

Journey of Compassion



Professional photographer Kenny Barnes and his wife, Elizabeth have a heart for hospice, and they love to work with children. So they approached Lower Cape Fear Hospice & LifeCareCenter with an offer to provide a free portrait opportunity to families who had a child in hospice care. They wanted to donate a black and white framed photograph for families to keep as a remembrance of their young loved one.

Almost immediately, a family enrolled in hospice and was able to participate. Little Jabari was only six years old and faced serious illness. The family was able to take him to the Barnes studio, where they captured a precious moment in time, a moment with Jabari surrounded by those who loved him most.

Several weeks later, Kenny and Elizabeth presented Jabari's mother with the meaningful family portrait. It was a poignant moment everyone will remember and cherish forever.

This program is called "A Child's Journey of Compassion." Lower Cape Fear Hospice & LifeCareCenter is honored to offer this service, and we extend our thanks to Kenny and Elizabeth Barnes for their generosity and compassion to our patients and families.

For more information, call 796-7943.

Shoshanna McNeal, Jabari's mother, and photographer Kenny Barnes with the family portrait donated through the "A Child's Journey of Compassion" program.

Faces of Hospice – Cammy Downing



Cammy Downing has seen the benefits of hospice care firsthand and recommends others enroll as soon as they can.

“It was an amazing journey.” That’s how Cammy Downing describes the years her parents became ill and were served by Lower Cape Fear Hospice & LifeCareCenter.

Cammy’s mother was 59 years old when she was diagnosed with throat cancer. After chemotherapy and radiation she went into remission for a few years, but the cancer returned. She chose to have hospice home care and after four months, she died peacefully at the hospice care center.

Two years later, Cammy’s dad was diagnosed with lung cancer. Since the family knew how much hospice could help, he chose to stay at home with hospice. After five months, he died in his bedroom, surrounded by his family, just like he wanted. Because of hospice, Cammy and her sisters were able to give him that gift.

Cammy is glad her parents chose hospice. They were able to live every minute they had left and to say goodbye. Hospice offered comfort, told them what to expect, gave them answers, and offered someone to call.

Since Lower Cape Fear Hospice & LifeCareCenter had helped Cammy and her family and offered so much support not once, but twice, Cammy wanted to give back.

She didn’t feel emotionally prepared to team up one-on-one with a patient. So she attended training and began volunteering at the care center reception desk.

When her work in the banking industry became too hectic, Cammy needed to adjust her schedule. She learned about another opportunity, the Cakes for All Occasions program. Cammy bakes cakes for patient birthdays and anniversaries and cupcakes for Sunshine Campers. Cammy often creates cards for patients to accompany her baked goods.

Cammy feels it is a blessing to be able to participate in this program. Her mom loved to bake, especially birthday cakes. Now Cammy is baking with love for someone and honoring her mother at the same time. It brings her joy to be part of that special time in a patient’s life.

Cammy recommends hospice to others all the time. She feels some people wait too long before enrolling, so she often asks, “Have you talked with Lower Cape Fear Hospice & LifeCareCenter yet? Have you talked with your doctor?” Her advice to others is to “reach out to hospice sooner rather than later.”

Cammy encourages everyone to help hospice in any way they can – there is something everyone can to do.

Lower Cape Fear Hospice & LifeCareCenter supported Cammy on her journey; now she is giving back by helping others along the way.

Why Wait? Call Today!

Just about every day we read articles that discuss the reasons people with life-limiting illness enroll in hospice care much later than they should.

Families don’t want to admit that their loved one is dying. Doctors don’t want to let their patients down or have them give up hope. Patients don’t want to have their doctor abandon them.

The list goes on and on. Many patients spend their last months of life on trips to the emergency room or dealing with uncontrolled pain, distressing symptoms, undergoing exhaustive treatments. For every patient in hospice care, two others could be enrolled, receiving medical care and support they need during this challenging time.

It doesn’t have to be this way. Hospice is encouraged months before the last days of a person’s life. Research has shown that patients who receive hospice care live longer than those who do not, although the diagnosis is the same.

Under hospice, most patients remain in their homes, surrounded by loved ones in a comfortable, familiar environment. Patients can learn about their healthcare options and make their wishes known to loved ones, as well as participate in planning and decision-making. They have time to prepare for the changes they face, to spend time together, and to say goodbye.

More than 99 percent of our hospice families say they would recommend our care to others. Why wait? If you or your loved one is facing a life-limiting illness, call for the supportive care hospice offers today!



President & CEO Laurie Bystrom
Lower Cape Fear Hospice & LifeCareCenter

Grief Support – Help is Just A Phone Call Away!

Most of us have loved and lost cherished individuals in our lives, and we understand that coping with grief is a challenging process.

If you are having difficulty dealing with the loss of a loved one, our Bereavement Services staff members are the people you can call for help. They provide grief counseling to patients, their families, and the community through individual and group sessions throughout the year. Our Sunrise Kids program addresses the special needs of grieving children and adolescents through a variety of programs, including Sunshine Camp, our summer day camp for kids.

For more information, call 796.7991 or 796.7925. An overview of our services, including a schedule of upcoming grief programs is available online at hospiceandlifecarecenter.org.

New Hanover County Hospice Happenings



Begin The Conversation Workshop participants learned about the benefits of talking about healthcare choices.



Attendees at the Wilmington conference heard presentations from three published authors and a physician.



The New Hanover County Schools vendor fair was an opportunity for our staff, including Katrinka Webb, to share information about Begin The Conversation.



Sea-Comm Media's The BONE and Miller Lite were sponsors of the Panther's game parties at Wild Wing Café that Mike Bridgers and Outreach Director Clair Pasqualoni attended.



Development Manager Bob Jones at the Beau Rivage Women's Association luncheon where its members made a donation to our agency.



Festival of Flowers participants enjoyed making centerpieces with instructions from Fiore Fine Flowers' lead designer, Lonnie Taylor.



Barbara Bell displays gifts the Bell and Galloway families donated to a needy hospice family during the holidays in honor of her birthday.



Andrew Roland and Sunshine Kids' Lorraine Perry hug "Needy Bears" crafted by volunteer Claire Ruch to help children work through their grief on the rug purchased through a Ronald McDonald Charities grant.



John Dechesere displays his handmade ornaments with volunteer Wanda Johnson, who helped collect the money from the ornament sales, and Development's Kelly Gaggin.



Twenty-eight people attended our eighteen-hour training orientation for new volunteers to learn about our services, hospice care, and potential opportunities to help others.



Outreach Provider Rep Daryl McNair visited the Liberty Commons physical therapy staff to thank them for their collaboration with our agency.



Dr. David Casserat, researcher and author, spoke with President & CEO Laurie Bystrom before giving a presentation at our annual meeting.



Lower Cape Fear Hospice Inc. is licensed by the N.C. Div. of Health Service Regulation to provide hospice care to the residents of southeastern N.C. Governed by a volunteer board of directors of citizens from New Hanover, Pender, Brunswick, Bladen and Columbus counties, the agency is an affiliate of NHRMC, a member of the National Hospice and Palliative Care Organization, the Carolinas Center for Hospice and End of Life Care, and the Hospice Provider Network, is approved by the Accreditation Commission for Health Care, Inc. and is certified by Medicare and Medicaid.



Lower Cape Fear Hospice & LifeCareCenter, a nonprofit health care agency, is proud to receive support from the Cape Fear Area and the Bladen County United Ways.



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BEGIN THE CONVERSATION • ORG

BeginTheConversation.org is a public education initiative sponsored by Lower Cape Fear Hospice & LifeCareCenter to encourage people to identify and communicate their healthcare choices.

“Blitzing” the Neighborhood

Outreach staff completed a “blitz” to distribute our Begin The Conversation poster, to talk about our services, and to thank New Hanover County businesses and community members for allowing us to serve them and their loved ones for the past thirty years. We extend our thanks to all the businesses that agreed to display posters, including those listed below.



When you're out and about, you'll see our Begin The Conversation posters, including this one at Flaming Amy's with Outreach Provider Rep Angie Riley.

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|--|---|--|
| <p>\$2.50 Cleaners
Aaron's Rentals
America's Mattress
Andy's Burgers Shakes & Fries
Antiques of Old Wilmington
Aqua Fedora
Atlantic Coastal Auto Insurance
Barouke
Bella's Sweets & Spirits
Caffe Phoenix
CD Alley
China Star
CitiTrends
Coastal Cupcakes
Divine Wines
Dixie Grill & Pool Room
Dock Street Oyster Bar
Domino's
Doublewide Skate & Surf
Downtown
Downtown Convenience Stop
Dunkin' Donuts
Elizabeth's Pizza
FB Hankins CPA
Finkelstein Music
Firehouse Subs</p> | <p>First Presbyterian Church
Flaming Amy's Burrito Barn
Front Street Brewery
Gamestop
Great Clips
Groove Jet Salon
H&R Block
Hanover Jewelry & Pawn
Hell's Kitchen
Image Monster
Isaac's Men's Store
Island Passage
Ivy Cottage
Jackson Hewett
Kilwin's Chocolate & Ice Cream
La Vaquita Tienda Mexicana
Laney Real Estate
Luciano's Pizza & Subs
MOD
Modern Cleaners
Monteith Construction
Moxie Floral Design Studio
Mustard Seed Daycare
Native Soul
NC Alterations
New Hanover County Library</p> | <p>New Hanover Regional EMS
Nikki's Restaurant & Sushi Bar
P.T.'s Old Fashioned Grille
Plato's Closet
Port City Java
Prima Day Spa
Quiznos Sub Shop
Ralph's Hairstyling
RE/Max Coastal Properties
S & L New York Style Deli
Sambuca
Sawmill Restaurant
Silk Road Antiques
Sundown Tanning
Supercuts
The Black Cat Shoppe
The Cigar Exchange
The Italian Gourmet Market
The Olive Tree Deli
The Scoop Ice Cream & Sandwich Shop
Weight Watchers
WHQR
Wilmington Wine Shoppe</p> |
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Hospice Can Help! Your Hospice Team:

- Cares for you, wherever you live and offers intensive hospice services in our care centers
- Manages your pain and symptoms
- Serves people with life-limiting illnesses like end-stage lung, heart, and kidney disease, cancer, Alzheimer's, dementia, ALS, strokes
- Provides a bed or walker, delivers your medicine, bathes you and helps you with personal care
- Covers your hospice expenses through Medicare, Medicaid and most insurances
- Works with your physician to coordinate your care
- Provides someone to call – day, night or weekends
- Teaches caregivers how to safely care for you and gives them rest time
- Prepares you and your family for what might lie ahead
- Honors your wishes, respects your traditions and beliefs, helps guide your family discussions
- Assists with chores or errands, reads to you, helps you write letters or record your life story