



impressions

LEGACIES OF LOVE AND FINGERPRINTS ON THE WORLD



TOUR OF A LIFETIME
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PATIENTS SCORE TOUR OF A LIFETIME

Hospice program grants wishes of two 90-year-old OSU fans

Editor's Note: We believe all of our Make it Happen® events are special, but an event for two central Ohio patients recently caught the attention of Columbus media. Below is the story, written by reporter Glenn McEntyre, reprinted with permission from WBNS-10TV (edited for space).

A final wish was granted for a pair of lifelong Buckeye fans through their hospice program. Carl Payne and Robert Evans, both 90 years old, got the VIP treatment at the Woody Hayes Athletic Center.

Some things just go with being 90 years old. You don't get around like you used to and some things aren't as clear as they used to be. But for Payne and Evans, one thing that hasn't faded is their love of the Buckeyes.

"I've had tickets since 1949," said Evans. "I can remember 'Hopalong' Cassady intercepting a pass and going for a touchdown," said Payne.

The two members of OSU's Class of 1949 were given an all-access tour of The Ohio State University's football practice facility.

They saw where the team holds its meetings and even got to watch the team practice.

After practice, the men had an audience with coach Urban Meyer. "We sure are proud of you!" Payne told Meyer.

For two men who know the true value of time, days don't get much better than this.

"I'm happy as a lark!" said Payne. "It's been a long journey really, but a good one," said Evans. "I've enjoyed every bit of it."

The tour was arranged by Senior Independence Home Health and Hospice through its Make it Happen® program. Senior Independence says it offers the program to all of its hospice patients. ●



ON THE COVER: *Ohio State football coach Urban Meyer (center) gives a pep talk to Senior Independence Hospice patients Carl Payne (left) and Robert Evans (right) during their recent Make it Happen® event.*

PICTURED ABOVE: *(Top) Hospice patient Robert Evans and his daughter tour OSU's football practice facility. (Bottom) Hospice patient Carl Payne high-fives a Heisman trophy as he tours The Woody Hayes Athletic Center at The Ohio State University.*

Business owner helps patient feel she is 'still a person'

Hospice patient Nancy Jessee relies upon a motorized scooter to be able to leave her apartment. With it, she enjoys taking her dog Sparky for a walk, going to the nearby store and socializing with other residents.

Recently, her motorized scooter stopped working. This kept Nancy stuck inside her apartment for several days.

Hospice staff made numerous phone calls to area agencies trying to find Nancy an affordable or donated scooter.

After many calls with no luck, they contacted Libby Feck, director of program services for Senior Independence's Anderson Senior Center. Her brother, Barry Davis, owns a business that repairs motorized wheelchairs, scooters and lift chairs, and

they asked if he knew of any agencies where they could get an affordable scooter.

Barry did much better than a referral: He keeps extra equipment on hand to use as loaners while he fixes a client's equipment and said he would be happy to donate a scooter for Nancy to use as long as she would need it.

Barry took the time to personally deliver the scooter to Nancy. He even did an inspection and gave her training on her new scooter.

Nancy was thrilled! She was finally able to leave her apartment and again take part in the activities she loves.

"I want to thank everyone who helped me get a scooter to ride," she said. "It means so much to be able to do things for myself. It makes me feel like I am still a person." ●

Donors give warmth and comfort

Senior Independence Hospice in the Mahoning Valley Region was recently able to purchase blankets and comfort baskets for its hospice patients, thanks to donors.

Each patient receives a blanket woven with the image of the caring hands of hospice, to wrap them in warmth and love. The comfort baskets include items such as CDs of calming music, hand lotion, lip balm, a

journal and other items that can bring relief and relaxation.

The unrestricted charitable donations that made these purchases possible were given largely through memorials. Our thanks and appreciation to each and every donor who helps to make our patients more comfortable! ●

The light switch and the rose

Late one night, Cheryl Withrow's phone rang. Cheryl, regional executive director of Senior Independence in the Southwest and Miami Valley Regions, was one of the team members on call that night for a hospice patient at Mount Pleasant Retirement Village, an OPRS community.

Cheryl spent that night with the patient and their family. She was present for the patient's death – a privilege, she recalls – and it humbled and touched her profoundly.

The next morning, after the funeral home had come and gone and the family went home, Cheryl and her staff prepared to leave the patient's room. Cheryl was the last to leave, and on her way out she reached up to turn off the light switch.

In that moment Cheryl felt a symbolism in turning off the light, almost as though she were turning off the life that had been there just moments before. It felt cold. And it somehow felt wrong.

Because of those feelings, Cheryl made a decision about how she and her staff would

work together with the skilled nursing centers where many of their patients reside.

Today, in the Southwest and Miami Valley Regions, after a patient's passing, a small silk rose bouquet (*pictured at right*) is placed on the patient's bed and the light is left on for 48 hours. Cheryl's hope is that, in some small way, this acknowledges the life that was there, values the individual and respects the grieving family.

It also may help the resident's neighbors to grieve for their friend. And it allows the nursing center employees to acknowledge the loss of one of their residents amid the bustle of their day, helping them to recognize and process their own grief, too.

The bouquet, unique in its hues of blue and green – symbolic of Senior Independence – is given to the patient's family in remembrance after the 48 hours is complete. ●



“Though nothing can bring back the hour of splendor in the grass,

of glory in the flower, *we will grieve not,*

rather find strength in what remains behind.” ~ William Wordsworth

Grant brings hospice services to rural patients

For one woman with end-stage Alzheimer's disease in rural western Mahoning County, distance could be a barrier to getting the hospice care she needs.

But a \$5,000 gift from the Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) of Ohio, working through the Midwest Care Alliance (MCA), is helping to pay the high cost of transportation for Senior Independence Hospice staff members to drive to this woman's home and others.

The woman's husband eagerly awaits visits from Senior Independence Hospice staff, not just for the caregiving support he needs but also for the companionship.

"He always greets us with a smile," said one of the hospice staff members. "Their children are three and four hours away and are able to visit on some weekends, but the weekdays are lonely."

The patient herself is no longer able to speak. But because she had played piano, sang in her church choir and loved music, the spiritual care counselor sings old church

hymns on her visit. The husband delights to see his wife's response as she hums along.

This grant is especially important given the rural nature of the Mahoning Valley Region's hospice territory, which leads to extensive monthly travel costs and mileage reimbursements.

During just six months of 2012, these costs came to \$40,173, representing the cost of driving 73,000 miles throughout a seven-county territory to help hospice patients in their rural homes. The strong, positive impact that Senior Independence has had on these patients and their family members led to the decision to apply for the grant to help with travel costs and mileage reimbursement.

The \$5,000 came from the VFW's Hospice Rural Provider Grant. For the past 11 years, the MCA organization has collaborated with the VFW of Ohio in awarding funds through the VFW's cancer charities programs.

Jeff Lycan, president and chief executive officer of MCA, said "We were really excited to be able to partner with the VFW in providing this opportunity for the smaller charities in the state." ●

Special wishes fulfilled

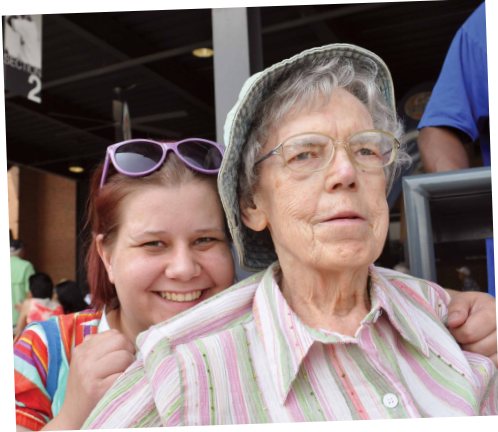
Make it Happen® is a special Senior Independence program that brings moments of joy and meaning to those nearing the end of their lives by fulfilling their life-enhancing wishes. Here are some of the wishes that donors have helped to come true:



Dorothy Nell Sears, a resident of Westminster-Thurber Community (a part of Senior Independence’s sister company OPRS Communities) spent the day touring the Columbus Zoo and Aquarium. The gorilla habitat was a big hit! She also enjoyed watching the polar bears and brown bears and was amazed by how large they are. Dorothy stated several times throughout the day, “I’m so glad we came.”

Doris Larson attended a Detroit Tigers game, complete with an invitation to come out on the field before the game and meet her favorite players. While on the field, the scoreboard read, “The Detroit Tigers Welcome Doris Larson to Comerica Park.” Afterward, Doris told her companions, “Well, girls, we had an adventure today. I had so much fun!”





Patricia, a longtime fan of the Cleveland Indians, was very excited to watch their minor league affiliate, the Columbus Clippers. Pat had a blast at the game, enjoying a hot dog and beer. Her spirits were high for several days following as she recounted her experience to others.

Former Cincinnati Reds first baseman and power hitter Lee May visited hospice patient Charles Sparks, a lifelong Cincinnati Reds fan. Charles doesn't miss a game even now, either watching on TV or listening on the radio. "I'm a big fan," he said. "I never would have thought he'd be sitting in my house!"



June Ishee loves animals and wished to visit the amazing Wagon Trails Animal Park in Vienna, Ohio. June enjoyed the safari ride through many different animal adventures. She loved feeding the animals and meeting everything from camels, water buffalo, zebras, and ostriches to newborn deer. She even had a kiss from baby camel!

Thank you for your generosity

The following donations were made between June 1, 2013 and August 31, 2013 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 1-800-686-7800.

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“I know for certain that

we never lose the people we love,

even to death. They continue to participate in every act, thought and decision we make.

Their love leaves an indelible imprint

in our memories. We find comfort in knowing that our lives have been enriched by having shared their love.”

~ Leo Buscaglia

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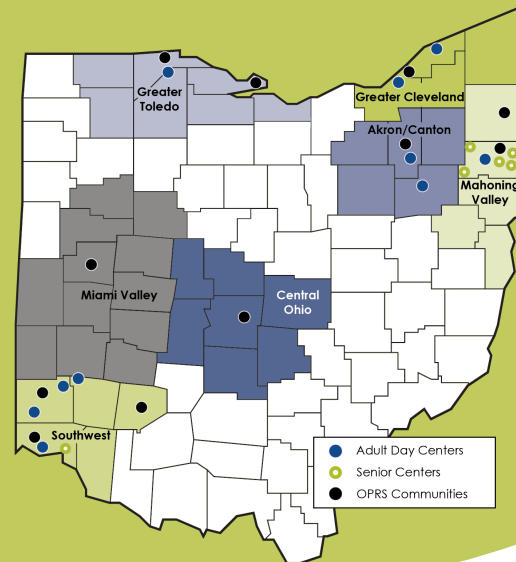
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THERE'S STILL TIME! Use your IRA to help others

Are you 70½ or older? If so, you have until the end of 2013 to make tax-free gifts to qualified charitable organizations like OPRS for the benefit of Senior Independence Hospice by making direct transfers from your IRA.

HOW IT WORKS

- The transfer generates neither taxable income nor a tax deduction, so you can receive the benefits even if you do not itemize your deductions.
- You may transfer up to \$100,000 directly from your IRA.
- You'll make an immediate impact at Senior Independence Hospice, allowing you to enjoy the benefits of your generosity right now!

If you'd like to receive instructions for your IRA custodian or would like to talk more about the details of this opportunity, contact Sue Welty, vice president of gift planning, at 1-800-686-7800 or swelty@opr.org. You can also visit opr.foundation.org/taxchanges to learn more. ●

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