

Compassionate Connections

through Talbot Hospice

June 2019



Death is but a Dream

Featuring Christopher Kerr, MD

Talbot Hospice will present “Death is But a Dream” featuring Dr. Christopher Kerr, on **THURSDAY, JUNE 20, 6 P.M., AT THE AVALON THEATRE IN EASTON.** This 4th annual outreach event is **free of charge** and **open to the public.**

Kerr, a hospice and palliative care physician and CEO and Chief Medical Officer at The Center for Hospice & Palliative Care in Buffalo, NY, is producing the documentary *Death is but a Dream* based on research he is conducting about the dreams of terminally ill patients. Kerr and his team of clinicians and researchers are seeking to demystify these experiences and understand their role and importance in supporting “a good death” for the patient and the bereaved. The documentary is scheduled for release in 2020.

According to Kerr’s findings, people who are close to death often report dreams or visions of loved ones who have passed at their death

beds, usually “invisible” to others in the room. A majority of end-of-life dreams & visions tend to consist of seeing deceased relatives and pets with most receiving loving reassurance or guidance of some kind, while some visions have themes of travel or preparing to travel somewhere with a loved one.

Kerr’s initial study was conducted from January 2011 to July 2012 in partnership with James P. Donnelly, PhD, Department of Counseling and Human Services, Canisius College, Buffalo, NY, and Cheryl Nosek, DNS, RN, Professor, Undergraduate Programs Director, Nursing Department, Daemen College, Amherst, NY. The resulting scientific articles drew national and international attention. A large scale follow-up study was conducted and completed in 2015.

Seating is limited; registration is required and can be made by visiting TalbotHospice.org/Events or calling 410-822-6681.

“We are excited to share Dr. Kerr’s groundbreaking research with our community,” said Executive Director Vivian Dodge. “The end of life journey encompasses so much more than one realizes. Individuals find closure and meaning through dreams. Death is but a Dream will offer insight into the emotions, feelings and values our loved ones experience during this passage.”



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NONDISCRIMINATION POLICY

Talbot Hospice complies with applicable Federal civil rights laws and does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, disability or sex.

From the Executive Director



DEAR FRIENDS,

An RN visit in the middle of the night, an aide giving a manicure, a Social Worker helping with funeral arrangements, the camaraderie, hugs and laughter between team members and patients....all of these acts come together to make a big difference in the lives of hospice families.

Big successes are indeed made up of small things. Like the teaspoon of yeast that leavens the dough into a delicious loaf of bread, the little things we pay attention to in our lives make them full and rich. We can begin our days with

thankfulness and service to others and end the day having made small differences in other's lives. That is what we do at Talbot Hospice.

So much has been happening at Talbot Hospice; Our Memorial Walk, our new Children's Bereavement Camp, and the upcoming speaker series with Dr. Christopher Kerr... read about these stories and events in the newsletter.

Special kudos to our Volunteers! This dedicated group of individuals give their time, love, talents and expertise. Volunteers are truly extraordinary and we celebrated and honored them at our Annual Volunteer Luncheon. This dedicated group of individuals has given 16,636 volunteer hours in 2018. (see page 3).

As a non-profit with deep roots in our communities, Talbot Hospice is tremendously reliant upon our family—that is you, the reader—who supports us. You give of your time, your talent, or your treasures in big and small ways to support our mission. Moreover, in turn, when you or someone you love is in need, we will be there for you.

Vivian Dodge MBA, BSN, RN
Executive Director



VOLUNTEERS HONORED at Annual Appreciation Luncheon

On May 8 we celebrated our priceless, dedicated volunteers who selflessly give of their time and talent in so many ways. These individuals make an important contribution to our program and are crucial to our ability to offer the breadth and depth of services we provide for patients and families at a very sacred time. Presidential Service and Distinguished Volunteer Awards were distributed to 55 volunteers who served a minimum of 100 hours reported in 2018. These individuals comprise 26% of the volunteer corps and provided 75% of the 16,390 hours donated in 2018. Congratulations, and thank you for your commitment.



Volunteering is a family affair with the Burtlesons (l-r) Alex, Steve, and Julie



Volunteers Janet Granger, Patti Case, and Beverly Shea



Gene Feher, Kenley Timms, Royce Ball, and Lee Young (not pictured) received a special citation from Senator Addie Eckardt for their assistance with the regional Welcome Home Vietnam Veterans Event March 30.

The annual luncheon is funded by the Marita Menzies Endowment Fund, established in 2004 in loving memory of Marita Menzies, former Talbot Hospice Volunteer Coordinator, to provide training programs and appreciation events for Talbot Hospice volunteers.

PRESIDENTIAL SERVICE AWARD RECIPIENTS

(first time recipients)

Royce Ball
Edward Bradley
Alexandra Bureson
Jenny Carrieri
Michelle Fisher
Douglas George
Margaret Grogan
Ann Hash
Lizbeth Haslup
Larissa Kitenko
Cynthia Orem
Janet Pfeffer
Patricia Pielmeier
Judith Richards
Ginny Wagner

DISTINGUISHED VOLUNTEER AWARD RECIPIENTS

(awarded each subsequent year a volunteer qualifies)

Jack Anthony
Bettie Baer
Sally Bent
Ginger Bevard
Susan Blankner
Julie Bureson
Patricia Case
Nance DuPont
Kathy Foster
Margaret Frampton
Nancy Gambrell
Janet Granger
Susan Haddaway
Pat Harden
Liz Hershey
Beth Hott
Mary Ann Huckel
Suzie Hurley
Emma Johnson
Emilie Joshi
Florence Lednum
Stuart Levine
Mary Lou Malone
Jean Marvel
Eleanor Morrell
Leslye Mosier
Linda Nabb
Bob Paulus
Phyllis Peddicord
Deborah Pulzone
Mary Ann Ray
Cindy Reed
Gordon Ries
Adrienne Rudge
Beverly Serio
Beverly Shea
Brenda Stone
Kathy Unti
Sara Woodall
Denise Ziegler

Senator Addie Eckardt and Delegate Johnny Mautz awarded a special citation to a beloved Pets on Wheels volunteer, Jake, who was the canine family member of Dr. and Mrs. Scott Thompson. Jake and his handler, Liz Hannegan, made weekly visits to Hospice House patients for two years. Jake, who died last year, brought joy and smiles to all who encountered him. Citations were also awarded to the following individuals recognizing their invaluable commitment to the planning and execution of the Welcome Home Vietnam Veterans Day event March 30, 2019.

Royce Ball, co-founder, Mid-Shore Recovering Veterans Group

Gene Feher, Sr. Vice Commander, VFW Post 5118

Kenley Timms, Commander, VFW Post 5118

Lee Young, Commander, American Legion Talbot Post 70

Many thanks to the following local businesses that generously donated door prizes.

Avalon Foundation
Crab N Que
Vivian Dodge
Dragonfly Boutique
Garden & Garnish
George's Green Thumb
Headwater's Seafood & Grille
Hill's Drug Store
Hog Neck Golf Course Pro Shop
Justine's Ice Cream Parlor
Limocello Restaurant
Lizzy Dee
M2 Salon
Monteray Farm
Piazza Italian Market
Salisbury Gift & Garden
Seasonal Flowers
Debbie Setter—Mary Kay Consultant
Sam's Pizza
Shore Pedal & Paddle
Sprout
Talbot Hospice Staff
The Bagery
The Christmas Shop
Tractor Supply
Village Shoppe
West Wing Salon & Spa
YMCA of Chesapeake

Jaime's Story

by Jack Batty

Lee and Jimmy Hutchison's experience with Talbot Hospice House was different

Unlike most families—who are seeing a parent, spouse or sibling through Hospice—their loved one was a daughter.

Their daughter, Jaime, 33, died of colon cancer in 2017. Her last five days, spent at Talbot Hospice House, “were so comfortable for all of us,” her mother said. “Jaime felt the warmth around us.” Jimmy added, “For our family, the experience here represented a final embrace.”

Jaime was diagnosed with stage 4 colon cancer in August, 2017. She kept living her life in Salisbury and was seen by nurses from Coastal Hospice there. When the cancer advanced, Jimmy and Lee wanted Jaime back in Easton. When a bed became available on November 13, Jaime moved into room 2 at Talbot Hospice House.

Lee described the room and its setting as beautiful. “On the walls were paintings of hummingbirds, on the ceiling were clouds in a light blue sky with birds peacefully flying across. The French doors opened to a little patio with a bench and chimes gently swayed in the breeze. A rose garden was our view and nearly-bare birch trees were as beautiful as the surrounding gardens.”

But it was the caregivers at Hospice House who made a difference. “Everybody here is on the same page,” Jimmy noted, “and it creates a special environment that allows the family to deal with their loss surrounded by compassion.”

The doulas, CNAs, cooks, and the staff created a loving environment. There was laughter in the room. CNA Joy Murray had a special connection with Jaime, and made her feel comforted and surrounded by compassion. With the help of CNA Cameron Sellner, Jaime even got up and walked down the hall just 48 hours before she died. When her dad offered to take her shopping, one of her favorite things to do, she was dressed and ready. However, the trip had to be called off because she was too weak and tired.

Among those supporting Jaime and the family were doulas Norma Trax and Phyllis Peddicord, volunteer caregiver Liz Haslup and Susan Atwood of Bay Shore Services. In addition, Hospice House was very supportive in welcoming family and friends of Jaime including her Aunt Shelly who spent a night by her side.



JAIME'S SONG

I miss that call in the morning
That enquiry about the coming big day
Anticipating an adventurous journey
One repeated in sequence for play

A reassurance established by contact
A voice connect to the rock
The tether transmitting with feedback
Saying you are still part of the flock

Now that channel is wide open
She knows my every thought
Though hers are a little allusive
I plan to stick with the plot

Love can overcome this chasm
The leap from heaven to earth
I'll exercise the medium through fathoms
Till my leap finds equilibrium with hers



Lee is a retired educator who taught environmental science and biology at Easton High School for 30 years. Jimmy retired from Verizon after a 30-year career that spanned from installer to analyst. Lee and Jimmy, who live in Royal Oak, have two other daughters—Sarah of Ridgely, who is an artist and mother of four, and Heather, who is a Hospice nurse and mother of two living in Portland, Oregon.

What happened after Jaime's death was also important to the Hutchisons. The grief support programs of Hospice have been on-going and intensive. "You need to get your feelings out. Otherwise they stay in the shadows," Jimmy said.

As part of the support program, Wendy VanNest, who at the time was Pathways Coordinator as well as Talbot Hospice artist in residence, did two paintings in memory of Jaime. Sessions with Becky DeMattia, Talbot Hospice bereavement counselor, "were very comforting," they said. Additionally, Lee and Jimmy continue to participate with the Child Loss Support group at

Talbot Hospice. They attend Talbot Hospice remembrance events such as the Light a Candle service during the holidays, Time of Remembrance ceremony during Festival of Trees, Celebration of Life at the Healing Garden, and the annual Memorial Walk on Oxford Day.

The days following Jaime's death were painful — and especially so because it was the holiday season.

The on-going support of Talbot Hospice at that time meant a lot, Jimmy said. "The whole experience here is like an embrace and is very real. It holds you in a special spot," he said.

The Talbot Hospice mission "is a wonderful discovery that saves you," Jimmy said. "It's more about nurturing the spirit," Lee added. "Also about family," Jimmy responded.

"This was a serene and pastoral scene, a prelude to what comes next," Jimmy said.

According to Lee, "the loving experience at Talbot Hospice House and their ongoing support continues to sustain us as we remember our daughter, and for that we are very thankful."

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Jack Batty joined the Board of Directors in 2016 and is chair of the Communications and Marketing Committee. He is a retired media and communication executive who spent 35 years at General Electric Company. Jack helped the late Frank Cashen with his book, *Winning in Both Leagues: Reflections from Baseball's Front Office*, a look back at Cashen's 25 years in baseball.

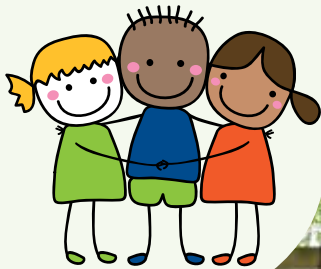
Lee and Jimmy recalled Jaime's ability to light up a room with laughter, which she did even during her last days in Hospice room 2. "We tried to help her laugh," recalls Norma Trax, one of the doulas. Speaking of her doula duties, Norma said, "We have no answers but do a lot of listening. There's not much to say. Our job is to be a presence in the room and try to provide comfort and peace." Sometimes that presence means providing music or merely holding a patient's hand.

Before her cancer, Jaime had dealt with learning disabilities most of her life. Despite these challenges, she lived a full life and was on her own in a group home in Salisbury. Growing up on the Eastern Shore, Jaime competed in horseback riding and swimming. Of her time on the YMCA swim team, Jimmy said "Jaime brought new meaning to the word 'freestyle.'"

In addition, Jaime was an enthusiastic writer. She loved to write letters and to receive them — and she had hundreds of both.



Talbot Kids GRIEF CAMP



On May 18 & 19, Talbot Hospice hosted 13 children at Talbot Agricultural Center for a two-day adventure-based grief camp, providing them with an opportunity to process their losses in a healthy, peer-support environment through structured activities. Bereavement Coordinator Becky DeMattia led the camp along with 18 specially trained staff and volunteers. Talbot Kids Grief Camp was made possible in part by a grant from the Bryan Brothers Foundation.

From the Graffiti Wall at Camp: **BEST CAMP EVER! I LOVE IT HERE**



Talbot Hospice MEMORIAL Walk

Saturday, April 27, 2019



Left: Jaime Hutchison family and friends (l-r) Creig Beck, Cheryl Overington, Shelly Beck, LeeAnn Hutchison, Jimmy Hutchison, and Savannah Focht.

Center: The Alicia Fuentes Family (l-r) Jackie Gillespie, Rene Fuentes, and Annette English.

Right: The Valerie Hicks Family (l-r) Shandi Schultz, Rehannon Hicks, and her daughters Kaelyn and Kennedy.



Our 4th Annual Memorial Walk was a huge success and another beautiful day of honoring and remembering our loved ones.

Special thanks to our sponsors!

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WALK OF REMEMBRANCE

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The Family of John and Betty Pierson


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Make a difference, and contribute to *What Matters Most*


"You matter because you are you, and you matter until the end of your life."

—Dame Cicely Saunders, founder of the modern hospice movement

\$10 =  **ONE DAY** of cleaning supplies for our 12-bed Eleanor A. Koons Hospice House

\$25 =  **ONE-HOUR** session of the "Healing Through Yoga" grief support program

\$75 =  **ONE WEEK'S** supply of paper goods for Hospice House

\$83 =  **COST PER DAY** for groceries for Hospice House to feed up to 12 patients

\$100 =  **COST PER MONTH** for laundry supplies for Hospice House

\$200 =  **COST PER MONTH** of postage for letters to grieving families

\$250 =  **COST OF AMBULANCE** to transport one patient to Hospice House

\$400 =  **COST PER DAY** for care for one patient in the Eleanor A. Koons Hospice House

\$430 =  **COST FOR ONE CHILD** to attend two-day children's bereavement camp

**Your
donation will
be matched
\$1 for \$1***
up to \$15,000

**by the Ferree Fund
of the Mid-Shore
Community Foundation*

Last year Talbot Hospice **PROVIDED \$747,500** worth of uncompensated care and services to hospice patients and the community. Charitable donations make a significant impact on our ability to provide excellent care.

Named in honor of Dr. Eugene "Buck" Guthrie
A Giving Society for top donors to the Annual Campaign

An Invitation to Join the

Every fiscal year (July 1–June 30), donors have the opportunity to join or renew their membership in The Guthrie Society with cumulative gifts to the Annual Campaign totaling \$1,000 or more. Donors will be listed as members of The Guthrie Society in the FY19 Annual Report, will receive special communications from Talbot Hospice, and will be guests at a private appreciation party at Wheatlands in October 2019. For more information about how your gift can support hospice, palliative care, and bereavement services, please contact Kate Cox, Director of Development, at 410-822-6681 or kcox@talbothospice.org.





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MISSION

Talbot Hospice offers hope, compassionate support and services to all members of our community facing end-of-life issues. We provide patient and family care, community education and advocacy while respecting both curative and palliative treatment choices.

Talbot Hospice  HEARTS FOR HOSPICE

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SUPERCREW 4X4 TRUCK OR \$25,000 CASH!

**\$40 each
or 3 for \$100**

Tickets available by calling 410-822-6681, online at talbothospice.org, or by visiting Hertrich Ford Easton or the Talbot Hospice booth at local events until October 12.

Drawing at Hertrich Ford of Easton on October 12, 2019 at 12 p.m.

The winner is responsible for all federal and state taxes on the raffle prize. Winner does not need to be present to win.

Hertrich
FORD OF EASTON

Proceeds benefit hospice, palliative care, and grief support services in Talbot County.