



hearts&hands

Hospice of Stanly & the Uwharrie Newsletter

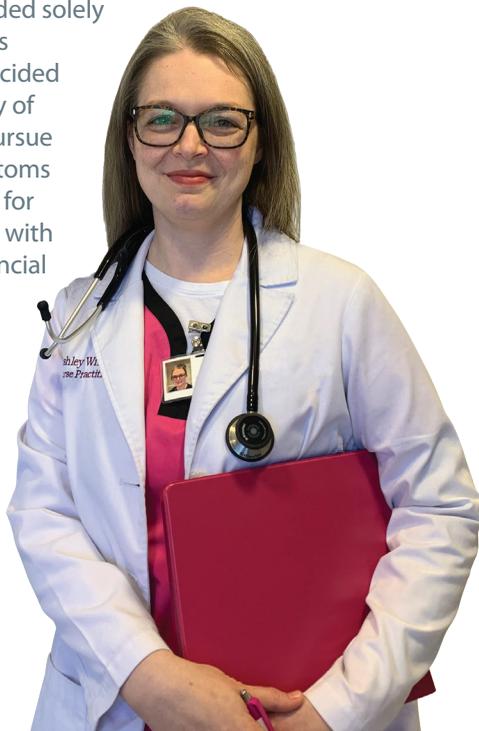
March 2022

Hospice of Stanly Introduces Palliative Care

Hospice of Stanly announces it has added palliative care services to its compassionate care program. Palliative care aims to ease pain and manage symptoms for any serious illness.

Unlike hospice care, palliative care is not intended solely for end-of-life patients. While hospice care aims to manage symptoms in patients who have decided not to pursue a cure and have a life expectancy of 6 months or less, palliative care patients can pursue curative treatments while their pain and symptoms are being managed. Palliative care is a good fit for anyone suffering from a disease that interferes with quality of life or is causing psychosocial or financial burden.

Hospice of Stanly Executive Director Lori Thayer said, "Our agency is pleased to offer palliative care to those in our community who are suffering from serious illness. I believe our community can truly benefit from providing patients with a service that puts their goals and decisions first. Palliative care makes a positive difference to both the patient and their families by helping them to understand current and potential treatment plans, and provide pain and symptom control to improve their quality of life."



For hospice care call
704.983.4216
hospiceofstanly.org

INSIDE

- Difference Between Hospice & Palliative Care..... 2
- Ashley Wiltcher, NP Joins Staff..... 3
- Donors..... 4
- Grief Support 6
- Upcoming Events 7
- Volunteer Spotlight 8

What is Palliative Care?

Palliative care aims to ease pain and help with other symptoms if your illness is serious, but not considered to be life-threatening at this time.

What is Hospice Care?

Hospice care aims to ease pain in patients who are not expected to recover from their condition; life expectancy is 6 months or less and treatment is no longer being pursued.



Board of Directors

Our Board of Directors share their time and talents on a volunteer basis to uphold the mission of Hospice of Stanly & the Uwharrie. We are thankful for their service and their dedication to ensuring end-of-life care to patients and their families.

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A note from the Executive Director

Hospice of Stanly is pleased to introduce palliative care to our communities. Palliative care and hospice care often go hand in hand, but they are not the same. In this newsletter, you'll see more about palliative care and how it works to provide care for the seriously ill in the area.

The bottom line is that our organization has a heart for those in our community who are ill and struggling with pain, the symptoms of disease, and the stressors that often accompany serious illness. I'm so proud of the staff who have worked so hard to introduce palliative care because of the clear benefits it brings, even while our census has reached peak levels.

Thank you for your support of Hospice of Stanly for the past forty years. We ask for your continued support as we introduce palliative care.

Sincerely,

Lori Thayer
 Executive Director

Serious Illness Care: The Difference Between Hospice Care and Palliative Care

	Hospice Care	Palliative Care
Focus on the relief of pain and symptoms of disease or serious illness	✓	✓
Life expectancy estimated to be 6 months or less	✓	
Works in conjunction with life-prolonging medications or treatments		✓
Patient has option to pursue curative treatment		✓
Addresses patient's physical, mental, social, and spiritual well-being	✓	✓
Care offered wherever the patient calls home	✓	✓
Prepares patient and their family for the patient's end of life	✓	

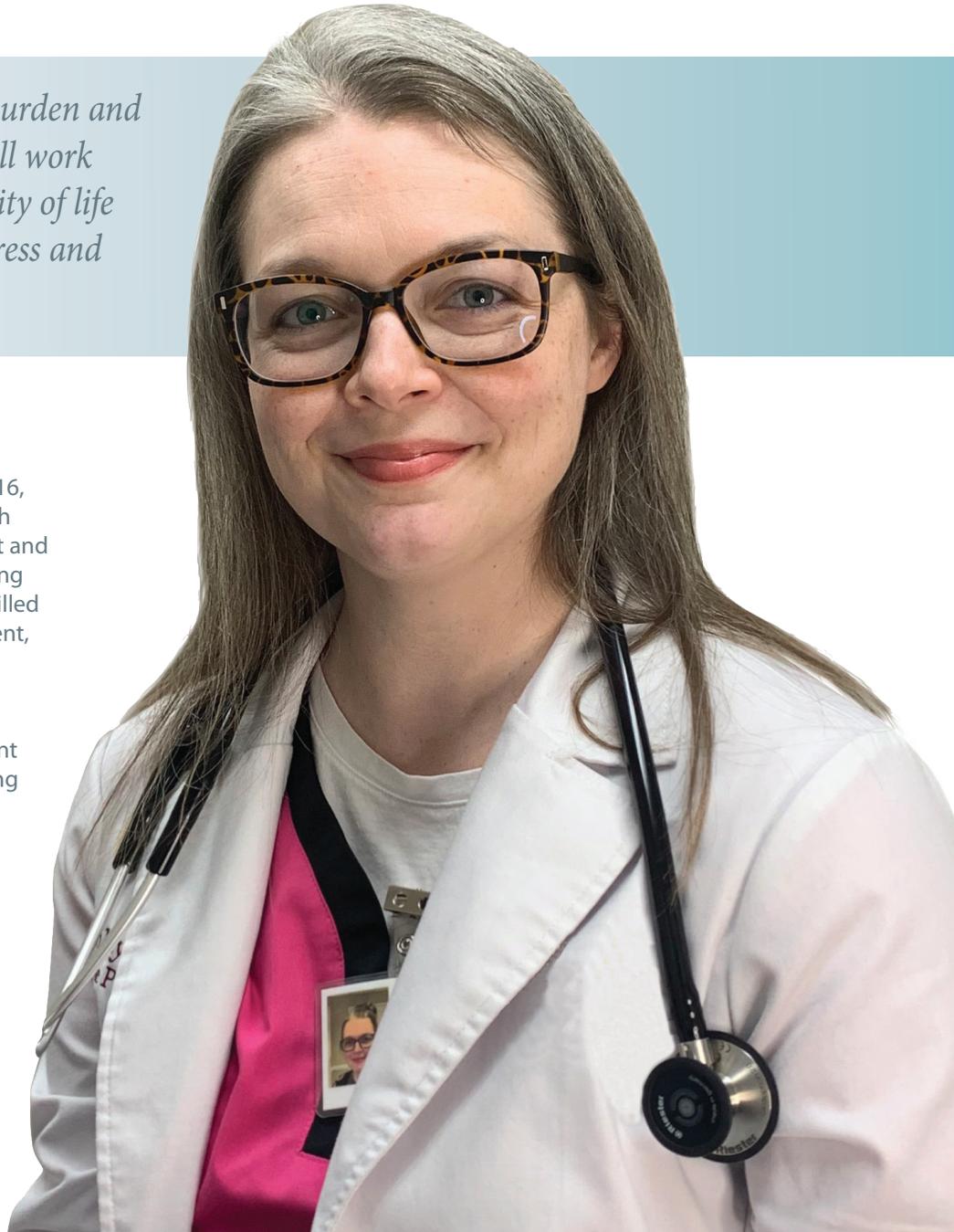


Ashley Wiltcher, NP, joins staff to be provider for new palliative care services

“Palliative care intends to ease burden and suffering. It adds a team who will work beside you to increase your quality of life and decrease your symptoms, stress and anxiety.” - Ashley Wiltcher, NP

Ashley graduated from the University of Louisiana at Monroe with her BSN in 2007, University of Cincinnati with her MSN in 2016, and University of Alabama Birmingham with her DNP in 2020. She has worked with adult and geriatric patients since she began her nursing career in 2007. Her background includes skilled nursing care, home health, case management, hospice and primary care. Her passion is providing patients with care that puts their goals and decisions first, helping both the patient and their families understand current and potential treatment plans, and providing pain and symptom control to improve their quality of life.

Ashley, her husband, Dusty, and her children moved to Indian Trail, NC from Louisiana in the fall of 2021. Her oldest son runs track, her daughter cheers, and youngest son and daughter take taekwondo. In her free time, she and her husband like to explore the mountains.



“Our agency is pleased to offer palliative care to those in our community who are suffering from serious illness. I believe our community can truly benefit from providing patients with palliative care that puts their goals and decisions first. Our agency will make a positive difference to both the patient and their families by helping them to understand current and potential treatment plans and provide pain and symptom control to improve their quality of life.” - Lori Thayer, Hospice of Stanly Executive Director.

Hospice of Stanly & the Uwharrie gratefully acknowledges the honorariums and memorials received.
If we have inadvertently omitted a donation from this listing, please accept our apologies.

Gifts are from December 1, 2021, through February 15, 2022

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HOW TO GIVE

Your donation makes a difference!

GIVE ONLINE

Make a secure, online contribution with your Visa, MasterCard, or Discover Card by visiting our website www.hospiceofstanly.org

GIVE BY MAIL

Send your check (payable to Hospice of Stanly County) to:
Hospice of Stanly & the Uwharrie
960 North First Street • Albemarle, NC 28001

GIVE BY PHONE

Call our office at 704.983.4216



Memory Bears are created as a special reminder after the loss of a loved one



When we have experienced the loss of someone in our life, we often seek connections to our loved one through items that remind us of them and bring us comfort. Linking objects or transitional objects, as these items are often called, are things you can see, touch, or hold, and when you do, they evoke memories and feelings helping you feel close to your loved one after their death. For many people linking objects are reminders and evidence that your loved one existed, especially if the loss was sudden or unexpected. They honor the life our loved one lived and allow us to acknowledge the reality of the loss. Linking objects can be anything that reminds you of your loved one such as an article of clothing, jewelry, furniture, or any treasured object belonging to your loved one. Hospice of Stanly offers the gift of a handcrafted memory bear, a treasured linking object, to each family after the death of a loved one. These beautiful bears can be created from any article of clothing, blanket, or fabric and provides a physical, huggable reminder of your loved one.

Michaele Conners, MA, LCMHCS & Janna Spurr, MSW, LCSW



An interview with Geneva Poplin...

Geneva Poplin is the seamstress behind the famous Hospice of Stanly memory bears. These bears feature an item of clothing that belonged to the person who passed away. Hospice families are offered a memory bear free of charge. Anyone in the community can purchase a bear in memory of a loved one.

Q: Geneva, how did you begin creating memory bears for hospice families?

A: I actually just fell into the ministry when a friend asked me to help create the bears for Hospice of Stanly. She left the job after about 3 months and I kept the program going.

Q: How many bears do you create in an average week?

A: I estimate that it takes me about 3.5 hours to create a single bear. Of course, every week is different depending on how many families place an order, but I've made 15 bears this week.

Q: How many bears have you created since you began this program in October 2010?

A: I just finished my 3,716th bear.

Q: What types of material do most families bring to use on the bears?

A: I use a lot of shirts, overalls, and blankets. I have used pillow cases and, in one case, a chenille bedspread.

Q: I'm sure you have many other commitments; why do you spend your time crafting memory bears?

A: I'm a seamstress. I sew. It's something I enjoy doing and it brings me a lot of satisfaction to create the bears because I know that it helps people get through a grieving period. Love is a nice word, but to me it's something you DO. I called it a ministry earlier and I really do see it an an opportunity to share God's love. I get a blessing from every bear I make.





The Hope of Spring



*God, thank you for Spring and the hope of warmer, longer, brighter days.
Thank you for the coming of growth and life and birth.
Thank you that things are coming awake in the world.
This is what our calendar says, and we do see some signs that it is real.
But we also still struggle with the residual layover of winter.
Now we ask that you bring into reality all that belongs in this season. Your word says
that we will have provision, and hope, and joy, and health and loving relationships
here and now in this life.
We ask that what belongs in this season would become actual in our practical lives.
We hope in you and in your promises. We hope in your gift of Spring.*

- Author Unknown

Karen Kaser-Odor, M.Div, Chaplain

Bereavement Events:

COVID SUPPORT GROUP

For those who have experienced a COVID-related loss. Date is TBD. Please contact the hospice office at 704.983.4216 extension 112 or 133 to register.

A COVID bereavement can be especially challenging in many ways. Some of these challenges include a COVID loss that was very sudden, few opportunities for a face-to-face goodbye, or limited funeral services because of the risk of infection or ailing family members.

The hospice bereavement team is here to offer support to the families of hospice patients or anyone in the community who is interested. Thanks to the Stanly County United Way for their partnership in offering bereavement care to our community.

Upcoming Events

April 2022

- Hope Blooms: A grief-walk through nature with reflective readings. Held at City Lake Park, handicap access. Tuesday, April 14th drop-in from 4:00 pm to 6:00 pm.
- Women's Luncheon: Wednesday, April 27th at 11:30 am. Register by April 22nd.

Mark your calendar: Camp Forget-Me-Not will be held on Saturday, May 7th. More details later.



Hospice of Stanly County, Inc.
 960 North First Street
 Albemarle, NC 28001
 Hospiceofstanly.org

Volunteer Spotlight

Maxine Basinger

Maxine Basinger is in our volunteer spotlight. Maxine has been a hospice volunteer for more than 10 years! She willingly shares her talents with hospice in a number of ways including creating angels, decorating Christmas trees, and event management. We thank her for her service to Hospice of Stanly!

“Maxine is a treasure to our agency,” said Volunteer Coordinator Hailey Black. “She is dependable, talented, and hard-working. She is very generous with her time and her pleasant personality brings joy to our endeavors.”



WOULD YOU CONSIDER VOLUNTEERING FOR HOSPICE?

Volunteers needed for new projects! If you have any experience in the topics listed below, we need you.

- Sewing
- Knitting/Crocheting
- Gardening

Please call **Hailey Black** at **704.983.4216** extension **117** to reserve your spot in the next volunteer training.

**Copy of COVID-19 vaccine record must be on file for all hospice volunteers.*

Mission

Hospice of Stanly & the Uwharrie surrounds patients and their families with compassionate care, enabling them to embrace the end of life with dignity, courage and peace.

Vision

With the support from our communities, Hospice of Stanly & the Uwharrie will become the leading provider of end of life care by delivering competent, effective services to all patients and families served.