

You Make Meaningful Moments *Possible*



WINTER 2018

Welcome Eric

Get to know:

DEE LAFEVOR

Why I give
Grief Support Groups



visiting Nurse

Visiting Nurse provides compassionate care to alleviate suffering and ensure quality of life for those affected by serious illness. We care for those who go on living as well. Our grief services are available at no charge for any adult who has experienced the loss of a loved one. We proudly serve these Indiana counties: Adams, Allen, DeKalb, Huntington, Noble, Wabash, Wells and Whitley.

HOSPICE HOME HOSPICE CARE PALLIATIVE CARE GRIEF SUPPORT

www.VNFW.org

When Eric Klimes' grandmother experienced life-limiting complications following surgery, his family made the difficult decision to end life support. Although it was the right decision, the family struggled, and Klimes knew there had to be a better way to help families facing the end of the life of a loved one.

That's what propelled the former military man into the hospice field. Klimes joined Visiting Nurse as chief executive officer in July 2017, taking the reins from Phyllis Hermann, who retired after seven years leading Visiting Nurse and nearly 27 years with the agency. Klimes, like you, supports the holistic way patients and their families are embraced through hospice. His vision is to bring Visiting Nurse's services to many more people in need. To do that, we need your help.

Visiting Nurse exists to provide care for people facing acute chronic illnesses and those facing the end of life. We also care for those who go on living, through the Peggy F. Murphy Community Grief Center, which opened in 2015 to provide grief services to the entire community at no charge, thanks to the support of donors like you. And with nearly half of all deaths hospice-eligible, the need for our services is growing every year.

We need your help to continue to provide these vital services. We are faced with a complex regulatory system that is continually tightening reimbursements for the treatments we provide for our patients facing serious illnesses. As a non-profit, we care for anyone, regardless of the ability to pay. That only happens because people like you have stepped up to help us care for dying people who otherwise would go without the comforting care of a hospice nurse, the companionship of a dedicated hospice volunteer, or a soothing visit from our Music Therapist.

Your donations help us bring a meal to families whose loved ones are patients in Hospice Home during the holidays. They provide American flag blankets to our veteran patients. They provide grief counseling to a mother who lost a child. In fact, our grief counselors

are now seeing three individuals for every one person who has had hospice involvement. Your support makes that happen, and Visiting Nurse is the only agency in the region with a free-standing grief center that's open to adults in the entire community, regardless of hospice involvement.

That's because of your generous support. As someone who understands the uniqueness of what Visiting Nurse does, you can help bring our services to more families in need.

- **Without** your help, we won't be able to host special programs that help widows learn how to cope during the holidays.
- **With** your help, we can provide specialized massage therapy for cancer patients facing excruciating pain.
- **Without** your help, those anticipating the death of a loved one might not have the comfort of grief counselor who is there to guide them through their emotions.
- **With** your help, we bring families together as they forge new lives after their loss.

Donations from people like you are what set Visiting Nurse apart from other hospice agencies. We have been supported by the community since 1888. We appreciate every single person, business and foundation that has contributed to making Visiting Nurse the premier hospice and grief support provider in Northeast Indiana. We are planning to expand Visiting Nurse's footprint in the community in the coming years, and we will do so with your help. We don't want anyone in Northeast Indiana to go without the holistic embrace we give to suffering families.

We can do it with your help. Thank you.





Dear friends,

I am excited to be on board here at Visiting Nurse as Chief Executive Officer. The first few months have been a time of learning, listening and adapting to change. Thanks go to each staff member, Board member, volunteer, patient and family member who has been so kind and welcoming to this East Coast native. As I have had an opportunity

to go out and meet with individuals in the counties that Visiting Nurse serves, I have heard nothing but wonderful accolades about the reputation of this longstanding organization.

Each and every day we are striving to increase the number of families we are serving through our hospice, home health and grief support services. We are actively reaching out to community partners to spread the word about the programs and services we have available and are actively seeking opportunities to work together to better meet community needs. With your help, we will be able to serve those individuals who are most in need, by meeting them where they are.

As we look forward into 2018, it is with your support that we will be able to provide loving care and support to people facing life-limiting illnesses. Many of you who are reading this newsletter do so because someone that you know and love received care through one of the services that Visiting Nurse provides. Thank you for allowing Visiting Nurse to walk the journey with you, your loved ones and your family.

Serving with you,

A handwritten signature in dark ink that reads "Eric G. Klimes". The script is fluid and cursive.

Eric G. Klimes, CEO

GET TO KNOW

Dee LaFavor Visiting Nurse CNA

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QUESTIONS



1 What's your background?

I graduated high school and attended Ivy Tech Community College. I am fortunate to have four "bonus" adult children and seven "bonus" grandchildren. I also have one son who is married and they live in Chicago.

2 What is your superpower?

I believe God has given me the gift of patience when dealing with the elderly and especially if they have a form of dementia or just plain grumpy. Ha ha!

3 Where would you go on a dream vacation?

I had the opportunity to go to Jamaica when my son got married. I would definitely like to go back.

4 What do you like best about your work?

I enjoy our compassionate care. It may be laughter, a back rub, soaking someone's feet or just listening. You see that smile, or that sense of peace and it is so rewarding – the one on one relationship.

5 What does "hospice" mean to you?

Caring. At Visiting Nurse, I have the privilege of being a small part of a unique group of people who are compassionate and committed to providing high quality care to those nearing the end-of-life.

WITH
Your Help

we can care for the
seriously ill and their families.

Donate today!



To ensure that no one goes without the services they need, simply fill out and return the attached donation envelope. You can also donate with a credit card online: www.vnfw.org/donate

New board members



ANGELA NEVERS:

For Angela Nevers, joining the Visiting Nurse Board of Directors this July meant stepping into a world she was very familiar with. At 12 years old, her older sister lost her battle with bone cancer, but Angela says she never really processed the grief she felt as a pre-teen. As a young adult, she began volunteering at Erin's House for Grieving Children to help other young children. So the world of death and grief is familiar territory for her.

The 18-year veteran of Do it Best Corp. joined the Visiting Nurse board after former Board Chairman Brian Fehlhaber approached her about the possibility. Nevers had served on her neighborhood association board and has volunteered in several other areas, so joining the Visiting Nurse Board made sense. Since July, she's been serving on the Development Committee, which helps plan fundraising events and helps the staff development team with new possibilities to increase donations to Visiting Nurse, where no one is turned away because of an inability to pay.

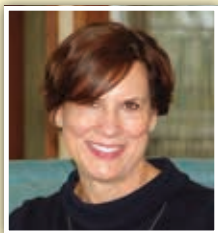
"I feel like I'm in the right place," Angela says.



ANDREW BURTON:

Andrew Burton had never served on a non-profit board of directors before joining Visiting Nurse's board in July. But he's served in other ways, including four years in the Army, where he spent time in Afghanistan. He's now the Compliance and Privacy Officer for Lutheran Health, and says the experience of seeing where some of Lutheran's terminal patients go after acute care in the hospital has been eye opening.

Burton and his high-school sweetheart wife Sydni are both from North Manchester, though they call Roanoke home now. Andrew graduated from Manchester College with a major in History and then received an MBA from National University in California. He was familiar with Visiting Nurse when he was approached about being on the board. His wife's grandfather was a patient with Visiting Nurse and the family "had a good experience" with his care.



GINA ZIMMERMAN:

A volunteer with Visiting Nurse since 2011, Gina Zimmerman was intimately familiar with the mission of Visiting Nurse when she was approached to serve on the Board of Directors. She's volunteered in many different areas of Visiting Nurse, from doing clerical work to sitting at the bedside of a dying patient in the Watchful Passages program, which ensures no one dies alone.

"My goal is to be an advocate for the volunteers," Zimmerman said. Hospice is the only healthcare field

where Medicare requires 5 percent of care be provided by unpaid volunteers, and Visiting Nurse sees our volunteers as integral to the day-to-day operations of our agency.

Zimmerman, an attorney, served five senators, two congressmen and one president during her political career. These days, she's the executive director of the Allen County Bar Association and brings her legal knowledge to the board. When she's not serving the needs of Visiting Nurse or the attorneys of Allen County, she can be found biking the many rail-to-trails paths in the region.



Why I give: *Sally Lawson*

"Why do I give? It is a bit like recalling all the receiving I have had and returning a portion. Certainly having parents that gave of time and talent influenced me. Once your heart becomes thankful the next step is to give.

As I walked out of the door of my final employment I walked into the house of Dar Richardson for a first-ever meeting to plan the landscaping around the brand-new Hospice Home building! It was a natural fit for me for many reasons. Visiting Nurse had cared for many of my dear friends and/or their spouses. I felt it was time to give in thanks for excellent, compassionate care. When one retires they frequently seek out a change. I am not good at sitting so gardening and landscaping fit beautifully. It is easy to sing happily about Visiting Nurse and Hospice. Life being what it is this agency continues to serve my friends. So, as long as there is a weed (and I can still eradicate it) I will spend lovely daytime in the gardens. It lifts the spirit to volunteer alongside dedicated staff!"



Visiting Nurse's Service Promises



Quick response to all referrals within one hour and admit same day



Care and support around-the-clock to prevent a crisis in pain and symptom management and help the patient remain in their home



Customized program for our hospice patients who reside in a nursing facility



A personalized schedule of visits from our team members developed around the patient and family's needs



Immediate response to any unmet needs or concerns



Hospice Home – the area's only freestanding hospice facility staffed exclusively by hospice caregivers



Customized teaching about end-of-life issues beginning with first contact



Quality care, 24 hours a day, weekends and holidays



Visiting Nurse provides compassionate care to alleviate suffering and ensure quality of life for those affected by serious illness along with emotional and spiritual care for loved ones who go on living

Grief Center client Leslie Weirich was ready for her close-up as Punch Films created a series of short video testimonials for Visiting Nurse's website and commercials that began airing on local television in September. You can see the videos by visiting www.vnfw.org.



ONGOING GRIEF SUPPORT GROUPS

Grief Support Group

For any loss due to death

Every Monday evening

7-8:30 p.m.

Ivy Tech's Aviation Center at Smith Field
405 West Cook Road, Fort Wayne, IN 46825

Grief Support for the Newly Bereaved

For those who have lost
a loved one within a year

2nd & 4th Tuesday of each month

5:30-7 p.m.

Peggy F. Murphy Community Grief Center
5920 Homestead Road, Fort Wayne, IN 46814

Grief Support Group

For any loss due to death

2nd & 4th Tuesday of each month

5:30-7 p.m.

Peggy F. Murphy Community Grief Center
5920 Homestead Road, Fort Wayne, IN 46814

Grief Support for Women

After the death of a spouse or significant other

2nd & 4th Wednesday of each month

2-3:30 p.m.

Peggy F. Murphy Community Grief Center
5920 Homestead Road, Fort Wayne, IN 46814

Grief Support for Men

After the death of a spouse or significant other

1st & 3rd Tuesday of each month

5:30-7 p.m.

Peggy F. Murphy Community Grief Center
5920 Homestead Road, Fort Wayne, IN 46814

Anticipatory Grief Support Group

Support for those in anticipation of a death

2nd Monday of each month

5:30-7 p.m.

Peggy F. Murphy Community Grief Center
5920 Homestead Road, Fort Wayne, IN 46814

We the Living

Support for those who have lost
a loved one to suicide

2nd Wednesday of each month

7-9 p.m.

Peggy F. Murphy Community Grief Center
5920 Homestead Road, Fort Wayne, IN 46814

Auburn Grief Support Group

For any loss due to death

1st Wednesday of each month

1:30-3 p.m.

Heimach Center, DeKalb Council on Aging,
1800 E. 7th St., Auburn, IN 46706

and the last Tuesday of each month

6-7:30 p.m.

YMCA of DeKalb County,
533 North St., Auburn, IN 46706

Compassionate Friends

For grieving parents, grandparents & siblings

1st Tuesday of each month

7 p.m.

First Presbyterian Church, 300 W. Wayne St.,
Fort Wayne, IN 46802

and the following Thursday of each month

7 p.m.

Peggy F. Murphy Community Grief Center, 5920
Homestead Road, Fort Wayne, IN 46814



Awareness that grief may affect every aspect of our life is the beginning of our healing process. These programs, focusing on grief and loss, are designed to provide any adult who has suffered the death of a loved one an opportunity to explore, learn and feel supported in a safe environment. Please contact the Grief Support Team at (260) 435-3261 for more information.

These community programs are available at no charge to any adult who has experienced the death of a loved one. Hospice involvement is not required. For information on any of these programs or individual grief support please call (260) 435-3261 or visit our website: www.vnfw.org.



Visiting Nurse



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We provide care to all persons, regardless of race, age, creed, sexual orientation, disability or nationality. Translation services available. To make a difference in the lives of Visiting Nurse patients and families, consider making a gift to Visiting Nurse. Please visit www.vnfw.org/donate or call (260) 435-3222.



visiting nurse

HOSPICE HOME HOSPICE CARE PALLIATIVE CARE GRIEF SUPPORT

5910 Homestead Road, Fort Wayne, IN 46814

Phone: 260-435-3222 • Toll-Free: 800-288-4111

Nursing and Patient Referral Line: 24 hours a day, 7 days a week

Administrative Office Hours: 8 a.m.-5 p.m. Monday-Friday

Please let us know if you would like to be removed from our mailing list. Call 260-435-3222 or 800-288-4111

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www.VNFW.org



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