

LINES OF

Spring/Summer 2019

Hope



15
YEARS

Lory's Place

What's Inside:

- HONORING THE MEMORY OF JANE GAST
- A FOCUS ON SERVICE: Q & A WITH WWII VETERAN ARDEN PRIDGEON
- CARING FOR FOUR-LEGGED FAMILY MEMBERS



Caring Circle
Lakeland Health Affiliate

Inside this Issue

COVER PHOTO

As you first come into Lory's Place, you are greeted by a life ring wall thanking donors for their part in providing grief healing services to our community.

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Merlin and Carolyn Hanson Hospice Center

BACK COVER



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HONORING A LEGACY

Mary "Jane" Gast (Sept 5, 1923 – Feb 1, 2019)

Jane Gast gave her heart to Hospice at Home. She made a profound impact on our organization and community. Caring Circle has grown from the action of helping a friend die peacefully in her home to an organization that has assisted thousands of people since its beginning in 1981.

Jane's contributions to Caring Circle and to improving quality of life care in our community began long before founding Hospice at Home. While in nursing school in Amarillo, Texas Jane met the love of her life, Karl "AK" Gast when he was stationed with the Army Air Corp. They were married on August 21, 1944 and upon Karl's return from the service in 1946, they relocated to his

"I talked to anyone who would listen about hospice care. I think God chose me to do this. I was fortunate to be able to get in to see people I needed to see to get the jobs done. Every person I asked to help said 'yes.' I never had anyone say 'no.'"

- Jane Gast

hometown, St. Joseph, where they made their home until her passing.

In 1979, Jane Gast, a registered nurse, worked with Dr. Dean Ray and Dr. William Emery to help a mutual friend who was dying of pancreatic cancer. With that experience weighing heavily on her mind, Jane discovered hospice services during a trip to England. Collecting all the information she could, she returned to her St. Joseph home and continued to

gather hospice information for two years.

We are grateful to Jane for her dedication and service to helping provide comfort and care to those facing a serious illness and their families.

ARE YOU A GOOD LISTENER?

Advance Care Planning Volunteers Needed

Speak for Yourself, Plan Your Care, southwest Michigan's advance care planning program, is looking for volunteers who enjoy talking to people from all walks of life.

Volunteers will be provided facilitator training and given the tools and skills necessary to guide families through an advance care planning conversation. No medical background or clinical knowledge is necessary.

People who are a good fit for this position will have the following qualities:

- Able to spend at least one to three hours per month in conversation
- Good at listening without judgement, able to leave personal opinions out of the process
- Good with time management, responsiveness, and follow up

These conversations are often beautiful and surprising. If you're interested in being part of these moments, call to speak with a volunteer coordinator at **(269) 429-7100**



The Changes of Grief

When a loved one dies, our life is never the same again. Grief forever changes things. We miss our person, roles are redirected, moves may happen. The death can rearrange our world in ways we may have never imagined.

At times, grief may feel so unbearably heavy that it's difficult to move or function under the burden. It may be a constant weight that is a continual reminder of the loss of a loved one.

As we learn coping skills and process thoughts, the overwhelming heaviness begins to lighten. The grief is still there, but it's not a continual heaviness. Sometimes it can even be overlooked for moments of time.

Eventually, grief can become something we wear that is a part of us: it's more manageable, less overwhelming.

It's no longer a huge weight that crushes us. Most days the grief is light enough to wear but other days the heaviness may return. Grief itself is also changing. It may often surprise us. A smell, a taste, a song, a memory, a word, can bring with it a flood of thoughts and emotions. That's okay! That is how grief works. It's an ongoing, unpredictable process. But days turn into weeks, then months, then years. Life events like holidays, birthdays, and weddings happen.

How do we manage to celebrate life milestones and carry our grief at the same time? Healing grief and learning to live without those we love are the hardest things we will ever do, but love and loss can learn to walk side by side. By honoring our pain and the love we shared, we can find a way to participate in life's celebrations.



DONATE TODAY

You can help make sure compassionate quality of life care and comfort are available to members of our community. Your donation helps to support the programs of Caring Circle and Lory's Place, visit www.caring-circle.org to find out how.

Use these helpful grief tips during your "MILESTONES" throughout life:

M

MEMORIES

By sharing things that mean the most to us we keep the memories of those we love alive

I

IMAGINE

How would the milestone be celebrated if the loved one was here? Include that in the celebration

L

LOVE

Love yourself, love others, and allow love to help you learn to carry your pain

E

EXPRESS EMOTIONS

Be open and honest while sharing your feelings with others

S

SEARCH AND SAVOR

Search out your blessings and savor even the simplest moments

A Journey of Healing Hearts

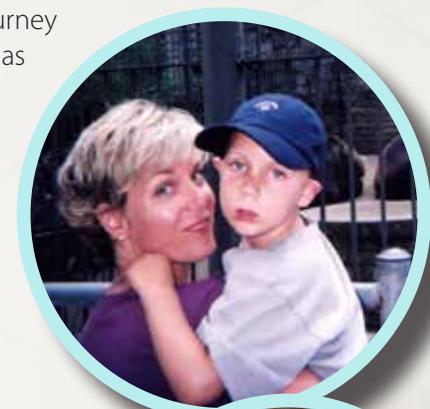
Born out of tragedy and the pain of a father and two young children, Lory's Place has become a resource to support thousands of adults and children in southwest Michigan and northern Indiana. Since the center opened in 2004, a team of grief experts and trained volunteers have supported over 37,000 individuals who have experienced a death in their life.

This past January was the 15th anniversary of life without Dr. Lory Schults. It has been a difficult journey for the Schults family. One filled with extreme pain, sorrow, and mourning. However, this journey has also been filled with healing, love, laughter, and joy.

"Fifteen years later and I'm still choked up. It's tough," said Ron. "You don't forget, but you learn how to move forward."

To lose your mother at ages five and three is an incredibly life-changing event. Ron now watches as both of his children, Erik and Sophia, make life choices which are pathways to purposeful and fulfilling lives as young adults.

"We suffered a great loss, and we've walked an incredibly difficult journey for many years, but right now we have found our new normal," said Ron. "There is joy in our normal!"



Lory's Place

Our mission is to provide peer support services for grieving adults, children, and families. We serve as a focal point for raising awareness and supporting the needs of adults and children who grieve. Lory's Place provides a safe, comforting atmosphere, where grief healing can take place.

To learn more about Ron's story or the work done at Lory's Place, visit our website at www.lorysplace.org or call (269) 983-2707



When someone in your life dies, it impacts the entire family. Everyone handles grief differently. I was very young when I came to Lory's Place and attended support group sessions after the death of my mother. Over time I was able to move forward and not dwell on the past.

The support I received from Lory's Place helped take the focus away from my grief and moved it to the future of my life and to the lives of people around me. I know Lory's Place was able to support not only my needs during my grief but the needs of so many others in our community.

~Erik Schults

T

TAKE CHARGE

Make decisions that strengthen you by taking charge of the things we have control over

O

OPEN UP

Sharing our grief with someone helps, and it may give them permission to express their grief too

N

NOTE PROGRESS

Keep a journal or a diary so you can see blessings as well as the areas we need to work on

E

EAT AND EXERCISE

The physical affects the emotional, so if we care for our physical self, our emotional self follows

S

SOCIAL SUPPORT

Connect with friends and/or family who will support you during this difficult time

WE SALUTE YOU

In November 2018, shortly after Veterans Day, the Caring Circle We Honor Veterans program had the honor of presenting WWII Army Veteran Eddie Rucker with a Hospice at Home Salutes Our Veterans certificate presentation.

Hospice at Home Salutes Our Veterans Certificate Presentations

These events are an opportunity to show appreciation to the Veteran under hospice care for their service to our country. Veterans and their families recognize the special significance of the certificate ceremonies that are conducted by a Veteran volunteer, who has a personal understanding of what service to our country truly means.

After speaking with his hospice social worker about his military service, Eddie agreed to the ceremonial presentation. At 98 years old, Eddie insisted on greeting the We Honor Veterans team at the door when they arrived. During the visit Eddie enjoyed sharing his stories of service with the team, including a Caring Circle spiritual care coordinator and Army Veteran, Adam Bohland, who presented Eddie with his certificate.

Eddie enlisted in the Army in 1942 and served in the all African American regiment commonly known as the "Buffalo Soldiers." Due to the racial prejudice of the time, African Americans served in segregated units. Eddie served his country with bravery and honor despite hardship and struggle including refusals of furloughs that were available to other soldiers. The struggles he and so many other African American service members experienced while serving their country helped pave the way for changes and improvements in racial equality in the military from the integration of regiments, which started in 1948 and continues through today.

Eddie enjoys spending his time surrounded by his loving family and takes great pride in all of them, including his grandson who is currently serving in the Navy.

Thank you, Mr. Eddie Rucker, for your dedication to protecting our country and to keeping America free.



We Honor Veterans

We Honor Veterans is a program of the National Hospice and Palliative Care Organization (NHPCO) and was developed in collaboration with the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA). Through participation in this program, Caring Circle has created a veteran centric culture of care to provide for the unique needs of veterans as they approach end of life. Designed to honor and thank military veterans for their service to our country, this program hosts special recognition tributes to those who have served. During the Hospice at Home Salutes Our Veterans certificate presentation, veteran volunteers along with Caring Circle team members thank our veterans for their service to our country. It is a way to show respect and our appreciation for their service.

The Gift of Patriotism

Eagle Scout candidate, Cameron Needham, recently gifted a flagpole to the Merlin and Carolyn Hanson Hospice Center in honor of veterans and active-duty service members. For the past three years, Cameron worked with community members and area organizations to obtain the flagpole and have it installed at the facility's front entrance as part of an Eagle Scout project. A ceremony was held on Wednesday, October 28, to dedicate the flagpole and award Cameron with his official distinction as an Eagle Scout.

"I recognized that there was not a flagpole at the Hanson Hospice Center and chose to place one there as my Eagle Scout project because I felt it would be important for veterans staying at the center to be able to look out the window and see the flag," said Cameron. "The completion of my project means I can do anything if I put my mind to it and that I have what it takes to lead."

Members of Cameron's Eagle Scout Troop, Caring Circle and Pine Ridge staff members, and local veterans were in attendance at the dedication ceremony.

"It's a public display of patriotism," said Arden Pridgeon, WWII Army Veteran.

"The flagpole is an honor as a veteran, but it was also an honor to serve," said Jim Kehrer, Vietnam Army Veteran.

"It's an honor to be a part of the brotherhood."

To learn more how you can support the We Honor Veterans program visit www.caring-circle.org or call (269) 429-7100



WE HONOR VETERANS
Hospice Professionals on a Mission to Serve



A Focus on Service

Since 2010, 95-year-old WWII Army Veteran **Arden Pridgeon** has helped recognize countless local veterans in the We Honor Veterans program

How does it feel to help honor veterans; especially those with a serious illness or receiving end of life care?

I've seen how happy it makes fellow veterans and I know that when they see my uniform, they know what it means. It's important to me and I make sure to find a way to attend the presentations. I feel blessed that I can still get up and around to do these.

What makes your attendance so special at these presentations?

As a veteran, I think I'm able to connect with each individual and their family because we share the same respect for the uniform. They not only know what the symbols mean but on a very personal level know what it takes to earn those distinctions, because they've been there. I'm proud to honor each individual while wearing the Army uniform I wore when I discharged from the military in 1946.

Can you share about your time overseas?

War is hell. I served in the US Army, 96th division as an infantryman. I was involved in the Philippine Liberation and the Battle of Okinawa.

We landed on Okinawa Easter Sunday, April 1, 1945 with 1,400 ships, battleships and airplanes. The battle was the longest and bloodiest in the Pacific, with approximately 160,000 casualties on both sides.

What did you receive your purple heart for?

It was the evening of April 14, 1945 and I was on Okinawa going back to get some supplies and get ready for the next night when the mortar shells started landing. I hit the ground, and a piece of shrapnel hit me in the neck and cut the chain on my dog tag. And my sergeant said, "You got hit by a sniper bullet."



I was evacuated because of my neck injury. Fortunately for me there was a first aid camp there as well as a doctor. I was taken to a naval hospital in Guam. Since it was a non-emergency, I stayed there a couple of weeks. When my bandage came off, I was asked what I wanted to do. I said, "I want to go right back where I left, Company G, 381st Infantry, 96th Division."

I was sent to an army replacement center in Saipan where I went through rifle and operation courses again and then put on a ship back to Okinawa. By the time I got to my platoon, none of the original members of Company G were left. I was a private first-class but treated like an old timer after my return. My role was operating the phone that controlled the flame-thrower of the tank.

What happened after things were under control on Okinawa?

We began training for an invasion of Japan but that would never happen. As we were training they dropped the atomic bomb which led to the end of the war with Japan. After we were sent back to the states; we crossed the International Dateline on December 25, 1945. I was discharged on January 11, 1946 at Camp McCoy, WI. That same month I was enrolled back in college at Michigan State University (MSU) to get an engineering degree. I moved to Benton Harbor in 1949 to work for Benton Harbor Malleable Industries. I received my master's degree from MSU Extension in Benton Harbor. I spent the next 25 years teaching the foundry metallurgy program first at Benton Harbor and then at Western Michigan University until I retired at the end of 1989.

Thank you, Arden Pridgeon, for your service!



Arden was awarded:

(Top row) BRONZE STAR with two oak leaf clusters, PURPLE HEART with two oak leaf clusters, GOOD CONDUCTS MEDAL, AMERICAN CAMPAIGN MEDAL, ASIATIC-PACIFIC CAMPAIGN MEDAL, PHILIPPINE LIBERATION RIBBON with two bronze service stars
(Bottom row) HONORABLE SERVICE LAPEL BUTTON WWII, COMBANT INFANTRYMAN BADGE 1ST AWARD

Help for Mom

Carmen Biltgen spends her time as a caretaker for her 93-year-old mother, Lou Jarecki. Diagnosed with dementia and diabetes, Lou meets with a family physician at least twice a year. These trips are often difficult and caused stress for both Lou and Carmen.

One afternoon, after missing an appointment, Carmen called the doctor's office to apologize and reschedule. The nurse explained that her mother may be a good candidate for the Caring Circle HouseCalls program. Carmen called the HouseCalls team and scheduled her mother for an evaluation.

During the initial visit, a nurse practitioner came to the house to meet with Lou and evaluate her general health and medications. As part of Spectrum Health Lakeland, the HouseCalls care team had access to Lou's medical records with her primary care doctor and were able to review her past care. Her medication and care could continue seamlessly.

Following the appointment, Lou would also need to have lab work completed. Instead of having to travel to a lab facility, which could become difficult with Lou's dementia, the lab technician was able to come to her home and draw blood while Lou sat in her recliner.

"The convenience of this program was a gift to both mom and me," said Carmen. "It was stress free for my mom, not to mention myself."

Carmen later searched for additional care options and stimulation for her mother. She applied to a program which offers care during the day for people with aging and memory limitations. Prior to being accepted to the program Lou would need to complete x-rays, so Carmen worked with the HouseCalls care team and an x-ray technician arrived at their home with portable equipment.

"It made things so much easier for my mom," said Carmen. "She didn't have to worry about where we were going, what was happening or why. Everything happened in the comfort of her own home, in her favorite chair."

As much as Carmen liked their family physician, who she personally continues to see, having a doctor or care team member available at their home created a more intimate and relaxing experience for her mother. During each visit, Carmen was able to easily discuss her mother's medication and care. With her increasing dementia, often, Lou was not even aware that it was a formal doctor visit.

"It felt more like having company over than an appointment. My one regret was that I didn't start Mom with HouseCalls sooner."

~ Carmen Biltgen

HouseCalls may be an option for those who have serious or chronic conditions and are unable to travel to a physician's office or clinic for care. Candidates for this program may also include those recently released from the hospital or other inpatient facilities, those with balance or mobility issues, or those who may have behavioral health conditions.

To learn more about the Caring Circle HouseCalls program visit www.caring-circle.org or call (269) 429-7100

Pictured: Lou Jarecki

CARING FOR THE FOUR-LEGGED FAMILY MEMBERS

Family is a title that is not always limited to the people in our lives. A loving dog or cat that offers constant companionship can be a very special part of many people's lives. A pet can provide unconditional love, reduce stress, and decrease loneliness. For someone who is battling a chronic or life-limiting illness, this companionship is needed more than ever. But what happens when the burdens of caring for your pet become too difficult?

The Caring Circle Pet Peace of Mind program has been helping individuals with this unique task since 2010. This program, now funded primarily by donations, provides services to help people in hospice care for their pets when they are no longer able to independently. The program provides supplies and pet food, helps with pet grooming, and connects owners with local veterinarians to provide needed healthcare and vaccinations.

Along with supplies and resources, this program also provides pet owners with the peace of mind that their beloved pets will have a loving home in the future. In cases where there is no one to care for their pet after a death, owners can take an active role in finding their pet a future forever home.

In collaboration with programs such as Paws for Hope, Save a Stray, and the local humane societies, Caring Circle can give those in hospice care the ability to enjoy every day with their four-legged family members without worry.

To find out more about the Pet Peace of Mind program visit www.caring-circle.org



IS BREATHING DIFFICULT?

Whether from allergies, COPD, or lung cancer, there are many conditions that bring on the very frightening symptom of labored breathing. If you or a loved one experiences frequent difficulty breathing, consult a healthcare provider. They may be able to recommend specific breathing exercises or medications that can help open the airways.

Consider these tips that can be done at home to facilitate better breathing and ease the distress:

- Add moisture to a room or consider a humidifier.
- Eliminate or reduce strong odors which release chemical particles that can irritate the lungs such as bleach, paints, or perfumes.
- Find a better position. It may be helpful to raise the head of a bed, sit up straight or brace elbows on a solid surface, such as the arms of a chair.
- Institute a no smoking policy; eliminate secondhand smoke in the home.
- Plan the day so there are few activities, and time to rest. Pace yourself, even a shower counts as an activity.
- Remove dust and replace furnace filters frequently.

If the person you care for has a lung condition, there may be times when breathing is a challenge. Start by noticing patterns: is there a time of day, type of activity, or emotional state that triggers the difficulty? Is the person sitting, lying down, or standing?

Speak with your doctor

If these techniques don't ease the difficulty, talk to your doctor. They may be able to recommend specific breathing exercises or medications that can help open the airways. Does your loved one like to sing? Believe it or not, joining a singing group might help. Or ask the doctor if there are support groups available. These can help people get appropriate exercise and provide opportunities to share tips about living with breathing limitations.



Get the Facts on Prescription Safety

Medication can be very complicated and confusing, which can often lead to improper use. With 82 percent of American adults taking at least one medication and 29 percent taking five or more, medication errors are more common than you may think. Many common mistakes come from taking the wrong medication, using incorrect dosage, combining medications that shouldn't be combined, or forgetting to take a dose of medication on time. The best medication safety advice is to fully read the label and listen to your medical provider and pharmacist. Medications are generally safe when used as prescribed, but errors occur far too often.

Storing medications safely

Contrary to popular belief, the bathroom "medicine cabinet" isn't the best place to store medications, especially if you have children or guests with children. While most medications need to be stored in a cool, dark, and dry place, some medications require refrigeration or specific temperatures. You should always review the instructions on the label before storage. Here are a few tips for storing medications safely:

- Don't remove the label under any circumstances.
- Don't move the medications to another container unless you've been instructed on how to use a pill sorter properly.
- If you have multiple people living in your household, store each person's medications separately or color code the medications to avoid confusion.
- Store medications high up and out of sight, even if you don't have children of your own. Children of guests can get into your medication in the blink of an eye.
- Your bathroom medicine cabinet may not be the best place to store medications, despite the name. Showers and bathtubs can make your bathroom too humid.

PATIENT NAME: _____
ADDRESS: _____

Dispose of expired, unused, or unwanted medication the right way

Disposing of medication the right way can protect people and the environment. Studies show medicine in home cabinets are highly susceptible to diversion, misuse, and abuse with the majority of abused prescription drugs being obtained from family and friends. In addition, the usual methods for disposing unused medicine – flushing them down the toilet or throwing them in the trash – pose potential safety and health hazards.

There are several local locations where you can safely dispose of unwanted medications. Pills can be dropped off in their original containers or dumped all together in a plastic bag.

Lakeland Hospital Niles Pharmacy
31 N. St. Joseph Ave., Niles
Monday through Friday 8:00 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.

Lakeland Medical Center Pharmacy
1234 Napier Ave., St. Joseph
Open 24 hours

Lakeland Pharmacy Shoppe
3900 Hollywood Rd., St. Joseph
Monday through Friday 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.



Calendar of Events

MAY

RUN WALK ROCK - 15 YEAR CELEBRATION

Join the fun! More than 1,400 children and adults help raise money for Lory's Place in the annual 5K run, walk, and rocking chair event.

Saturday May 18 - Registration begins at 7:00 a.m.
Lory's Place



JUNE

WRITE OUT OUR GRIEF

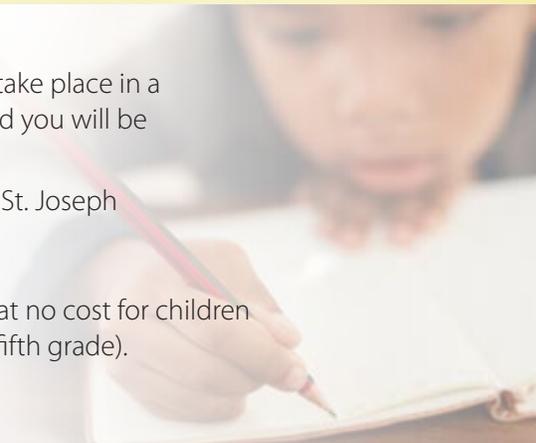
This is a writing opportunity for adults who are coping with a loss. It will take place in a nonjudgmental, supportive environment. No experience is necessary, and you will be encouraged to share; however, all sharing is optional.

Wednesdays, June 5 to June 19 - 2:00 to 4:00 p.m. - Caring Circle, St. Joseph

CAMP LIFETIMES

This one-day bereavement camp hosted by Lory's Place and is provided at no cost for children ages 5 to 11 years old (students who are entering kindergarten through fifth grade).

Wednesday, June 19 - 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. - Lory's Place



AUG

HOSPICE AT HOME BENEFIT - WINE AND BEER TASTING

Spend an evening supporting local hospice care services. Enjoy local wineries and breweries, live music by John Rush, and a beautiful lakeside setting.

Saturday, August 3 - Dan and Mary Nulty Home, along the South Beach bluff in South Haven

LORY'S PLACE REFLECTIONS DINNER AND AUCTION

A dinner and auction to raise funds for the grief healing and support services Lory's Place provides to southwest Michigan and northern Indiana. Sponsorship opportunities for this event offer additional ways to contribute.

Friday, August 23 - Shadowland Ballroom on Silver Beach, 333 Broad Street, St. Joseph

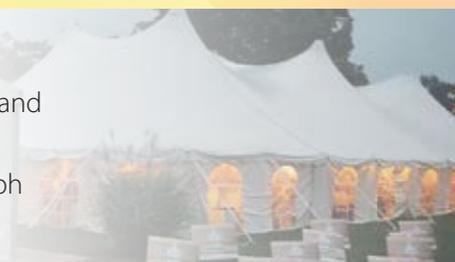


OCT

A TASTE SENSATION: CULINARY COOK-OFF

You'll have the opportunity to bid on an exciting selection of live auction items and view a live cooking competition by teams of local celebrity and VIP chefs.

Friday, October 4 - LakeHouse Restaurant & Bar, 3029 Lakeshore Drive, St. Joseph



For more event information, visit www.caring-circle.org/events



GROUPS

To register for a Caring Circle group or for more information, contact **(269) 429-7100** or visit **www.caring-circle.org/events**

SHADOW STEPPERS

Facilitated by a Caring Circle bereavement coordinator, this group is open to any adults traveling through their grief journey. Take part in the healing process in a comforting, supportive environment. This is an open-ended group (you may start the group and end the group whenever you choose).

Second Monday of every month

3:30 to 5:00 p.m. - Caring Circle, South Haven

Second Tuesday of every month

2:30 to 4:00 p.m. - Buchanan Senior Center, 810 Rynearson Rd., Buchanan

Fourth Tuesday of every month (Hope & Healing)

4:30 to 6:00 p.m. - Caring Circle, St. Joseph

Third Wednesday of every month

3:30 to 5:00 p.m. - Caring Circle, St. Joseph

CARING FOR YOUR LOVED ONE

This support group provides individuals who are caring for a loved one the opportunity to talk with others who are experiencing the same challenges that many caregivers face.

Third Tuesday of every month

1:00 to 2:00 p.m. at Caring Circle, St. Joseph

First Wednesday of every month

1:00 to 2:00 p.m. at Buchanan Senior Center

WALKING GROUPS

Lace up your walking shoes! Join Caring Circle staff and friends for an adult walking group. Participants are not required to pre-register or attend weekly.

SUMMER/FALL

Every Tuesday, Now to October 8

10:30 a.m. Kids Corner Park
563 Monroe Blvd., South Haven

Every Thursday, Now to October 10

9:30 a.m. Bridgman Public Library
4460 Lake St., Bridgman

GOOD GRIEF

This seven-week group series covers topics such as why you feel the way you do; how to cope with loss, guilt, and regret; and finding a sense of peace.

Participants are required to attend weekly.

SPRING SESSION

Thursdays, May 2 to June 13

3:30 to 5:00 p.m. Caring Circle, Niles/Buchanan

Fridays, May 3 to June 14

2:30 to 4:00 p.m. Caring Circle, South Haven

Tuesdays, May 7 to June 18

3:30 to 5:00 p.m. Caring Circle, St. Joseph



A Place to Relax and Reflect

If you've ever taken a leisurely stroll outside, one where you could simply enjoy the birds chirping or the wind rustling through the leaves and be with your thoughts, you know it's one of the simplest, most healing things you can do. Caring Circle believes life should be made of moments like these.

Located behind the Caring Circle St. Joseph office, the Remembrance Garden features a warm, red ribbon of bricks leading you through sun, shade, and a variety of colorful plantings. The garden provides a beautiful place for relaxation, conversation, remembrance, reflection, and healing. The brick walking path is created with the names of loved ones and inspirational messages, all donated by community members.

Celebrate the life of someone dear to you by dedicating a brick or bench to remember a friend who loved nature, a beloved relative whose personality brought light to your life, or someone with whom you shared precious moments. As you honor the memory of a loved one, your gift also provides much needed support to maintain the garden and strengthens the programs offered by Caring Circle that support our community.

For more information or to honor your loved one with a brick or bench, call **(269) 429-7100** or visit www.caring-circle.org/garden

Subscribe to LINES OF HOPE

If you are interested in receiving Lines of Hope two times per year, email info@caring-circle.org and we will add you to our mailing list.

You shop. Amazon gives to Caring Circle.

Did you know while shopping on Amazon a portion of your purchase can be donated back to Caring Circle? Amazon Smile is making it easy for you to shop online and help end-of-life care in southwest Michigan at the same time.

Each time you shop on **amazon.com**, log in through Amazon Smile to donate 0.5 percent of your eligible Amazon purchase total to Caring Circle. All it will cost you is a few clicks.

Visit **smile.amazon.com**, sign in with your Amazon.com account, select Hospice at Home, Inc., from the list of nonprofit organizations, and you're done.

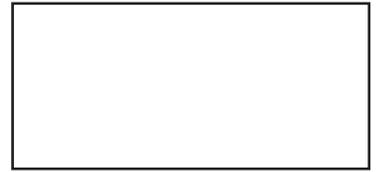
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Merlin and Carolyn Hanson Hospice Center

Providing home-like comfort, compassion, and care to our community

Helping those in need of end of life care by providing a home-away-from-home.

Our center is crafted with beautiful details to provide comfort and living well, including:

- Accommodations for family to stay overnight, including laundry and shower facilities
- Lovely gathering and relaxation rooms
- Private and spacious suites with tranquil views to nature
- Private spa-like tub room and massage therapy services
- Unlimited visitation by family and friends, including beloved pets

