



# impressions

LEGACIES OF LOVE AND FINGERPRINTS ON THE WORLD



**ENJOYING A  
SOOTHING SOAK**  
page 2

**In this issue:**

- Friendly faces . . . . . page 4
- Striking a chord . . . . . page 5
- A room with a view . . . . . page 6

# ENJOYING A SOOTHING SOAK

Hospice team helps patient's wish come true

Howard Pekar had experienced the loss of his home, car, health and beloved wife. It was hard to get him to leave his room.

But then the Senior Independence Hospice staff in the Greater Cleveland region learned that Howard used to enjoy soaking in a bath, something he was unable to do at the facility where he lived.

Brainstorming began and soon there was a plan for a special, water-filled Make it Happen day out for Howard.

Arrangements were made for him to visit the warm-water therapy pool in the Veale Wellness and Aquatic Center at Breckenridge Village, Senior Independence's sister company.

Mimi Pekarek, director of therapy, and other staff members at the center were eager to help.

Howard brightened up from the beginning of the trip from Geneva to Willoughby, asking to sit up front with the friendly driver.



Social worker Cayla Lettenberger recalled what happened when they arrived at the pool.

“Howard was able to not only get into the pool but also stand in the water with the help of Mimi and his nurse,” she said.

Staff reported that after his excursion, Howard was more alert, ate more food and had more interactions with staff and other residents.

“His family was so grateful to see how this special Make it Happen improved their father's attitude and spirit,” Cayla said. ●

**ON THE COVER:** *Senior Independence Hospice patient Howard Pekar is wheeled into the Veale Wellness and Aquatic Center's warm-water therapy pool with the help of Director of Therapy Mimi Pekarek.*

**ABOVE:** *Howard Pekar relaxes in a warm pool as part of his special wish. Howard loved to soak in warm baths, but was no longer able to do so at the facility where he lived. Through its Make it Happen program, Senior Independence was able to help Howard enjoy a soothing soak one last time.*

Would you like to help fulfill the life-enhancing wishes of patients like Howard? You can - just use the enclosed envelope to send your gift today in support of the Make it Happen program!

# FRIENDLY FACES

## Volunteers provide comfort and companionship to patients

They sit at the bedsides of those who are dying and hold their hands, speaking softly.

They come to talk, bring treats or hang holiday decorations – anything to ease the transition from life to death, to bring enjoyment and companionship to some vulnerable friends.

Some call them saints, but they're actually Senior Independence Hospice volunteers. Why do they do it?

“The answer is easy – it’s an honor to provide a small amount of comfort or lend a helping hand to a family in need,” said Mike Hoofman, an 11th hour volunteer for Senior Independence Hospice.

An 11th hour volunteer is specially trained to sit at the bedside of a patient at the end of life, making sure no one dies alone.

“I originally started as a veteran-to-veteran volunteer and continue as such. Being

a veteran myself, it’s an honor to give something back to a brother or sister in arms in their time of need,” Mike explained.

Hospice volunteers of all ages offer a variety of skills to help hospice patients.

Some bring in trained therapy dogs, others take care of office work. A couple and their granddaughter work as a welcome trio, visiting patients in the Miami Valley region.

Volunteers in the Toledo region took on a gardening makeover for a hospice patient and his wife, transforming an overgrown yard into an enjoyable area.

One long-retired volunteer explained how her work with hospice helps her avoid the trap of sitting around doing nothing. Getting involved is the key: “Just keep moving,” she said.

There are many ways to help, and there is a job for everyone. ●



Make your mark in the lives of hospice patients. Visit [www.seniorindependence.org/hospice/volunteer](http://www.seniorindependence.org/hospice/volunteer) today to learn more and begin your volunteer journey.



# STRIKING A CHORD

## Music therapy brings memories back to hospice patients

“I love you, Nellie,” said the elderly man to his wife. The couple had just sung “Let Me Call You Sweetheart” to each other while music therapist Pam Richardson played along.

This music therapy was made possible through a grant from the Harry C. Moores Foundation for alternative therapies for Senior Independence Hospice patients in the Central Ohio region, and the results have been “amazing” according to Executive Director Rebecca Dasse.

Music therapy is one tool that can be used to assess a patient’s strengths and needs, and set physical, emotional, cognitive, spiritual or social goals, according to Pam.

Staff recalled one patient with dementia who could no longer walk and had to be prompted

to swallow while being fed. He was from Jamaica and one day someone played reggae music for him. He began to react, swaying back and forth and tapping his foot in time.

“Music can be used to help patients express the inexpressible,” said Pam.

She visited one patient, Delores, who had been a musician and composer but rarely spoke because of dementia. During one of Pam’s visits, Delores sang “Amazing Grace” and later clapped along to other hymns.

When Pam presented Delores with a book of her own compositions, she looked at one lyric sheet and started to cry, saying, “I wrote this for the little kids, that’s my handwriting.”

Pam explained that music therapy allows patients to reminisce in a unique way. Songs can even have the power to trigger a memory from a patient’s childhood.

One hospice patient had been a musician in The United States Air Force Band. When Pam handed him a saxophone, he explored the keys, put it together, and blew into the mouthpiece. While he didn’t have the breath to play, he was able to answer questions about the instrument.

**LEFT:** *Through a grant for music therapy, Senior Independence Hospice has been able to help patients like Carroll Pennington recall special memories. Carroll had been a member of The United States Air Force Band and knew just where to place his fingers on the keys of a saxophone despite not having played for many years.*



Another patient's husband recalled what happened to his wife when music therapy was introduced into her care. "Shirley had been a professional musician, so the therapist would bring out Shirley's saxophone for her. When it was placed in Shirley's lap, she would put her fingers on the keys as if she was playing. Her feet would tap to the music and her smile could not have been any bigger," he said.

Rebecca said she is hoping the music therapy program will continue to receive support so it can continue to reach into the minds of dementia patients in this unique way.

"These patients have music stored in their memories in a different way," Rebecca shared, adding, "This is such an enhancement to hospice. I would hate to do without this program." ●

## HELPING HOSPICE

### Donor generosity makes an impact

Charitable donations to Senior Independence Hospice come in all sizes and help in remarkable ways.

One of these ways is through the Make it Happen program, which helps bring joy and meaning to clients by fulfilling their special wishes. Less visible than these Make it Happen events, but equally as appreciated, are everyday kindnesses to hospice patients. These happen all the time, thanks to help from donors.

"The greatest gift they give to us is intangible – the thanks for helping us, supporting us and allowing us to share our feelings. Donors, the patient and family are all part of the hospice team and are all so precious," said Sue Brookins, corporate director of hospice for Senior Independence.

Whether part of a Make it Happen event or just a thoughtful example of care and compassion in a quiet, under-the-radar way, all types of donations to hospice bolster the Senior Independence commitment to respectful care and comfort. ●

Some of the many things charitable gifts have helped provide to hospice patients and their families include:

- Baby monitors to help caregivers keep an eye on their loved one
- Stargazer systems, which project images that calm and soothe agitated minds
- Moving company services
- Aromatherapy services
- Body pillows to provide added comfort
- Gift cards for groceries
- Picture frames with photos of loved ones
- Holiday decorations and gifts
- Flowers
- And much, much more

## A ROOM WITH A VIEW

### Special wall art brightens view for hospice patients

Hospice patients deserve a room with a view.

With special stick-on wall decorations, Senior Independence Hospice staff and volunteers in the Mahoning Valley region are transforming blank walls into works of art for their patients.

Carol Davis, volunteer coordinator, said, “If I am in the last days or months of my life, I don’t want to look at a blank wall; I want to look at pretty colors and shapes, even if I can’t decipher what they are.”

Three-foot-tall flowers, inspirational sayings,

butterflies and, for those so inclined, religious messages, are just a few of the choices.

The nursing homes where the Senior Independence Hospice patients live have been enthusiastic about what the volunteers are doing.

“Everybody loves this initiative, especially the staff,” Carol said.

The volunteers even found some stick-on wall messages in Spanish for a Spanish-speaking hospice patient.

“We try to go that extra mile for our patients, always,” Carol said.

Charitable gifts to Senior Independence’s Make it Happen program help pay for the wall art. ●

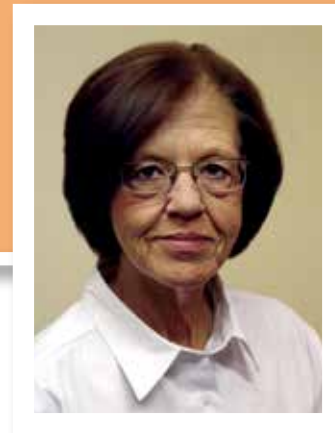
**BELOW, LEFT:** *Susan Gans, hospice social worker for Senior Independence’s Mahoning Valley region, uses removable stick-on wall decorations to help brighten a patient’s room.*

**BELOW, RIGHT:** *This inspirational graphic was used to bring beauty and joy to a hospice patient’s otherwise bare room in the nursing home where she lived. Thanks to the help of volunteers and charitable donations, Senior Independence in the Mahoning Valley region is able to provide this special gift to patients.*



# DIRECTOR'S COLUMN

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



## CORE VALUES ARE CORE TO OUR CARE

In hospice, we only get one chance to get it right.

So, naturally, we expect a lot from our employees. Having the necessary qualifications, accurately performing all job duties, and complying with complex government regulations? Those are actually minimum standards.

The real core of our care can be seen in our core values. And we expect each employee to share those values, and live them every day.

To help our team members remember and understand these values, we developed an acronym for them:

### **TENDER**

- T** = Team approach
- E** = Excellence in care
- N** = Needs are patient-centered
- D** = Dignity in death
- E** = Exemplary response
- R** = Reverence



What does this look like in practice? It looks like consistent care teams for each patient and family; hospice aide certifications and continued education in comfort care; visiting each and every time we are called; being mindful of our patients' faith journeys; serving as an advocate for self-determination for our patients; and directly addressing our patients first rather than the family or power of attorney.

The bottom line? Patients come first. And each act of ours must align with that belief.

Because we only get one chance to get it right. ●



OHIO PRESBYTERIAN  
RETIREMENT SERVICES  
FOUNDATION



# Thank you for your generosity

The following donations were made between March 1, 2014 and May 30, 2014 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.

## **In Memory of:**

### ***Donovan Ackley***

Darlene Drage  
Gary & Marilyn Kandel  
Monica Poljak  
Martin L. Tschantz

### ***Shirley Babcock***

Elizabeth Santell

### ***Robert Becker***

Carolyn Becker

### ***John Bitter***

Carol R. Ackerman  
James & Elaine Arnold  
Suzanne L. Beckman  
Dennis & Patricia Brown  
Daniel L. & Irma J. Byrnes  
Clark & Pat Chafen  
Mary J. Dick  
Carol L. Eckermann  
Phyllis A. Emch  
Rachel Fox  
Ella L. Freeman  
Robert & Shirley Freeman  
Craig A. & Adrienne A.  
Gurney  
Richard & Sue Herrington  
Charles & Betty Hyre

Ronald & Janice Johns  
Thomas Jordan  
Alan & Jill Kao  
Bruce R. & Deanna K. King  
Julie A. Lauer  
Marcy Markiewicz  
Jerry & Barbara McNutt  
June Mitchell  
Jack D. & Nancy L. Rapelje  
Kenneth J. & Patricia A.  
Ricker  
Carol Rupert  
Marvin J. Savage  
C. F. & Marlene S. Schober  
Rita Schober  
Barb Setchell  
Clarence R. & Wilma C.  
Smithers  
Steve & Amy Thomson  
Darryl & Diane Traver  
Dennis M. Traver  
Ted & Janice Wasserman  
Timothy & Phyllis  
Wasserman

### ***Jack Booth***

Betsy Booth  
Mr. and Mrs. Robert  
Furlong  
John & Judy Hoffmann

William E. Painter  
Mr. and Mrs. Gary Schaefer

### ***Mary Bowling***

Bruce E. & Mary A.  
Bowling

### ***Gwendolyn Boylan***

Erin E. Gyomber  
Karen Melisko  
Paul A. & Joyce E. Mueller  
Orrick, Herrington &  
Sutcliffe LLP

### ***June Brownlie***

Kenneth Brownlie  
Kevin C. Brownlie  
Marilyn C. Brownlie  
Matthew Brownlie  
Rita H. Brownlie  
Thomas Brownlie  
Aaron Myers  
Charles & Marilyn Roll  
Ronald Rossetti  
Dave & Nancy Stewart  
Martin E. & Josephine A.  
Teutsch

### ***Robert & Mary Jane Cawrse***

Susan Hodgson



**John & Nancy Chapman**

Anonymous

**John Chapman**

Dr. Walter & Mrs. Georgia  
Bumgarner  
Rev. L. Michael Herbert

**Bates Clemens**

Rex A. & Cheryl A. Cramer  
Nancy Myers  
Richard E. & Rosa M. Sherburn

**Kenneth Colthorpe**

Richard & Martha Kudner

**Donald Comer**

Tim & Laurey Ambrose  
Linda M. Coletta  
Fred & Carol Schneider

**Frances Courtright**

Debbie A. Klinec

**Richard Cox**

Leonard J. Augustyniak and  
Laura S. Augustyniak  
Thomas & Joyce Bettinger  
Richard & Anne Bradley  
Donald & Pearl Christensen  
Sharon R. Cox  
Homeowners Association of  
Springbrook Farms  
Gloria A. Hoskinson  
Robert & Carol Streight  
Clement & Elinore Vascik

**Joan Cramer**

Jeff & Carrie Campbell  
Jerry & Harriet Campbell  
Charles A. & Carol A.  
Miceli  
Bob & Penny Roush  
William & Nancy Sheridan

**Fannie Crawford**

Esther H. Shaffer

**Dorothy Damm**

Nancie H. & James C. Roberts

**Elizabeth Dinse**

James & Mary Ellen Kanary

**Warren Dodson**

Nancy B. Dodson

**John Eber**

Christine Barni  
Tim Biro  
Dave & Margaret Case  
Robert & Marjorie Cicek  
Gary & Diana Cole  
Madalyn Huelsberg  
Robert J. & Janice E. Iacco  
Myrth M. Kremers  
Joan W. Matilo  
Duncan E. & Virginia J.  
McVean  
John M. & Alyce K. Piskura  
Denise A. Popernack  
Warren & Linda Siebarth  
Kent K. & Judith K. Smith  
Robert J. & Mary Ellen  
Tainer  
Michael D. & Barbara J.  
Wagner

**John Fox**

Dave & Colette Nowak

**Robert Garhart**

Martin J. & Mary A. Gross

**Margaret Gilbert**

Maria T. Borba  
Deborah Holycross-Gantt  
Mary Ann Knecht  
SJS Investment Consulting  
Inc.  
Jennifer Smiljanich

**Pamela S. Golas**

O. Vincent Flippo

**Leonard Gresh**

Thomas O. & Louise E.  
Crump  
Patricia Medallis

**Nancy Grunkemeyer**

Sarah & Michael O'Rourke

**William Hagen**

Martha A. Hagen

**Eugene Haney**

William & Janis Squier

**Warren Haney**

Friends at Ver-A-Fast

**Lenore "Candy" Hawkins**

OPRS Human Resources  
Department

**Shirley Helber**

Monica L. Baker  
Deborah A. Helber  
Shirley Tkalec  
Carl Vadjunec

**Raymond Heuring**

Larry M. Anning  
Matthew & Barbara Fischer  
Deborah Graver  
Norma I. Heuring  
James & Kathleen Heuring  
Paul & Amy Heuring  
Julie A. Lauer  
Dick and Phyllis Miller  
Paul & Kristina Rodgers  
Sarah K. Rodgers  
Thomas & Brenda Rodgers  
Toledo Firefighters of  
Station 13B & Safety  
Officer on "B" Shift

**Clarence Hollon**

Helen Hackney

**Rudolph Hudak**

International Brotherhood  
of Electrical Workers  
Local #64

**Lois Ireland**

John & Nancy Peterson  
John P. & Sheryl J. Pieratt

William H. & Patricia A.  
Schaefer  
Shovel and Hoe Garden Club

**Lawrence Kirk**  
Marianne Johnson

**Eleanor Lamolinara**  
Dennis L. & Linda L.  
Montgomery

**John Liambeis**  
Christina Hicks

**Frank Mavec**  
Anonymous  
Darcy Eid  
Lori Shipman  
Gary and Cecile Snyder  
William J. Snyder

**Coilah Mayberry**  
Charles Mayberry

**Gladys McWhorter**  
Bella A Cappella Chorus

**Virginia Melick**  
Lynn & Virginia Melick

**Alberta Murawski**  
Gary & Monica Letta

**Carole Napolski**  
Masil Cole  
Fred J. Dauer  
O. Vincent Flippo  
Marlene C. Frigmanski  
Christopher & Tammara  
Graves  
James L. & Angela L.  
Sigurdson  
Thomas J. & Linda F.  
Sigurdson  
James & Debra Thomas

**Florence Nash**  
Anonymous

The children, grandchildren  
& great grandchildren of  
Florence Nash  
EMIS Team, Ohio Department of  
Education  
Kenneth & Sheila  
Griesinger  
Judith Hirsch  
David J. & Sandra L. Kessler  
Northwest Ohio Computer  
Association  
Fred Ott, Inc.  
Marvin & Marilyn Stinehart

**David Nease**  
Tobias M. & Amy M.  
Williams

**Sidney Noblitt**  
Denise A. Baumbusch  
John E. Deitz  
FABCO  
Robert & Kathryn  
Griesenbrock  
Mike & Fran Meyers  
William & Frances Morrow  
& Daughters  
John W. & Pamela J. Mott  
Sarah Perry  
Cynthia A. Sollars  
Mr. and Mrs. Washburn

**Richard Paulus**  
Steve & Mary Smith  
Blanche A. Spring

**Catherine Rader**  
Eugenia Craven  
James & Elizabeth Crofut  
Wayne & Elizabeth Cruze  
John & Joanna Nunn  
Rita L. Ralston

**Dorothy Riker**  
Beverly Denier  
Jack & Betty Marsh  
Jack and Betty Marsh Family  
Fund  
Richard & Linda McKeever

Susan R. Polter  
The Swords Family  
James & Deborah Waddell  
Jacki L. Young

**Kenneth Rittenhouse**  
Joan M. Dudash

**Lana Rogers**  
Virginia A. Greenlee

**Violet Samek**  
William & Connie Loy  
Richard & Barbara Moore  
William & Mary Ellen Seiter

**Anita F. Sbrochi**  
Fausto J. Sbrochi

**Gloria Schaecher**  
Shirley Fischer

**John Schenovitch**  
June A. Wagner

**Donna Schmidt**  
Thomas W. Brell  
Mary E. Robinson

**Genevieve C. Schrinel**  
Nancie H. & James C. Roberts

**Hugo Schumacher**  
Marianne M. Schumacher

**Dolores Scott**  
Robert Scott

**Edith Shaffer**  
John & Bonnie Huston

**Richard Skinner**  
Gary Skinner

**Lester C. Spring**  
Blanche A. Spring

**Joseph Stanley**  
Myra Stanley

**Jean Sylvester**

Donald F. & Judith S. Avila

**Merlin Tangeman**

Daniel A. & Doris J. Hall  
Barbara L. Weetman

**Garey Tschappat**

John & Charlotte Cryan  
Sarah J. Hricovsky  
Terry L. Mausser

**Rosella Ware**

David F. & Bonnie K. Barhorst  
Joyce Barhorst-Tudor  
Sandy Heitkamp  
George & Linda Platfoot  
Thomas & Judith Regula

**Agnes Webner**

Charles R. & Bonnie L. Agriesti  
Camelot Dental Group  
Rose Cordle  
Daniel A. & Terri D. Curry  
John S. & Monica A.  
Dilenschneider  
Brian Donato  
Scott & Anita Doran  
Sue Dudley  
Nancy L. Eckfeld  
Joan Eckhardt  
Marie T. Graham  
Peggy Hartman  
Benita Kahn  
The King Family  
Andrea Konkus  
Kenneth Kraus  
Donna Mahoney  
Laura Pisciotta  
William J. Pohlman & Lisa M.  
Keder  
Ronald L. & Barbara B. Rowland  
David & Amy Taylor  
James D. Thomas  
Sue Timan  
Vorys, Sater, Seymour and Pease  
LLP  
Robert W. & Gloria A. Werth

**Dolores Weimer**

Chester & Joan Glenbocki

**Bernadine White**

Leonard & Haseltine Cain  
Charles & Rene Chlysta  
Jean Kilmer  
Billie L. Llewellyn  
Lois A. Lott

**Bradley York**

Thomas L. & Susan L. Ferguson  
Julie A. Lauer

**John Yuhas**

Gerald J. & Lynette R. Yuhas  
Janice Yuhas

**Walter Zaucha**

Linda Angart  
John A. & Laura O. Berger  
Jeanne Johns  
Kathryn Lambert  
Robert M. McInnes  
Raymond P. & Barbara E.  
Morvich  
Michael and Mary Ellen Petras  
Michael & Andrea Robinson  
Judith Sessoms  
Snap-on Business Solutions

**Dolores Zins**

Anthony A. & Marie D. Vitali

**In Honor of:**

**Karen Fleming**

Lucille Hollon

**Jessica Mason**

Patti Vanatta

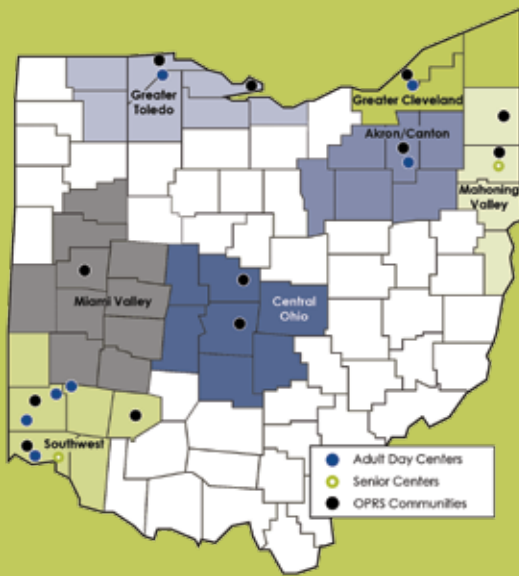
**Other Donations:**

Richard J. Baker  
Fredrick & Susan Ball  
Edna L. Bartlett  
Richard & Karen Boyson

Jane Brodnik  
Elizabeth Buschmann  
Ruby Byler  
Stephen J. & Karen A. Carr  
Columbus Blue Jackets  
Jean Cox  
Elaine Echols  
Carol Edmonds  
Loretta Ezzo-Babich and  
Rick Hudak  
Katy Farson  
Kathie Gannon  
Deborah Graver  
Sarah Hadley  
Walter L. & Teresa A. Haun  
Edith Kreider  
Jeffrey & Patricia Kroncke  
Maumee Rotary Service  
Foundation  
Cheryl & Sean McLaughlin  
Charles B. & Laura B. Monroe  
Nationwide Mutual Insurance  
Company  
Whitney O'Neal  
Robert L. & Jean L. Perry  
Richard & Joyce Peters  
Wendy Price Kiser  
Karlyn P. Schoenfeld  
Luke Schoenlein  
J. Elyn Summers  
Jean P. Teller  
Gloria Tschappat  
Sue Welty  
Eileen L. Yates  
Donald J. Young

**Correction from  
Spring 2015 issue:**

**In Memory of:  
George & Martha Dalton  
Anne Dalton**



## Local Offices

Akron/Canton: 330-873-3468  
1815 W. Market St., Akron, OH 44313

Central Ohio: 614-433-0031  
6555 Busch Blvd., Columbus, OH 43229

Greater Cleveland: 440-953-1256  
38879 Mentor Ave., Suite A  
Willoughby, OH 44094

Mahoning Valley: 330-533-4350  
6715 Tippecanoe Rd., Canfield, OH 44406

Miami Valley: 937-415-5666  
6520 Poe Ave., Dayton, OH 45414

Southwest Ohio: 513-681-8174  
9600 Colerain Ave., Suite 300  
Cincinnati, OH 45251

Greater Toledo: 419-865-1499  
1730 S. Reynolds Rd., Toledo, OH 43614

24/7 Assistance: Phone: 855-579-4967  
Fax: 855-579-4968

## A SIGH OF RELIEF

### Portable air conditioner helps patient breathe easier

When hospice patient Ruby Blosser needed her room to be a little cooler to help her breathe, Senior Independence Hospice bought a portable air conditioning unit to augment the air conditioning in her room at the nursing home where she lived.

Donations to the Make it Happen program often make it possible for Senior Independence to jump in quickly and make a purchase to help a hospice patient like Ruby with a special need.

Tara Hewitt, a social worker for Senior Independence Hospice in the Miami Valley region, recalled the delight of one of Ruby's nurses on the day the unit arrived. "She was so appreciative," Tara recalled.

The effort of just getting out of a chair sometimes caused Ruby to become out of breath. Heat generated by the oxygen equipment in her room made it hard to keep her environment comfortable.

"This personal AC unit provided comfort to our patient who was otherwise struggling to breathe," stated Kalee Scheer, executive director of the Miami Valley region.

In Ruby's final weeks, her struggle to breathe was eased by the coolness and decreased humidity the air conditioning unit provided.

Kalee said improving the room conditions was something Senior Independence Hospice was more than happy to do for Ruby. ●