



Beloit
Regional
Hospice

Transitions

caring notes

SPRING 2015

United Way A PUBLICATION OF BELOIT REGIONAL HOSPICE

"Supporting the Spirit of Life"

A Wish for Ariel Blaisdell

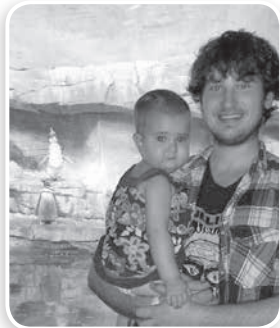
Everyone has a wish or a dream they would love to see fulfilled in their lifetimes. For two year old Ariel Blaisdell, that wish was to take a trip to the SHEDD Aquarium in Chicago to see the marine life.

Ariel is a pretty girl with bright, sparkling eyes who loves to draw and color. She is also a Beloit Regional Hospice patient.

Ariel lives in a very loving home with her Dad, Kyle, Uncle Matthew, Aunt Kimberly and cousins Hunter, four, and Emma, eight. Ariel also has lots of people that love her coming to visit her – her care team from Beloit Regional Hospice. Ariel is a patient of ours due to her terminal brain tumors. Kyle has been very pleased with the "loving hos-

pice care Ariel and the whole family have received."

Ariel turned two last August, and she loves fish and marine life. So her Beloit Regional Hospice Care Team put in a request to our Ken Hendrick's Granting Wishes Fund for her whole family to take a trip to the SHEDD Aquarium. That trip came true September third of last year, when Ariel's whole family was able to take her for a wonderful excursion.



"Ariel loved the dolphin show and the Stingray Exhibit. She watched the dolphins jumping out of the water and never took her eyes off them. She had a lot of fun watching the stingrays and splashing the water," said her Aunt Kimberly.



Ariel's health issues have been a struggle for the family. Her dad had to temporarily leave his job at Jacoby Waterproofing in order to be Ariel's full time caregiver, which of course created a financial strain. That's where BRH's Granting Wishes program came in, to provide the funds to make a little girl's dream come true.

The funds for our Granting Wishes Program were donated by the estate of Ken Hendricks.

Thank you to our many supporters who help make programs like Granting Wishes available for our patients.



Patients, Families, Staff and Volunteers Come Together to Create BRH Commercials.

Beloit Regional Hospice was excited to create two commercials, which highlight our mission to, "help make each moment of remain-

ing life as full and comfortable as possible." Our stars were Jane Neubauer Threinen, former Channel 13 Weather Girl, wife of our previous patient and former board member; Robert Idhe, current patient and his wife Barbara, who was a hospice volunteer for over 20 years; and Rocky Plomb, Beloit Regional Hospice CNA. Rocky was instrumental in making it all happen.

It was very moving to hear our patients

and their families talk about why they chose Beloit Regional Hospice – it is because of them that our staff comes to work each day. Rocky Plomb, CNA, had this to say about the experience "I found out that hospice is warmly welcomed into our patients' homes and many special connections are formed. And it teaches us just how precious life is and doing the video reminded me what hospice is.....it's not about giving up."



Beloit Regional Hospice is about helping our patients get the care and support they deserve. If you missed the commercials, currently airing on WTVO and WQRF, check them out on our website, www.beloitregionallhospice.com, or our Facebook page!

A Note from Mary Anne Miller, Executive Director



At Beloit Regional Hospice our patients, their families and their caregivers are the primary focus of what we do each and every day. Caring for these individuals is our reason for being. Recently, one of our patient's families thanked us for the excellent care we were able to provide for their loved one, describing our team as, "Truly Angels in Disguise."

This quote got me thinking about a theme we shared with you in a Caring Notes way back in 2010, called "The Benefit of Sharing Your Hospice Story." We at BRH are honored to be described as angels in disguise, but how can we share that experience with the community? How can we transition from being "in disguise" to ensuring our community knows about the wonderful and needed services we provide?

The answer: asking you to share your Beloit Regional Hospice Story. You never know when you share your story how much it might mean to the other person. He or she might be experiencing a serious illness, terminal diagnosis, or loss, or may know someone else who is. We all know it is hard to ask for help sometimes, and research shows that people who haven't had a hospice experience often believe that accepting the help of hospice means they are giving-up. Those of us who know the difference have the ability to change this viewpoint. Hospice means getting the care and support you and your loved ones deserve. BRH really does support the spirit of life as our tag line states.

Here at Beloit Regional Hospice as we get to know patients and families we often learn that many people in their circle of caring, including family, friends and care professionals have been talking with them about the benefit of hospice, but the one story at the right time gave them the courage to reach out and make the call when they did. If you are reading this right now chances are you have a Beloit Regional Hospice story that could help someone change their end-of-life care experience.

Our mission is to help make each moment of remaining life as full and comfortable as possible. Our greatest hope is that those in need of our services will learn about BRH and the benefits of Hospice care. Please help us reach our goal by sharing your hospice story.

Warmly,

Note: if you would like to share your hospice story in Beloit Regional Hospice publications or with local news media, please contact adutter@beloitregionalhospice.com or call 608-363-7421 and ask for Adena.

Beloit Regional Hospice Welcomes Dr. Vasil Nika



Dr. Vasil Nika has joined BRH as our new Medical Director.

Dr. Nika is a Board Certified Physician in Family Medicine. He practiced in the northern Illinois area. He attended medical school at the University of Tirana in Albania, and was a

Clinical Associate Professor of Family Medicine.

Dr. Nika has always had an interest in Geriatrics, and he has a special passion for hospice and hospice patients. Our executive director, Mary Anne Miller, had this to say: "We are so pleased to welcome Dr. Nika to Beloit Regional Hospice. His experience and passion for patients during this time of transition makes him a perfect fit with our mission." We look forward to many years of superior patient care through our partnership with Dr. Nika.

Farewell to Dr. Shelly Johnson



Dr. Shelly Johnson has left Beloit Regional Hospice after over 10 years of dedicated service. Dr. Johnson started with BRHway back in 2004. She completed her Hospice certification during her time with BRH, and her dedication to the organization,

the hospice philosophy and her patients was apparent to all who knew and worked with her. Mary Anne Miller, our executive director, said, "Dr. Johnson's ten years of service to BRH was invaluable. She was a trailblazer. We were sorry to see her leave but wish her the very best in her future endeavors!" Dr. J recently moved to the Milwaukee area, as her husband, Don is working in Milwaukee as a research RN. She will be missed!



We are grateful to Beloit Health System for their ongoing partnership and support. Their generosity makes this publication possible.

Welcome Back Nancy Toub!

We are so happy to welcome back Nancy Toub in her new role as chaplain! Her vibrant, caring spirit was missed and we are happy to see her bright red hair around the office, visiting her patients and out in the community again. She gives us a little insight in her decision to return:



"One of the best things I like about working at Beloit Regional Hospice is that it's in Beloit! Being a part of our community for so many years and then leaving to work in another city really made me aware of how much I missed Beloit and all of the people here. We have an incredible

connection to each other and it doesn't take long to find things we all have in common.

I am welcomed into patient's homes, and I am always amazed at what I see; the special care that families provide to their loved ones. Once we start talking, we find many stories to share about our lives in Beloit and how it was many years ago or perhaps how our paths have crossed over the years. I have found that the key to a happy life is one that is filled with relationships and a connection to community. I am happy to be home!"

Grief Support Groups

As part of our ongoing grief support program for our hospice families and the members of the communities in our 5 county service area, the following groups will be held at our office. Please contact BRH to register as dates and times are subject to change.

Adult Grief Support Group for anyone who has experienced the death of a loved one
Thursdays May 7th – June 18th 2:30 – 4 pm
Mondays September 7th – October 19th Noon – 1:30 pm

Young Spouse Group for anyone under the age of 60 that has experienced the death of a spouse or partner
Thursday May 7th – June 18th 5:30 – 7 pm

Saturday May 9th Mother's Day afternoon group
Saturday June 20th Father's Day afternoon group

New Vigil Program Honors Kathy Vickerman

Many of you reading this may know Kathy Vickerman. Kathy has been a volunteer with Beloit Regional Hospice for over 16 years. She has been an invaluable asset to BRH, both in her current role as a volunteer and with her previous experience as a Beloit Regional Hospice RN many years ago. Kathy and her husband Joe are a fixture around the BRH offices, helping out with so many tasks they would be impossible to list!

One of Kathy's invaluable services provided to BRH is her vigil over our patients who were near death. Kathy would sit all night long, sometimes even two or three nights in a row, with patients so that they would not be alone in this time of transition. She would bring soft music and help educate the family and loved ones on what they could do to help make the last hours more peaceful. "Kathy was fabulous for all those families – she was a gift," said Volunteer Coordinator Sherrie Swanson.

While Kathy is still a wonderful volunteer with many duties at BRH she decided to retire from vigil duty. Sherrie was able to quickly step in with a brand new volunteer training for experienced hospice volunteers who are

interested in providing a vigil. Our new Vigil Program is ready to go with four wonderful volunteers. We are so pleased to offer this program to our patients in honor of our longstanding vigil angel, Kathy Vickerman.



Remembrance Quilt

Our most recent memorial quilt is now on display in our lobby. This quilt is the 21st such quilt made to honor the

memory of Beloit Regional Hospice patients. Each year families of the patients we serve have the opportunity to provide a quilt piece to us after their loved one has died. Quite often the quilt piece is a piece of clothing, a special piece of cloth or part of a hand-crafted item. Many have also transferred photos to fabric, and used other adornments to decorate their loved ones fabric patch. We are fortunate to have the walls of our office decorated with previous quilts as well, and we welcome you to stop in to see these beautiful remembrances. Office hours are Weekdays 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

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Beloit Regional Hospice wishes to take this opportunity to thank our many volunteers for giving of their time and talents for so many people in the Stateline Area as they face the end of life.

In 2014, more than 100 community members volunteered over 5500 hours. They provided companionship, caregiver relief, spiritual and emotional support, served on the board, clerical support, organization and planning of fundraising and special events, and so much more.

Thank you for helping us to achieve our mission to help make each moment of remaining life as full and comfortable as possible.

— Sherrie Swanson, Volunteer Coordinator

Wish List

Donations go a long way to helping our organization save on expenses so that we may direct our funds to the patients we serve.

If you have a donation to make, please call the office at (608) 363-7421.

Patient Supplies

- Unopened Depend® or other incontinence briefs with or without tabs (all sizes needed)
- Disposable underpads
- Lotions and powders

Grief Support Program

- Regular unscented tealight candles
- Battery operated tealight candles
- Any color pocket folders with 3 prongs
- Cardstock copy paper

Volunteer Program

- Bottled water
- Crayons
- Pocket size hand sanitizer
- iPods and iTunes cards
- Small bud vases for flower program

Office Supplies

- Black ink pens
- Yellow highlighters
- Sticky note pads
- White or color copy paper and cardstock

- Sheet protectors for 8 1/2x11 paper
- White Out Correction Tape
- Bankers boxes (10h X 12w X 24d)
- AA, 9 volt and C batteries
- White business card paper
- Disinfecting wipes
- Legal pads
- 2 pocket purple and white folders with fasteners