

You Make Meaningful Moments *Possible*



SUMMER 2018

Music and Smiles

Get to know: *Mike Smith*

Why I give

Celebrating
130 Years

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.



visiting Nurse

HOSPICE HOME HOSPICE CARE PALLIATIVE CARE GRIEF SUPPORT

www.VNFW.org

YOUR HELP BRINGS Music and Smiles

As Alzheimer's disease claimed more and more of the things Louis Cantor enjoyed, visits from Visiting Nurse's Music Therapist Emily Paar, MT-BC, returned one great love: music.



Music had always been a major part of Louis' life. Originally from Memphis, Louis went to high school with none other than Elvis Presley (the two had shop class together), and he had a fascination with the development of rock 'n roll and the growth of African-American radio that led to more mainstream acceptance of minority artists. A retired history professor at Indiana University-Purdue University Fort Wayne, Louis wrote three books, including one on Dewey Phillips, the first deejay to ever play an Elvis record on the radio, and a book on WDIA, the first all-black radio station in the United States.

And even though Alzheimer's stole his ability to communicate clearly, when Emily came for a visit, Louis could still tap out a rhythm with his hand or foot.

"And he smiles," his wife Laura said, a smile on her face as well. "Visiting Nurse has been a godsend. I feel like I have much more support in his care than before receiving services, a huge emotional relief!"

Visiting Nurse's Music Therapy program depends on donations from people like you. Visiting Nurse's Music Therapy Program has been supported by the Edward D. and Lone Auer Foundation and Chuck and Lisa Surack and Sweetwater. In fact, your support extends to the volunteer who came to give Laura a break from caregiving, giving her time to attend support groups for family members of Alzheimer's patients.

With your help, Visiting Nurse can provide care for anyone in the community facing a life-limiting illness, through our palliative care and hospice care programs, regardless of their ability to pay. For 130 years, Visiting Nurse has provided compassionate care to people suffering from serious illness in Northeast Indiana. We do so with your help. Thank you.

GET TO KNOW

Mike Smith

Visiting Nurse
Chaplain Coordinator

10 QUESTIONS



1 Why did you enter the ministry?

I did not enter ministry by choice. I owned my own business and that was doing well, but my personal life was struggling, so I asked God to make me a better person. I felt God's call to ministry and sold my business, house and went to seminary and my life has been blessed with a wonderful marriage, children, grandsons and a ministry I love.

2 Who is your best friend and why?

My best friend is my wife Linda as she has stood beside me for 44 years and is not afraid to show me my faults and blessings. We have been together since age 16.

3 Who would win in a battle between Captain Kirk and Darth Vader?

Vader, as the Dark Side is strong in him, and yet he is conflicted with doing the right thing! Besides, I'm a Star Wars geek.

4 If you could have lunch with anyone, who would you choose and why?

John Sandford as he is my favorite author and I would like to talk to someone who can visualize a thought or situation and apply it in his writing and it comes to life for the reader.

5 What makes for a "meaningful moment"?

Watching people who have joy in their lives as we live in a world that can drain the joy out of us.

6 Who are your heroes?

My heroes do not wear a cape, but rather lie in a bed dying. I have learned so much from the dying, such as how to die well and how a dying person says goodbye to family and friends, allowing them to know they were loved.

7 Why Visiting Nurse and not another job?

Ministering to the dying is my calling and God has gifted me with powerful ministry. Pastoring a church (I pastored three churches) could never compare to the joy and satisfaction I have found working at Visiting Nurse.

8 What does "hospice" mean to you?

It means dying with grace and unconditional love, surrounded by people who care about your comfort physically, emotionally and spiritually.

9 What is your super power?

Wit and encouragement. I believe I am gifted by seeing the amusing situations in life and lifting people up when they are down.

10 What do you find fulfilling about your job?

I love hearing the wonderful and sometimes sad stories of those I am blessed to give spiritual and emotional care.



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Visiting Nurse Celebrates 130 Years in 2018



Josephine Shatzer

Visiting Nurse is celebrating a special anniversary in 2018: It's been 130 years since a group of Fort Wayne's society ladies gathered together in 1888 to form the Ladies' Relief Union, the precursor to Visiting Nurse. Each week, the ladies would load up their carriages with food and bring it to the poor of Fort Wayne. At the time, Fort Wayne was a city of 40,000 and growing rapidly.

The Ladies' Relief Union was the only non-sectarian charitable organization in the city. The only requirements for membership were payment of one dollar (about the equivalent of about \$25.00 in 2017) and the signing of the group's constitution. As the ladies visited these poverty-stricken homes, they saw the need for medical care as well. Miss Emma Eckles was hired as "superintendent," the first paid worker to help with these efforts. She was judged by the ladies as "to have the right

instincts and experience which led to correct estimates of those who called upon her for aid."

It did not take long to realize that there was a link between poverty and disease. Dr. Jessie Calvin, a pioneer of sanitation and indoor plumbing in Fort Wayne, began speaking to groups of church women about community needs and enlisting their help to raise money to hire a trained nurse. An organizational meeting was held on March 1, 1900, and the "Visiting Nurse League" was born.

Miss Josephine Shatzer was hired as the first paid nurse with a salary of \$10 per week. She made nursing visits via bicycle or by trolley in inclement weather. She had six patients the first day and "was kindly received." She initiated a baby milk station at First Presbyterian Church where she taught new mothers how to prepare formula. Miss Shatzer gave her time at free immunization clinics, one of which was provided by Wolf and Dessauer. Her patients loved her and members of the Fort Wayne Medical Society praised her "thoroughness and compassion." She bathed patients, brought them flowers and delicious meals, changed their bedding, ventilated the room, gave massages, read comforting

In 1923, the decision was made to purchase a car for the nurses.



words, gave baths, dressed wounds, took patients for walks and taught family members how to give nursing care, and how to become self-supporting. Even in 1900, she realized the benefits of maintaining the aged and ill in their homes. The cost of a one-hour visit was 15 cents, or free if the patient was unable to pay. By the end of the first year, Miss Shatzer was making an average of 115 visits per month.

The Visiting Nurse League was always a community effort: in September of 1903, a group of little children in one Fort Wayne neighborhood put on “entertainment” for which they charged two pennies per ticket and made \$2.49 that they sent to the League.

In later years, Visiting Nurse handled many of the public health crises that affected the region, from caring for soldiers scarred by poison gas from World War I, to the terrible flu epidemic of 1918-1920, to the polio epidemic and more.

Today, we continue to “have the right instincts and experience” to help our patients and their families navigate the difficult paths of life-limiting illnesses and other serious conditions. We understand the great trust the families of northeast Indiana have placed in us, and we will continue to care for every person in the region who needs our services.

We do so with your help. Thank you for supporting us for the past 130 years. We are looking forward to continuing our 130-year tradition of service for many years to come.



▲ On rounds in the '30s.



▼ Caring for an infant in the 1920s.



▲ House call circa 1940s

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-now

Why I give: *Lyle Wilson*

"I would recommend Visiting Nurse to anyone who needs hospice care. I really didn't know much about it until my wife received a terminal diagnosis. They treated her really well at Hospice Home and they cared for me too. I give back because of the love, care and kindness that Visiting Nurse provided me and my wife. I really appreciated the grief support that followed the loss of my wife. I attended the Men's Grief Support group for over three years and really appreciated the time I spent with those who were in a similar situation."



Retired CEO of Visiting Nurse received Sagamore of the Wabash

Phyllis Hermann, who retired as CEO of Visiting Nurse and Hospice Home in July 2017, was awarded

the Sagamore of the Wabash, one of Indiana's highest honors, during a presentation Jan. 19 at the Peggy F. Murphy Community Grief Center on the Visiting Nurse campus in Fort Wayne. State Senate President Pro Tem David Long (R-Fort Wayne) presented the award.

Hermann began her career with Visiting Nurse in 1989 as a hospice nurse and worked her way up through a variety of positions before becoming CEO in November 2009. During her tenure as CEO, Visiting Nurse expanded its reach to serve 40 percent more patients and developed the region's first free-standing center dedicated to helping grieving adults, the Peggy F. Murphy Community Grief Center.

SAVE THE DATE

Mark Your Calendar for
Visiting Nurse's Signature Event

**Sunday,
September 9, 2018**



SPECIALTY BEER & FOOD PAIRING

3:30 pm - 7:00 pm

PLANNED GIVING



Have you considered planned giving to support the mission of Visiting Nurse? A planned gift may enable you to satisfy personal financial goals in addition to providing Visiting Nurse with important long-term support. Some examples of planned gifts include:

- Bequests
- Life insurance policies
- Charitable gift annuities
- Retirement assets
- Gifts of IRA distributions
- Stocks and bonds

There are many ways to make a gift to Visiting Nurse. We recommend you consult with your financial advisor and/or attorney to select the best way to make a planned gift that supports the mission of hospice while ensuring your family's financial security.

Consider joining Josephine's Planned Giving Society at Visiting Nurse by contacting Mary Shankster, Chief Development Officer, at (260) 435-3222.



ONGOING GRIEF SUPPORT GROUPS

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 and 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.

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

PRMC Grief Support Group

For any loss due to death

2nd Wednesday of each month

5:30-7 p.m.

Parkview Regional Medical Center
Chaplain's Office
(get directions from main entrance desk),
11109 Parkview Plaza Drive,
Fort Wayne, IN 46845

Lutheran Hospital Grief Support Group

For any loss due to death

Last Thursday of each month

5:30-7 p.m.

Kachmann Mind/Body Institute
at Lutheran Hospital
(get directions from main entrance desk),
7950 W. Jefferson Blvd.,
Fort Wayne, IN 46804



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We provide compassionate 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 the Visiting Nurse Foundation. Please visit www.vnfw.org/donate-now or call (260) 435-3222.



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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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