



# impressions

LEGACIES OF LOVE AND FINGERPRINTS ON THE WORLD

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SALUTE**  
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# A SPECIAL SALUTE

## Veterans honored with pinning ceremonies

Senior Independence Hospice has been conducting special pinning ceremonies to honor patients who are veterans, as part of the We Honor Veterans program.

Each ceremony includes a special pin, commemorative certificate, hat and plaque, which are typically presented by a We Honor Veterans volunteer, often veterans themselves.

On the following pages are some of the patients who have recently been celebrated. ●



Volunteer Ed Sauer salutes hospice patient Glenn Mathias during his pinning ceremony. Glenn is a U.S. Navy veteran and served in both WWII and the Korean War.

Army veteran David Greer (*left*) poses with hospice volunteer Mike Hoofman during the presentation of his veterans plaque.



**ON THE COVER:** Air Force veteran Billy Dheel (*right*) receives his veterans pin, plaque and hat from volunteer Ed Sauer.





(Right to left) Volunteer Mike Bell presents a special plaque to Army Air Corps veteran Frances Henry, who was joined by his wife Ruth, daughter Susan and son Tim.



Army veteran Bernard Rubal (*right*), who served in WWII, was honored by volunteer Ed Sauer.



Robert Ingebo (*left*), who served in the U.S. Navy during WWII, was presented with his veterans plaque and pin by hospice volunteer Mike Hoofman.

Arthur Orkis (*left*) receives his pin from volunteer Ed Sauer. Arthur was a Merchant Marine during WWII, and also celebrated his 91st birthday along with his veteran pinning.



# AIRPORT ADVENTURE

## Hospice patient gets special tour

The man who had spent 37 years as an air traffic controller looked out the window, remembering the thousands of planes he had helped navigate that very sky.

Later, he looked at the radar and estimated the two planes he saw were five miles apart. The computer said 5.37 miles. Pretty close.

Thanks to Senior Independence's Make it Happen program, hospice patient Jack Reed got a special wish – a tour of Port Columbus International Airport's control tower.

Jack had risen at 6:30 that morning, hurrying to get dressed, "so excited" about the prospect of the tour, said his daughter-in-law, Anna.

In 1958, Jack was the man who had carried out the radios and locked the doors when the first Port Columbus control tower was closed and locked for the final time. The current tower, where the tour was held, is the third.



Jack's accomplishments over the years include not only 37 years as a controller, ending as a supervisor, but also military service, being a teacher for other controllers and having written articles on the topic he knows so well.

Anna said her father-in-law knew the names of all the devices in the control tower during his tour and loved every minute of it. "He totally enjoyed the whole day," she said. ●

**ABOVE, TOP:** *Hospice patient Jack Reed shares a special moment with his daughter-in-law, Anna, reminiscing about his days as an air traffic controller. Through its Make it Happen program, Senior Independence Hospice made Jack's wish of an airport control tower tour come true.*

**ABOVE, BOTTOM:** *Jack Reed in the 1950s, during his early days as an air traffic controller.*

**FAR LEFT:** *Jack Reed (center) in front of Port Columbus International Airport's control tower during his tour. With Jack are (L-R) his son, Jim; his daughter-in-law, Anna; and their tour guide Richard.*

**NEAR LEFT:** *The first control tower at Port Columbus, which closed in 1958 after Jack Reed landed the last plane and carried out the radios.*





# A MOMENT IN TIME

## Patient leaves video legacy for family

Knowing how sick she was, hospice patient Trina Cherubini wanted to say goodbye and thank you to her children and dear sister. So she left them a video legacy.

Trina, 51, felt particularly comfortable with Tara Hewitt, a medical social worker for Senior Independence in the Miami Valley region, and Tara helped her through the filming.

At the time, Trina had one grandchild and another on the way. Although she passed away before she could see her second grandchild, that child will see her for years to come thanks to the video.

“The messages to her children were about being parents and about saying goodbye. She didn’t want to let them down by not having been able to beat her disease,” Tara said.

The filming was done in a pretty outdoors location, in Trina’s sister’s backyard. Her walker was close but hidden and the birds chirped under sunny skies as the filming proceeded.

Trina also especially wanted to thank her sister, Lisa, who took care of her at the end of her life.

Tara had friends who were skilled in video production and they took all the segments of Trina talking to her loved ones and made it flow into one video. A copy was made for the family members. Tara’s friends said it was sometimes hard to work on the video when the emotions were particularly strong.

“Some of it is very raw,” Tara explained.

Trina’s mother had asked her to make the video but Trina had been putting it off, wanting to avoid the reality of her situation as long as possible, Tara recalled.

The hospice staff members who worked with Trina were all there on the day she died. “She was a very special case to us. We were very close to her,” said Tara.

Wishes of hospice patients, like Trina’s request to make a video, are often made possible through the generosity of donors to the Make it Happen program. These funds are used to fulfill the patient’s wish to do something meaningful to them as they near the end of life. ●



“The only thing you take with you  
when you’re gone is  
what you *leave behind.*”

- John Allston

# ANIMAL HOUSE

## Family and neighbors enjoy mobile zoo visit

In a unique Make it Happen event, patient Dave Yonnotti, 52, delighted his whole Boardman neighborhood when a trailer pulled up and out came a camel and a few friends – a kangaroo, goats, a donkey, a small cow and a huge tortoise who strolled around the yard the entire evening. Also making an appearance were a snake, hedgehog, chinchillas, a tarantula and a huge African toad.

Dave had wanted to take his children, Steven and Briana, to the zoo, but such a trip was not a good idea for his health, his doctor said. So instead, Dave's Senior Independence Hospice team went to work and helped the animals come to him.



Social worker Susan Gans was given the name of Dwayne Falgar, who provides animals for live nativity scenes to church congregations during the Christmas season. Dwayne and his wife, Beth, were delighted to help out, and even donated their time.

Dave and his wife, Barb, along with their children and many neighborhood children had a great time seeing the animals.

Carol Davis, hospice volunteer coordinator in the Mahoning Valley region, said in a way this animal adventure was nicer than going to the zoo. "It was a fabulous thing," she said

The family, always concerned with Dave's illness, particularly enjoyed a day focusing on something so different and so enjoyable. Carol recalled Dave's observation as he watched the activity and said, "It is so nice to see the kids just being kids." ●

**TOP LEFT:** *Hospice patient Dave Yonnotti and his wife, Barb, enjoying a special day with their family, friends and neighbors. Dave's wish had been to take his family to the zoo, but his health wouldn't allow it. But through the Make it Happen program, Senior Independence helped the animals come to him!*

**BOTTOM LEFT:** *Briana and Steven Yonnotti get up close and personal with a camel as part of their dad's Make it Happen wish.*

You can help patients like Dave and his family experience life-enhancing wishes by sending your charitable gift today in support of Senior Independence Hospice. Simply send back the enclosed reply envelope with your gift. Thanks for your support!



# DIRECTOR'S COLUMN

By Sue Brookins, MSN, RN, ACHPN, CNS  
Corporate Director of Hospice



## Raising awareness in November – and all year round

November is National Hospice and Palliative Care Month.

Hospices across the country are reaching out to raise awareness about options in care for people coping with life-limiting illness.

And awareness of these services is desperately needed.

According to the National Hospice and Palliative Care Organization, nearly 1.6 million people receive hospice or palliative care in the U.S. each year.

And research has found that 96% of people who've had a personal connection to hospice through a family member or friend are left with a positive impression of what hospice care can do.

However, most Americans don't have this personal experience. Many don't

really understand how hospice works, how it is paid for, the scope of services offered, or the level of expertise the hospice team brings to every patient.

So, sadly, most people never have a chance to benefit from all that hospice provides.

I wish everyone knew that:

- Hospice combines the highest level of quality medical care with the emotional and spiritual support that families need most when facing the end of life.
- Hospice allows many patients and their families

to experience more meaningful moments together.

- Hospice helps people focus on living despite a terminal diagnosis.

My goal this November, and every day, is to share that we all have choices when facing a life-limiting illness, and that choosing hospice is not 'giving up.' It's making the most of the life you have left.

Please help me by sharing your own hospice experiences with those you know. Your story may be the reason someone chooses hospice for a loved one in the future. ●



# Thank you for your generosity



The following donations were made between June 1, 2015 and August 31, 2015 in support of Senior Independence Hospice. If you believe your name to be omitted or printed in error, please accept our sincerest apologies and call the OPRS Foundation at 800-686-7800.

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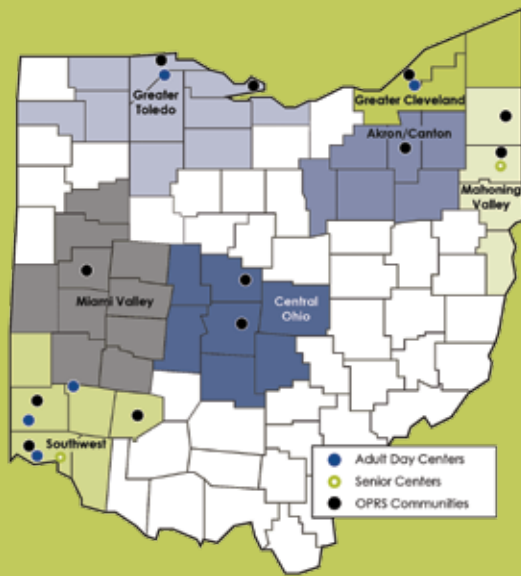
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## THE RESULTS ARE IN

### Feedback received from Impressions survey

In our April 2015 issue, we asked you to tell us how you feel about this newsletter: what you like, what you don't like, what you'd like to see more of...

The results are in, and we wanted to share the feedback we received.

Overall, results were positive, with the majority of respondents telling us they enjoy the newsletter and feel good after reading it.

Of particular interest are Make it Happen stories, comments from grateful families, information about new hospice services, and volunteer profiles.

Suggestions included adding more stories about families who are receiving hospice

services, and how other caregivers take care of their family members.

We did have a few respondents tell us that the newsletter was upsetting because it reminded them of their loss. Our intent is only to uplift and inspire; certainly never to cause pain.

If you find yourself feeling this way and would like to be removed from our mailing list, please call 1-800-686-7800 ext. 160 or send an email to [giving@opr.org](mailto:giving@opr.org).

Thank you very much to those who took the time to let us know how we're doing by responding to the survey! ●