

You Make Meaningful Moments *Possible*



THIRD EDITION 2021

Musical interludes

Hospice Home Campaign Update

2020 Annual Report

Get to know: *Laura Guerrero*

Why I give

Visiting Nurse provides compassion, comfort and guidance through life's journey. 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, Blackford, DeKalb, Grant, Huntington, Jay, Noble, Wabash, Wells and Whitley.



visiting Nurse

HOSPICE HOME HOSPICE CARE PALLIATIVE CARE GRIEF SUPPORT

www.VNFW.org

Musical interludes

On Friday and some Saturday afternoons this summer, the lilting strains of Bach and Beethoven have echoed through Hospice Home, courtesy of a friend of Visiting Nurse who believes in the power of music to calm those facing the end of life.



Alexandra Tsilibes and Deborah Nitka Hicks

Cellist Deborah Nitka Hicks joined with violinists Alexandra Tsilibes and Yana Bourkova-Morunov to perform musical interludes that can be enjoyed by both patients and their loved ones who are at Hospice Home.

Each of the musicians is a performer with the Fort Wayne Philharmonic. The supporter began the program when a friend was staying at Hospice Home and she believed the music would help soothe the patient and their family and loved ones. Our supporter reached out to Nitka Hicks, one of the Philharmonic's musicians to begin this program.

"I felt honored and a lot of sadness for (the patient's) family," Nitka Hicks said. "I was honored and touched to play for (the patient)."

It was apparent how much the music was appreciated by others who were visiting or staying at Hospice Home and our supporter decided to continue the weekly performances through the summer. Continuing the weekly concerts has given the musicians a sense of purpose, Nitka Hicks said.

"It gave me a sense of looking outside myself," she said. "To play for somebody else's benefit and the other listening – it's an opportunity to do something for others."

Bourkova-Morunov has experienced the support of Visiting Nurse through Hospice Home and the Peggy F. Murphy Community Grief Center.

"My very close and dear friend has passed at the Hospice Home here, so it is a special place for me. Hospice Home is wonderful. I only wish that everywhere on our planet people could have such a caring environment at the end of life," she said.

Also, in the wake of his father's unexpected death from Covid-19 last fall, Bourkova-Morunov's husband received support from the Grief Center.

Tsilibes said she appreciates the peace of Hospice Home. She's seen the benefits of hospice in her students' families.

"It was a very caring relationship," she said. "Peace and dignity."

"I am just hoping that our music provides some soothing comfort," added Bourkova-Morunov. "It is a great privilege to be filling such a sacred space and time with the sound of our instruments."

(continued from previous page)

“On behalf of Visiting Nurse patients, their families, our volunteers and staff, we are grateful for the music that these talented artists have provided at Hospice Home each week,” said Visiting Nurse CEO Leslie Friedel. “We are truly thankful for the generosity of our community supporter that is making this experience possible. Music has a way of providing peace by engaging memories. These musicians are calming hearts for those that are losing their loved ones. Many thanks to the musicians who have allowed this experience for our patients and families at Hospice Home.”

Hospice Home opened on Homestead Road in February 2001 and is the region’s only freestanding inpatient hospice unit that provides 24 hour a day symptom management with hospice professionals. In the 20 years since it opened, we have cared for more than 10,000 patients and their loved ones.

Music therapy has been shown to provide many physical and emotional benefits in the dying. Visiting Nurse provides music therapy in the field and at Hospice Home as part of our holistic, compassionate care services. Here are two others who have benefited through Visiting Nurse’s Music Therapy program:



United in love

Ardella Williams, who went by “Dee,” and Wilbur Glenn Williams shared a special bond during their 69-year marriage. They were so close that when Wilbur died in February 2021, Dee followed him just 17 days later, their daughter, Lasana Ritchie, said.

The Williams were an institution at Marion College, now Indiana Wesleyan University in Marion, their home just across a quiet lane from the university. Dee was an art teacher for 35 years, specializing in everything from weaving to stained glass, while Wilbur was an Old Testament professor who often taught in character. He won Professor of the Year eight times during his tenure. He also led 156 trips to Israel over the years. The Williams will be honored by the university in October with a banquet and installation of Dee’s work.

After Wilbur and Dee were diagnosed with dementia several years ago, Lasana, an art

teacher like her mother, moved from her Virginia home back to Marion to care for her parents.

“In January 2019, I became my parents’ fulltime caregiver to manage finances, the house, yardwork, meals, and rentals. I repaired, contracted, painted, shopped, entertained, processed laundry, scheduled medical appointments and surgeries, while also listening through the night as possible when time and place began to slip from their grasp causing them to wander the house and end up in the emergency room again,” Lasana recalled. “I learned to enter their reality, slow down and be content to not accomplish tasks, but to sit with them. I learned joy, presence, and to know them in a way I had not yet done.”

For two years, she cared for her parents with love and support from Visiting Nurse, including Music Therapy, which “opened up a part” of her parents that had been locked away due to dementia, providing meaningful moments with the couple’s other daughters, Ranada and Malana.

(continued on page 11)

Board of Directors 2020-2021

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Letter from the CEO



Dear friends,

2020 was a year we will never forget. It was worrisome and challenging to care for those with life-limiting illnesses during a worldwide pandemic. In this newsletter, you will see our annual financial results; what you may not see is that in a year that seemed overwhelmed by negative news, scary challenges and hard times, our organization saw hope, kindness and generosity that surpassed all the fear that this pandemic created. I was able to see firsthand the selfless volunteers, hard-working team members and generous donors who gave their all with no questions asked. The generosity of our donors made a bleak financial picture change into one that focused on keeping our team members, grief clients and patients at the center of our mission.

As we continue through 2021, we look to the future and see your generosity coming through again. Throughout this year we have been focused on a capital campaign to fund much-needed renovations and updates to Hospice Home. This community gem has touched over 10,000 lives since its opening in 2001. Through your support we will be able to make those renovations and serve those hospice patients for many years to come. Thank you for helping us fulfill our mission to provide compassion, comfort and guidance through life's journey.

Serving with you,

Leslie Friedel, CEO

Because of people like you, Visiting Nurse is able to continue our 133-year tradition of caring for the seriously ill of northeast Indiana and their families. Your gifts, whether they be your time, talent or treasure, have helped us care for people facing the most serious challenges in their lives. *Your support makes meaningful moments possible.*

Thank you



Hospice Home

20th Anniversary

CELEBRATING THE **PAST**.
INVESTING IN THE **FUTURE**.

Hospice Home Campaign Update

Thank you to those who have joined us in support of our 20th anniversary Hospice Home campaign! We are so grateful to report that to date we have received **\$585,000** in gifts and commitments toward our goal of **\$750,000**.

Since 2001, we have cared for over 10,000 patients, ranging in age from 5 months to 103 years old. In addition to those patients served, we have also supported their family and friends. The result is that thousands of individuals have benefited from the one-of-a-kind experience of Hospice Home.

As a reminder, Hospice Home is a 14-bed hospice inpatient facility that has a much different feel from a hospital or any other healthcare setting. It has family gathering areas set up much like a living room in someone's home, a kitchen, sunroom, chapel-like reflection room and family conference areas as well.

In 20 years, a facility like Hospice Home experiences wear and tear. We are taking the opportunity to celebrate the anniversary of this community gem and raise support to renovate and restore the building so we can continue for the next 20 years. Some of the items that need to be updated include windows, roof and flooring. We also hope to renovate the nurse's station to make layout of the space more efficient and welcoming to family members. In addition, our plan is to refresh each patient room with new paint and replace the furniture that family members use when they visit their loved ones.

There is still time to support this campaign and to honor your loved ones through naming opportunities. Visit www.vnfw.org/20th to learn more, or call Mary Shankster, Chief Development Officer at (260) 435-3211.

Thank you for remembering our Hospice Home's past and investing in its future!



visiting Nurse

VISITING NURSE 13TH ANNUAL A TOAST TO LIFE

Hospice Home Campaign

CELEBRATING THE **PAST**.
INVESTING IN THE **FUTURE**.

THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS

COMPASSIONATE CARE SPONSOR



TRIBUTE SPONSORS



CELEBRATION SPONSORS



PARTNERS IN CARE



2020 Annual Report

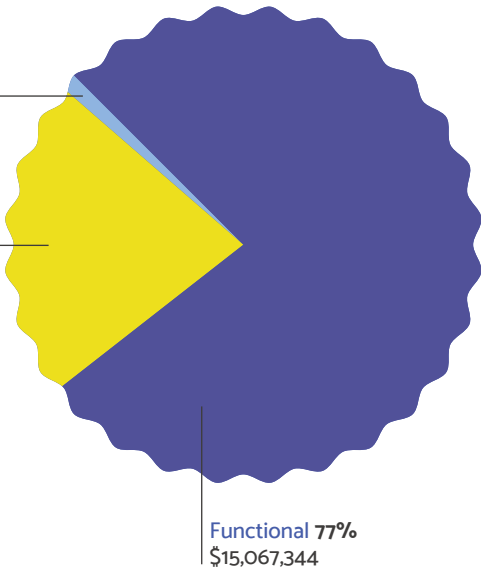
FINANCIAL INFORMATION

Expenses

Total: \$19,636,923

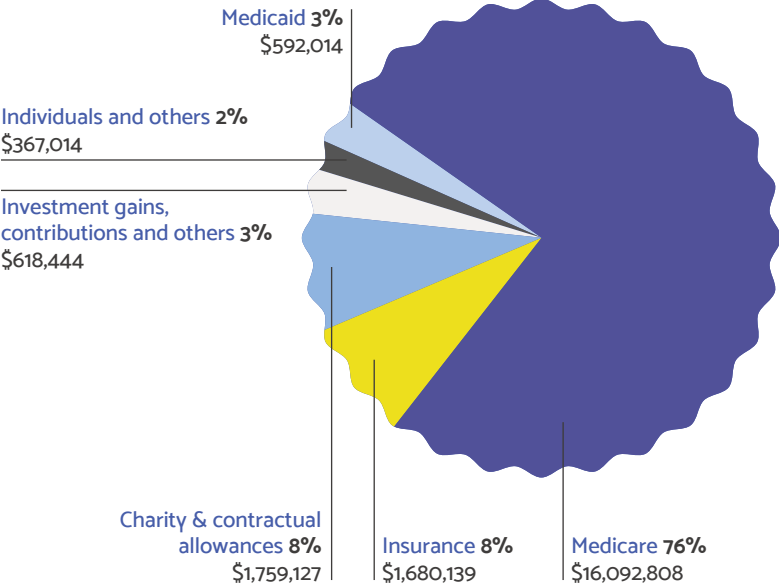
Fundraising 1%
\$237,550

Administrative 22%
\$4,332,029



Patient Services Revenue

Total: \$21,109,546



Assets

Cash	\$2,695,853
Investments.....	\$12,319,960
Accounts receivable.....	\$2,241,236
Prepaid expenses.....	\$113,169
Contributions Receivable.....	\$0.00
Property and equipment.....	\$6,339,227
Goodwill	\$139,375
Total Assets.....	\$23,848,820

Liabilities

Accounts payable	\$884,641
Provider Relief Fund-Refundable.....	\$375,527
Accrued expenses	\$562,226
Total Liabilities	\$1,822,394

Net Assets

Unrestricted	\$21,673,641
Donor restricted	\$352,785
Total Net Assets.....	\$22,026,426

Functional Expenses

Hospice at Home	\$9,860,688
Inpatient facilities	\$3,360,213
Palliative Care.....	\$1,846,443
Total	\$15,067,344

Our Mission:
Visiting Nurse provides compassion, comfort and guidance through life’s journey

2020 Patient Data

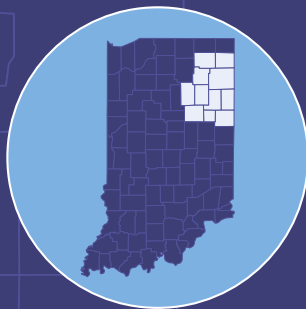
1,533
INDIVIDUALS
Palliative Care

415
INDIVIDUALS
Hospice Home

1,488
PATIENTS RECEIVED
Hospice Care
IN 2020

677
MALE

811
FEMALE



Noble: 2%
DeKalb: 1.3%

Whitley: 3%

Allen: 54.3%

Wabash: 4%

Huntington: 9.4%

Wells: 6.5%

Adams: 6.7%

Grant: 10%

Blackford: 1%

Jay: 1%

Visiting Nurse Patients by County

Volunteers
HAVE DONATED OVER

55,718

HOURS TO

Hospice Home

SINCE 2001

Volunteers

158

Total number
of volunteers

1,065

Total number
of patient visits

5,758.5

Total number
of volunteer hours



Veterans

221

were honored with an
American flag blanket

Personal Protection Equipment (PPE)

DONATED FROM OUR COMMUNITY



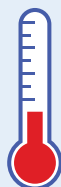
10,000
KN95 Masks



10
Cases of Gowns



4
Cases of Goggles



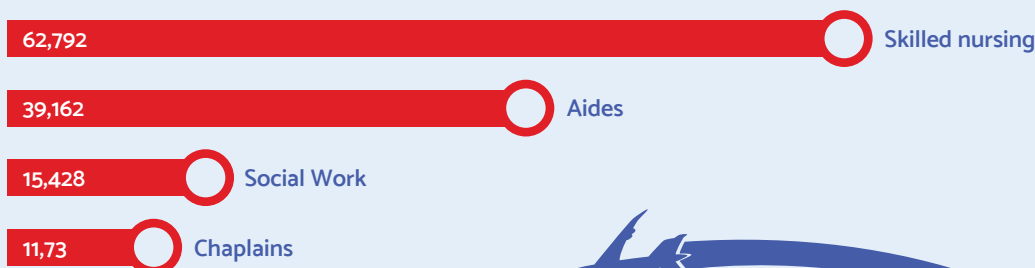
50
Thermometers



▶ **250** | Total number of masks fitted.

Over 5,000 masks were donated from the community (800 were sewn by hand).

Visits by discipline



4,224
ounces of
Hand
Sanitizer
DONATED

Total mileage
248,548.38

The Earth's circumference is 24,901 miles.
In 2020, Visiting Nurse's dedicated hospice caregivers drove:

the equivalent of nearly **10** trips around the globe!

GET TO KNOW Laura Guerrero

10 MS-MHC, Grief Counselor QUESTIONS



1 What are your credentials and job duties?

I obtained my Master of Science degree in Mental Health Counseling from the University of Saint Francis. My responsibilities as a Grief Counselor include reaching out to families who have utilized our hospice services to offer support, providing individual counseling to Visiting Nurse families as well as individuals from the community, facilitating grief support groups, and providing a space for Visiting Nurse staff to process their grief.

2 How did you come to work at Visiting Nurse?

My mentor worked as a grief counselor at Visiting Nurse and made the decision to enter into private practice. She encouraged me to apply for her position, and I was more than happy to explore the opportunity!

3 Can you describe what a typical day is like?

A typical day consists of multiple individual counseling sessions. Our team has experienced a great increase in referrals since I came on board in 2016. In between counseling sessions, I am usually making initial calls to new referrals or to our VN families who have recently experienced the loss of their loved one.

4 What drew you to your specialty?

Prior to working at Visiting Nurse, I was employed as a clinical counselor at a residential addiction facility. I was drawn to working more specifically in the field of grief after witnessing the impact that loss can have on all aspects of an individual's life.

5 What appeals to you about grief counseling?

Serving as a companion to individuals and families who are going through the unimaginable.

6 What's something unusual about you?

I add jalapenos to just about everything that I eat.

7 What's the best part of your job?

Having the opportunity to walk alongside those who are hurting from all different walks of life. It's amazing to see the resiliency that individuals can demonstrate and the healing that they are able to find while navigating through their grief. I learn so much from my clients!

8 What are your hobbies?

I love spending time with my family, especially anytime that we are able to be outdoors. My hobbies also include basketball, volleyball, and I would love to travel more in the future.

9 What is your secret ingredient?

Jalapenos! Just kidding...I would say kindness. I try to practice kindness on a daily basis because you never know what someone else is going through. It just makes life easier!

10 What is your favorite season?

I absolutely love fall because of the weather, colorful trees, and Halloween!

Virtual Fall Memorial Service

Thursday,
October 14, 2021

6:00PM

Join Visiting Nurse to honor the memory
of those who have gone before us.

Please RSVP with your email
to (260) 435-3261 to receive a
link to the virtual event.

Write a Will *Leave a Legacy*

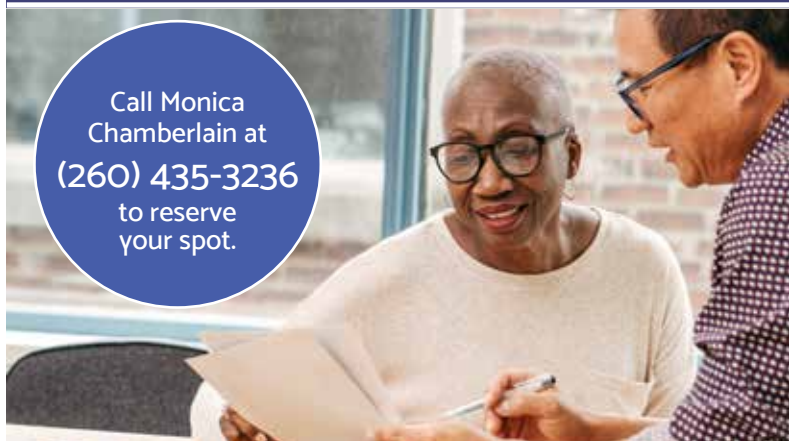
Tuesday, October 19, 2021
9 a.m.-noon and 12:30-4:30 p.m.

Wednesday, October 20, 2021
1:30-4:30 p.m.

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

Have your will prepared by an attorney at no charge when
you include a nonprofit organization in your estate plans.

Call Monica
Chamberlain at
(260) 435-3236
to reserve
your spot.



36TH ANNUAL *Holiday* Memorial Service & Tree Lighting Sunday, November 21, 2021 5-6 p.m.

USF Robert Goldstine Performing Arts Center, 431 W. Berry St., Fort Wayne, IN 46802

We intend to hold an in-person event, but we will continue to monitor local
COVID positivity rates to ensure that we can hold this cherished tradition safely.



visiting nurse

Please visit www.vnfw.org/holiday for more information.

Visiting Nurse wants you to VOLUNTEER in our Gardens!

Visiting Nurse is looking for volunteers who have an interest in weed pulling, tree trimming and beautifying our Fort Wayne campus. This summer has been a combination of hot and rainy, which has led to some pretty weedy garden beds. The Visiting Nurse garden volunteers are also raising money towards a new heavy-duty weed trimmer and gas can to help our cleanup efforts.

Please reach out to Sarah Plasterer, Director of Volunteer Services, at (260) 435-3222, to learn more about how you or your corporation can donate a helping hand to get our gardens in tip-top shape!



Why I give:

Randy G. Hix

I give to Visiting Nurse (and have a hospice license plate) in memory of my father. I had always heard good things about hospice, but I had never experienced it personally. A few weeks before my dad died, hospice workers started providing comfort and, more importantly, advice and information, to my family. Since this was our immediate family's first death, none of us were sure what to expect. Hospice nurses regularly visited my mom and dad in the nursing home and provided support and facts on what was coming. When it did finally happen, they were there with the family as my dad passed on. My mom, who had the most contact, could not say enough good things about the hospice workers. To my surprise, some even showed up to my father's funeral, which totally amazed me. They literally were angels sent to help us through this very difficult time.

So many of you have shared insights with the Visiting Nurse team about the impact that our services have had on your loved ones and family members. After more than a year of turmoil and fatigue, messages like these keep our team members going.

Thank you for being ambassadors of the services that we provide that touch so many...

“Visiting Nurse is like the front porch of Heaven.”

“You helped us know what was coming but were never doom and gloom about it. You just helped us along the journey.”

“It was a horrible experience because we lost my mom, but it was a marvelous experience because of what you did.”

“You made it as good as it could ever possibly could be. I’m forever indebted to Visiting Nurse.”

“Your level of compassion was as if you were taking care of your own mother.”

“If anything happens to me, bring me here.”



Visiting Nurse

HOSPICE HOME HOSPICE CARE PALLIATIVE CARE GRIEF SUPPORT

5910 Homestead Rd., Fort Wayne, IN 46814 • P: 260-435-3222 • 800-288-4111

Musical interludes

continued from page 1



It's never too late

Lois Wehrle may be 97 years old, but don't think she's done learning new things.

She reclaimed a passion for the piano that she first learned in her 70s, thanks to Visiting Nurse's Music Therapist Stephanie Huff, MT-BC, who has worked with Wehrle for several months, providing her a keyboard and sheet music. Wehrle had stopped playing while caring for her late husband, but said she wanted to start up and be able to play again before she passes on.

“It's just an amazing thing, the patience and encouragement that Stephanie shows me through her love of music to be able to help someone my age fulfill a dream,” Wehrle said.

Wehrle said when she puts her mind to something, she's going to do it. So far, she has played “He's Got the Whole World in His Hands” and “When the Saints Go Marching In.” Even though she's receiving hospice services, she's still determined to enjoy her life and Visiting Nurse is thankful for those who support our Music Therapy program. Your support directly helps Wehrle enjoy her final years.

Visiting Nurse's Music Therapy program is supported through the generosity of people like you, who understand the value of complementary therapies for those facing the end of life. We appreciate the support you give that makes such a difference in the lives of the people you help us serve. Become a supporter of Visiting Nurse's Music Therapy program by making a gift today with the enclosed envelope.

www.VNFW.org



HONORING OUR

*hospice
heroes.*

We are a proud supporter of
VISITING NURSE & HOSPICE HOME
and the
2021 TOAST TO LIFE event.



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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. 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.

Recent Loss Support Group

For those who have lost a loved one within 2 years

2nd & 4th Tuesday of each month
5:30-7 p.m.

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

Women's Afternoon Grief Support Group

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

Women's Evening Grief Support Group

After the death of a spouse or significant other
3rd Monday of each month
6-7:30 p.m.

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

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

Anticipatory Grief Support Group

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
Please call (260) 435-3261 to register in advance.

Auburn Grief Support Group

For any loss due to death

2nd & 4th Tuesday of each month
6-7:30 p.m.

First Christian Church
910 N. Indiana Ave., Auburn, IN 46706

Pet Loss Support Group

For those who are grieving the loss of a pet
3rd Wednesday of each month
6-7 p.m.

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

Finding Hope

For those who have lost a loved one to suicide

4th Monday of each month
6:30-8 p.m.

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

We the Living

After the suicide of a loved one

2nd Wednesday of each month
7-8:30 p.m.

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

If you live in Adams, Blackford, Grant, Jay, Huntington, Wabash or Wells counties, you might be interested in the support group that we provide listed below:

Companions of Hope - Marion

For any loss due to death

1st Monday of each month
6-7:30 p.m.

Visiting Nurse
705 S. Baldwin Ave., Marion, IN 46953



You Make Meaningful Moments *Possible*

Did You Know

Did you know that Visiting Nurse is a 501c3 qualified to accept gifts from Donor Advised Funds? Call Monica Chamberlain at 260-432-3222 for more information.

Visiting Nurse provides compassion, comfort and guidance through life's journey, regardless of race, age, creed, sexual orientation, disability or nationality. 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, Blackford, DeKalb, Grant, Huntington, Jay, Noble, Wabash, Wells and Whitley.

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 or call (260) 435-3222.

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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THIRD EDITION 2021



Visiting Nurse

HOSPICE HOME HOSPICE CARE PALLIATIVE CARE GRIEF SUPPORT

Main Office: Fort Wayne

5910 Homestead Road
Fort Wayne, IN 46814

Berne

108 S Jefferson Street
Berne, IN 46711

Marion

705 S Baldwin Avenue
Marion, IN 46953

Phone: 260-435-3222

Toll-Free: 800-288-4111

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



www.VNFW.org