



VOLUNTEER HOSPICE OF CLALLAM COUNTY

HOSPICE HAPPENINGS

Compassionate care for the terminally ill, their caregivers and their families

Serving our community since 1978

Summer 2019

FROM THE CORNER OF A KITCHEN TABLE TO A STREET CORNER



Volunteer Hospice of Clallam County is a 501(c)3 non-profit charitable organization, whose service area stretches from Diamond Point to Joyce.

The mission of Volunteer Hospice of Clallam County is to provide physical, emotional and spiritual support to terminally ill patients and their families with free around the clock registered nursing availability and trained volunteers.

This support enables patients to live out their final days as fully and comfortably as possible. Ongoing grief support services are also offered to the families and anyone in the community who has experienced the death of a loved one.

Since its inception in 1978, all services have been provided free of charge to patients and their families; VHOCC does not bill any government agency for its services.

About 41 years ago an idea germinated in Rose Crumb's head. With a few friends, this idea became Volunteer Hospice of Clallam County (VHOCC). Numbers are simply staggering: from 19 people on the February 1978 mailing list to an average of 5,600 now; from 2 nurses to 11 RNs and one CNA; from 2 patients to a daily average of 125, with peaks to 135; from a handful of volunteers to an annual average of 180; from Rose's 4 x 8 index cards to a sophisticated state-of-the-art, custom-made database; and from Rose's kitchen table to our soon to be opened new offices at the corner of 8th and Race Streets, Port Angeles.

Since 1992 VHOCC has had its headquarters at 540 E. 8th Street. The little house directly behind the office was renovated in 2015 to serve as a conference room for Community Education and Volunteer Training Series, grief and bereavement programs, monthly board meetings, and sometimes as additional office space when all desks at 8th Street were occupied. It's been 27 years and it's time to move on!

Delayed many times by a complex permit process, requirements due to the facility size, new rules regarding water pollution abatement, bad weather, and sometimes sheer bad luck (who would have thought we would need a new roof?), by the time you read this, VHOCC offices should be relocated to the existing building at 829 E. 8th Street. The conference room on the East side of the building still needs a bit more work, and we expect a move-in date of early September. Then, VHOCC can accommodate more participants in community education classes, volunteer training, and the bereavement program known as "Living Alone Now" workshops.

continued on page 2

Board of Directors

President Tim Guthrie, MD
Vice Pres. Peter Raiswell
Treasurer Nancy Bargar, CPA, ret.
Secretary David Gilbert, PE
At large Wendy Brown, RN
Michael Bucierka, MSW
Marca Davies, RN
Sally Featherstone, BSN
Jean Hordyk
Honorary Ed Hopfner, MD

Class II & Staff

Office Services Manager
Lyn Gilbert
Patient Care Manager
Bette Wood, RN
Volunteer Services Manager
Astrid Raffinpeyloz

Volunteer of the Month

March Van Maxwell
April Volunteer
Appreciation Month
May Richard Humphreys
June Colleen Cunningham
July Ted Carpenter

**WE CAN DO WHAT WE DO BECAUSE OF
You**



Simple to use, easy to register.

If you already shop online at Amazon, please consider using Amazon Smile, which donates 0.5% of the price of your eligible AmazonSmile purchases to the charity of your choice. It does not cost you anything. Simply go to smile.amazon.com to sign up, search for Volunteer Hospice of Clallam County, and select it as the charity of your choice. Start supporting VHOCC without spending a penny!

Thank You!

From The Corner (continued from page 1)

One of the great advantages of the impending move is construction of a storage facility adjacent to the new headquarters. VHOCC was able to secure the two empty lots next to the existing building and join them into one property. The new warehouse will connect to the existing building and house medical equipment and supplies for our Port Angeles patients and the community at large, its capacity allowing us to serve even more community members in need of medical equipment.

By September, construction on the storage facility should be well underway (we broke ground on March 22, 2019). After some delay due to poor soil composition and heavy rains, foundations spread footings and foundation walls are up. Plans are to finish framing during the summer months and install the roof so different trades can focus on the interior work.

Yes, there is still a way to go, but there is progress daily! In the Spring 2018 newsletter we were hoping for a move during 2019; we will make it! As always, VHOCC is thankful for its amazingly talented and dedicated volunteers. Although there is strict criteria that must be followed in the building and construction industry, volunteers have stepped forward to do the work that can be done by non-licensed, professional tradespeople.

There is much excitement and joyous anticipation about the move and what it means for how VHOCC can better serve Clallam County. We want you to share in this excitement with us as VHOCC would not exist without the generosity of the donors (monetary and in-kind) and volunteers.



SHARED GOALS AND LASTING PARTNERSHIPS VHOCC & ESPRIT

1994 was a long time ago—25 years, to be exact. Relationships that last twenty-five years require exceptional commitment; whether those relationships are personal, business or charitable, reaching a silver anniversary is rare. This year, VHOCC is proud to celebrate the exceptional commitment and support of *Esprit*, which selected VHOCC as its charity of choice in 1994.

Starting with the *90 in 90* conference in 1990, *Esprit* has become one of the leading transgender conferences in the country. The conference is significantly longer than other similar gatherings, lasting a full week, with the primary goal of the conference being education and access to resources. Port Angeles was chosen to host the conference due to its safety, natural beauty and warm welcome for attendees.

Esprit focuses on creating pride and self-respect for anyone who is transgender, with the ultimate goal of changing lives for the better. This year, a diverse group of more than 120 attendees from three continents and all walks of life traveled to Port Angeles. Conference-goers included attorneys, musicians, airline pilots, law enforcement officers, accountants and many others.

While the conference focuses on issues that directly affect the transgender community, that overall focus on bettering lives extends far beyond attendees. In the summer of 1994, while much of the country was busy watching O.J. Simpson's infamous white Bronco chase, the *Esprit* conference committee decided to do something to support the community that had, at that time, hosted the conference for five years. *Esprit* Committee Chair Suzanne Adams explains, "We looked around at the organizations we could support—there are so many worthy causes!—and decided that we would support Volunteer Hospice of Clallam County, because hospice touches all of our lives, eventually."

What could have been a one-time, casual statement of support, by 1999 had evolved into growing annual donations. Over the years, *Esprit* attendees have made individual donations, coupled with funds raised from admission fees to the World-Famous *Esprit* Talent Show. Clallam County residents are also invited to attend the talent show each year, and all of those proceeds benefit VHOCC.



L-R: VHOCC Volunteer Services Manager Astrid Raffinpeyloz, Esprit Fundraising Chair Sandra Finlay, VHOCC Foundation CEO T. Scott Brandon

Esprit Fundraising Chair Sandra Finlay is responsible for all things related to the annual VHOCC donation. She said that *Esprit's* VHOCC support has become such an integral part of the conference that her job is easy. "I feel like I just have to show up and hand you an envelope! The real difficult, important work is done by those great volunteers and nurses."

Sandra is right about the amazing volunteers and nurses, but she is far too humble. In addition to attendee donations and Talent Show admission, this year's VHOCC donation total included funds generated from a silent auction, registration fees for the inaugural *Esprit* Pickleball Tournament, and sales of *Esprit* 30th Anniversary champagne flutes, all overseen by Sandra. In her spare time, she also organizes the annual golf outing to The Cedars at Dungeness. Although she says it feels easy, Sandra is a busy lady!

Just prior to presenting this year's donation to VHOCC at the conference's concluding Sunday Brunch, Sandra mentioned, "I don't even know exactly how much it is this year, because people keep coming up to me with more donations!" When she said that, as if on cue, two more donors slipped money into her envelope. By the time she stood up to make the presentation, the donation total, including last-minute additions, had reached \$1,769. One attendee also donated medical equipment to the VHOCC Equipment Loan Program.

VHOCC gratefully recognizes the longtime support and partnership with *Esprit*, and looks forward to working together for the next 25 years!

Olympic Cellars Creme Tangerine

Benefitting Volunteer Hospice of Clallam County



Volunteer Hospice
of Clallam County
829 E. 8th St.
Port Angeles, WA 98362

Nonprofit Org
U.S. Postage
PAID
Olympic Mailing
Services

Friday August 16

Tickets available at brownpapertickets.com for \$13 advance purchase or \$15 at the door. Doors open at 6 pm. The music starts at 7 pm. Kids are welcome, but no dogs, please.

www.olympiccellars.com
25541 Hwy 101
(between Sequim & Port Angeles)

When you switch to email delivery, you make a silent donation! THANK YOU.

HOSPICE HUGS

Airport Garden Center
ESPRIT Conference
La Belle Creperie
Lady Niners at Cedars at Dungeness
Louella Gerbhardt Memorial Golf Tournament
Nash's Farm Store
New Dungeness Nursery
Oak Table Cafe
Peninsula Men's Choir
PUD Carlsborg Facility
Sequim Bay Yacht Club
Sunny Farms Country Store
Trinity United Methodist Church
United Way of Clallam County

WE CAN DO WHAT WE DO BECAUSE OF YOU

EVENTS

Aug. 15-18 Clallam County Fair, Port Angeles
Come visit us in the Merchants Building.
Aug. 16 Summer Concert with Crème Tangerine, Olympic Cellars Winery, Hwy. 101
Aug. 24 R/C Club at Air Affaire, Sequim Airport
Sept. 28 Reach and Row for Hospice, Sequim Bay Yacht Club

COMMUNITY ORIENTATION TO VOLUNTEER HOSPICE

First Thursday every month, 11 am - Noon, Sequim
First Friday every month, 10 am - 11 am, Port Angeles
(call the Volunteer Services Manager 360-775-7806)

PROGRAMS: INFORMATION & REGISTER AT 360-452-1511

Community Education & Volunteer Training Series

Wednesdays, Sept 18- Oct 23, 6 pm – 8 pm, Port Angeles

Grief Support Groups

Sequim: Mondays, Sept 9 – Oct 7, 2019, 1 - 3 pm
Port Angeles: Date to be determined in the fall; Tuesdays, 2 pm- 3:30 pm

Check-In Support Groups Sequim and Port Angeles

(after completion of one of our Grief Support Groups)

“Living Alone Now” Workshops Focused on practical matters for those who have lost a spouse or partner. Call for dates.

One-on-One Grief Support For anyone in the community. Call for details.