



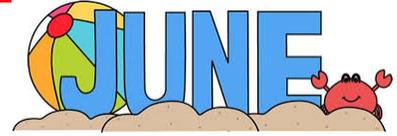
Hospice House & Support Care of Williamsburg (HHSCW)



GUILD COUNCIL NEWSLETTER

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Summer



A Message from Laura Lawrence, Guild Council President

This will be my last newsletter as President of the HHSCW Guild. My “term” expires in July, but I will continue to be an active HHSCW volunteer. I wish to thank Audrey, Diane, and the Guild Council for all their guidance and support. A special shout-out to my dear friend and editor, Jo Brooks, who turned each issue of the newsletter into a beautiful presentation. With utmost grace and patience, Jo juggled a demanding full-time job and home responsibilities and worked diligently to ensure that the final product was perfect. Thank you, dear JoJo! Many thanks as well to Bernice Todd, who led the Guild Council before me, and to longtime Council members, Ellen Schiavone, Gary Streb, and Judy Ewart. Ellen, Gary, and Judy are featured in this issue and all three, like Bernice, were previous Volunteers of the Year. Thank you for all you taught me.



My friends, I want you to know how much I appreciate all of you, who contribute so much time and energy to HHSCW. Our community is lucky to have you and I am humbled by your efforts.

HIKE FOR HOSPICE HOUSE: A REBOOT!

No one should ever die alone. This core belief unites us all as volunteers. While we are sheltered at home, the staff of HHSCW continue their work unceasingly. Guests still arrive at HHSCW and are given loving care as they journey forth and it is frustrating not to be able to help. What can we do and how can we best use our newfound time?

I hope that this break in volunteering has also given you time to refresh, reset and reinvigorate. Your energy and compassion are vital to the operation of Hospice House. As we await the signal to return to our “normal” activities and volunteer functions, please consider the ways in which you can still help HHSCW.

As you already know, for the first time ever, Hike for Hospice House will be a virtual event, held on June 20th. We are counting on you to participate in any way you can. Please register and form or join a team. Have fun with this and let the community know that you are committed to supporting HHSCW. Your contributions, large or small, ensure that our beloved Hospice House will be always be there, just as it is today.



Register or donate at www.hikeforhospicehouse.org. For more information visit the Facebook Hike event page “Hike for Hospice House & Support Care of Williamsburg”.

“We Love Our Volunteers!”

Judy Ewart



Can anyone who knows Judy Ewart imagine HHSCW without her? If you've registered for or attended an event, you can thank Judy. If you received this newsletter or other Guild correspondence, you can thank Judy. If you need to update contact information or have an issue with email, you can likely thank Judy! It is hard to conceive, but Judy was first turned away from Hospice House. A few months after retiring from the College of William & Mary in 2007, Judy missed the satisfaction of being needed. Checking the Virginia Gazette's Help Needed list of organizations requesting volunteers, she saw that Hospice House needed evening telephone receptionists. She made several calls, but was told each time that no additional volunteers were needed. Frustrated, she finally drove over to Hospice House in Feb 2008 and told staff member Jackie LeClair, "Hospice House may not need me but I need Hospice House!"

Luckily, Jackie seemed to understand and took her on as a volunteer telephone receptionist, a task at which she was an utter failure, or so she thought. She held her breath when the phone would ring, hoping she would take the message correctly. She panicked even more when a grieving family member came and sat down on the couch, needing some comforting words. After a few weeks she begged Jackie to give her something else to do – numbers, money, spreadsheets, reconciliations, proofing documents, anything using a computer! After giving her some tasks while she sat at the receptionist desk, Jackie found a desk for her upstairs, helping the administrative staff with data entry and reconciliations, first proofing and later maintaining the donor list for the Hospice House newsletters, maintaining volunteer contact information, and reporting the financials to the Guild Council. That's when Judy found out there was a Hospice Guild and a Guild Council as its leadership arm; after only several meetings, Judy was asked to become the Treasurer. In late spring 2008 Judy attended her first Guild Luncheon in the basement of a local church with perhaps 30 attendees including staff members. At that point only volunteers who paid annual dues were members of the Hospice Guild. The Council began holding the Guild luncheons in local restaurants, with much of the time taken up collecting dues. The Guild Council organized its first fundraising effort "For Our Hospice House Birds", collecting just over \$350 to buy or maintain bird feeders and bird houses and buy a bird bath; later the Guild added a solar fountain to the birdbath.

In Jan 2010 Judy led a fundraiser incorporating both Guild volunteers and patient/family volunteers for the purpose of buying an ad in the Virginia Gazette to inform residents of JCC's proposal to delete HHSCW from its 2011/2012 budget. She encouraged volunteers to comment in the Virginia Gazette and/or write/call their representative on the Board of Supervisors and to attend and speak at the budget hearing. Judy found a comfortable niche alerting all volunteers, writing to the JCC Board of Supervisors and speaking at the budget public hearing, appealing to them to restore funding for Hospice House.

Her commitment to Hospice House was cemented as she verbalized and internalized all the services HHSCW provides to the members of the community and their families and loved ones at no charge. It is also when she committed to fundraising for and donating to HHSCW. More money was raised than needed for the Virginia Gazette advertisement, so the balance was used, along with some additional Hospice Guild fundraising, to purchase a computer and the original flat screen tv and installation for the conference room. Judy selected the equipment and enlisted support from the businesses involved to help reach the final goal. For these and other efforts, Judy was awarded the Volunteer of the Year at the 2010 Fall Guild Reception.

Judy's enthusiasm for and determined support for HHSCW has never waned, even as the number of Guild events and responsibilities mushroomed. She is generous in her praise of other volunteers, including Dot Bryant, Lora Caputo, Deb Boykin, and Ellen Schiavone, who work alongside her preparing for Guild luncheons, receptions, raffles and silent auctions, Hike for Hospice House, and Light Up A Life.

Judy has come to Hospice House to volunteer with a broken elbow, a broken leg (tibia and fibula), and a broken foot that required 3 surgeries in 18 months. She has come in a wheelchair, a walker, and a cane. She believes she is probably the only volunteer totally comfortable riding in the HHSCW elevator! Judy has had a team "Judy and Friends" at each Hike and again encourages volunteers or staff members to join her team or support her fundraising efforts. Her claim to fame: she has been pushed in a wheelchair along the 2 mile trail at 2 Hikes by volunteer and personal friends and was taken away by ambulance after falling at the end of last year's Hike.

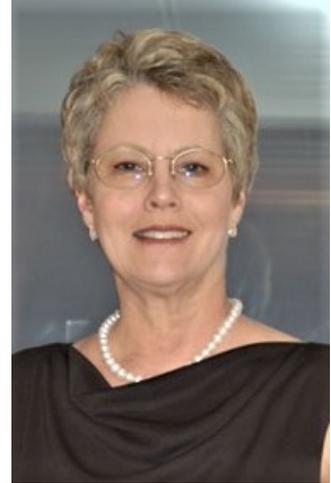
It is the team spirit and comradery that Judy has missed most during each at home recuperation and is definitely missing during this lockdown of HHSCW for the coronavirus pandemic. The Hike for Hospice House team had made good progress before the shutdown and she is feeling basically on hold for now, especially with the Governor's stay-at-home order through June 12. She still has that need to feel needed and finds her satisfaction working together with her volunteer friends, supporting each person on the Hike for Hospice House team and any other event team. Needless to say, Judy is looking forward to working together on the Hike for Hospice House again soon.

Something you may not know about Judy: Judy is an avid, you could say fanatical, snorkeler and loves taking underwater photos and videos capturing the beauty of the ocean. Her latest adventure was on a live-aboard dive boat leased as a snorkeler's only boat for the week off the coast of Belize in February with her best friend Kirsten Thomas and other snorkelers from across the US. The happiest moments for her: seeing octopus out in the open, squid and rays while night snorkeling.



Ellen Schiavone

When I moved to Williamsburg in 2006, I left a four-job lifestyle and overnight became a lady of leisure with an opportunity to volunteer for the first time in my life. Whenever I brought up the subject with new friends, Hospice House was the first recommendation they gave me to consider. I met with Jackie LeClair and that was all it took to bring me onboard. I learned so much from her, and we became good friends. I am most comfortable helping behind the scenes and worked the reception desk on Friday evenings when it was very quiet.



Joan Gilkison was creating beautiful "Comfort Pillows," and my job was to stuff and sew up the remaining seam or dismantle silk ties so she could make them into pillows. My mood on any given Friday night could be interpreted by how much stuffing went into those pillows: when my life was going well, the pillows were nice and soft, but, if there were frustrations, those poor pillows would sometimes come out almost rock hard! Most times I would catch that and remove some stuffing before I finally finished closing the seam. Working the various HHSCW fundraising events, participating in the memorial services, assisting staff with office projects, planting pansies with the garden club members, and coordinating social events for the Guild have provided opportunities for me to make dear friends whom I will cherish for the rest of my life. Whenever I mention the fact that I am a volunteer at HHSCW, the responses are full of praise and that makes me proud to be part of such a wonderful organization. Being organized is part of my DNA so, of course, my obit is already written; it says "I didn't know what I wanted to be when I grew up" because I have worn many hats and held a variety of jobs over my lifetime. I truly believe my time as a Guild Volunteer at HHSCW has been the most fulfilling labor of love...so far.

For socially active people, this period has been a frustrating timeout from our normally busy lives. Filling the hours has been a challenge for me. Closets have been organized, photographs have been sorted which was a pleasant walk down memory lane, books have been read, and the stock of jigsaw puzzles have been tapped. Phone calls to loved ones and old friends have taken on a more important role; keeping in touch is even more a great way to stay connected. I miss personal visits and hugs. This will pass and become another memory to bring up in a happier time. We can all do our part and abide by the guidelines put out by the experts. I look forward to better days ahead and keep everyone in my prayers."



Gary Streb



Gary describes his first experience with hospice as the final leg of both his father's and mother's life journeys. "I had the opportunity to be able to be with both of them for their final weeks, together with my sisters and our hospice teams. My mother commented during her final days that I brought a calm to her and she felt she could tell me anything, something she never had done before. She suggested that I help with other folks in the same situation. And I remembered her thoughts and desires.

After I retired the second time, I signed up for a hospice training course with Hospice of Virginia in September 2010 and immediately started with their home patients. I also went to HHSCW to volunteer because it was closer to home but was told that Hospice House had their own training program that was just finishing up for the year and I would have to complete it to be able to volunteer. Fortunately, demand was high, with a long waiting list so an additional class was initiated in February 2011 which I joined.

While I was waiting for the patient volunteer class to begin, I was a telephone and reception volunteer and continued this for a few years. A tremendous avenue to learn what Hospice House is all about! After completion of the patient volunteer class in 2011, I started the Wednesday morning shift in the House, as well as visiting home patients and providing respite for their caregivers. To date, my longest hospice friendship was 2 months short of 4 years and my shortest was one visit, with many continuing family friendships made and continuing over the years. Recently I had a long conversation with a widow friend whose husband died almost 5 years ago. I was touched when she mentioned that she and her daughters consider me a part of their family.

As an Extension Master Gardener volunteer, it was really easy for Hospice House to recruit me to join the Garden and Green Grounds committee that cares for the landscape and outdoor maintenance of the House and property. Shortly thereafter I was asked to take over the committee as the original stakeholder moved on to assist with caring for her newborn triplet honorary grandchildren. It has been an honor to work with the many regular Friday morning volunteers and with the various other church, educational and civic groups that assist with maintaining the grounds to award-winning status. Hospice House has been awarded the Arbor Day Recognition Award several years and last year I was selected to receive the Williamsburg Area Individual Award for our team effort at Hospice House by the Arbor Day Committee of the Williamsburg Area Council of Garden Clubs.



I have also found myself in the "roust-about" role with many of our special events held at the House. Things get done because of planned teamwork and I am pleased to be considered part of the team for many functions.

Contrary to what some may believe the cookies on the counter are not the best part of volunteering! I get personal satisfaction from helping others, especially during the difficult journey and rough road they are now traveling. My fellow volunteers and staff also make up a significant number of folks I consider as genuine friends. Without my Hospice House experience, I would have missed out on so much of what makes it a joy for me to get up each morning. I do not consider my volunteer work a sacrifice, but rather an honor and privilege to be part of so many lives.

Without the Hospice House gardens and Extension Master Gardener projects to keep me occupied I am finally working in my own yard. I had all the foundation plantings taken out and have completely started over. Our home is 32 years old, so it was definitely time for a rework of the design and new plants. For the first time ever, I had the leaves blown professionally in the back yard and I am finding native plants I never knew I had. I have also collected quite a few specimens for installation at Hospice House and am anxious for the House and gardens to reopen so we can get the gardens back in shape. I miss the challenge of finding enough willing and strong volunteers to spread the large, 20 cubic yard mulch pile at the House. And watching the glorious magic of Spring unfold along the garden paths.



Growing up in the Miami-Fort Lauderdale area I proved to be a true Pisces, attracted to the water. Hard to believe that I was the tanned, skinny surfer dude in high school and even selected my university because it was only 20 miles from Daytona Beach. I have stipulated in my final wishes that I be cremated and have my ashes scattered along the beaches in Molokai, a place of special meaning to me and my wife, Barbara. Gnarly.”

HELP WANTED!

Do you have an interest in publication design, using software to create fun documents, enjoy working with people? If so, we have an amazing opportunity for you!

Jo Brooks, our newsletter editor is moving on to other endeavors and we are seeking help with this newsletter. The newsletter is currently published bimonthly and input for the newsletter is provided by the Guild President. If you are interested, please contact Diane Schwarz, dschwarz@williamsburghospice.org.



ABOUT HOSPICE HOUSE & SUPPORT CARE OF WILLIAMSBURG

Hospice House & Support Care of Williamsburg is a social-model hospice that provides physical, emotional, social and spiritual support to enhance the quality of living for individuals facing the last phases of life and the people who love them. The Hospice House itself is a spacious residence that is a home away from home for our guests and their families. Support care services range from companionship in families' homes to extensive bereavement programs provided to families throughout the community. Hospice House & Support Care of Williamsburg is a 501(c) (3) organization that is entirely funded by contributions. No family or individual ever receives a bill for our services and support; nor do we accept Medicare, Medicaid or other reimbursements. For more information please call Hospice House & Support Care of Williamsburg at 757-253-1220 or visit www.williamsburghospice.org.



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“Caring for people at the end of life, comforting the bereaved, and empowering others to do the same.”