wife needed him."

During the day, he was also able to utilize the monitor to tend to their garden and remain connected to his beloved wife.

"Gardening was a stress-reliever, and he could once again enjoy it and have peace of mind that his wife was safe," Shannon explained. "It is a gift for hospice caregivers to be able to care for themselves during this difficult journey."

To see additional stories of how your support is directly impacting the lives of those in our community through Foundation Mission Grants, visit homenursingagency.com and click on "Your Gifts at Work".

Pictured are Shannon Chille, Social Worker, and Serena Frew, Family Hospice Professional Staff Nurse, showing a new monitor purchased with a Foundation Mission Grant.



giving thanks

EVERY DOLLAR MAKES A DIFFERENCE - Donors Reach Out to Help Others

For 50 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.

Charitable dollars are necessary to help care for individuals and families who have limited resources, and support many of the Agency's community-valued services like the Healing Patch children's grief program and bereavement support groups for adults and families - both of which are offered free of charge.

Every dollar truly helps so many. Every gift truly has a story.

The following donations were received January 1, 2017 through December 31, 2017.

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