

Talbot Hospice
— 35 YEARS NEW —



2014–2015 *Annual Report*

LIFE

Celebrating

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Photos by Melissa Grimes-Guy: front
and back cover, pages 2, 8, and 10

This past year has been one of exciting transformation—hence our tag line 35 YEARS NEW—a nod to our long history in the community and simultaneous recognition of our new status as a general license medical hospice.

As we write this letter, construction on our newly renovated facility is coming to a close. Furniture is due to arrive soon, the walls have been painted, the engraved brick walkway is in place and the courtyards will soon be sodded. With the potential for six additional patient rooms, a new center for our bereavement programs, larger conference space, new offices for clinical staff, and a new family room, we have attained our goal to increase our capacity for services and to be the community resource for end-of-life issues.

On November 17, 2014, Talbot Hospice received the first Certificate of Need granted in the state of Maryland in 15 years. During the process, we were required to be surveyed by several state and national associations in order to ensure that we were capable of providing high quality hospice care. We are pleased to say that we passed all surveys with flying colors.

We have hired an entire clinical team including physicians, nurses, home health aides, and social workers. Now hospice patients can be admitted 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days a year, and hospice nurses and physicians are available around the clock for a talk or a visit.

Since we received our license we have served 121 patients, most of them in their own homes, but some in our Hospice House and some in facilities. We are especially proud of having created a Pediatric Care Program so that children with a life-limiting illness and their families can be supported while they continue to seek treatment.

Our hearts are full of joy, pride and gratitude for the commitment of our staff, board, volunteers, donors and the community that have partnered with us on the journey of becoming an independent medical hospice while simultaneously doubling the footprint of our facility.

Now it's time now to focus our efforts on celebrating our 35th anniversary year. We look forward to sharing our continued success with you as we approach this milestone in our Talbot Hospice history.

Sincerely,



Susan Piggott
President, Board of Directors



Mary Ellen Shea, MS
Executive Director



The *Essence* of Hospice

By Amy Blades Steward

Dortha “Miss Dot” Fink, age 90, of Royal Oak has had an extraordinary life, but she had never ridden in a convertible until recently during her stay at Talbot Hospice.

Miss Dot served in the military during World War II as a communications officer where she met her husband, George, a radio man. The two eventually settled in Royal Oak where she had a 26-year career with Waverly Press in Easton. A struggle with chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD) caused her recent decline and led to her stay at Hospice.

One day while watching TV, Miss Dot saw a couple riding in a convertible and told her Hospice caregiver, Virginia Whittington, CNA-certified nursing assistant and CHPNA-certified hospice palliative nursing assistant, “That would be fun.”

That was all it took to start the ball rolling. Lisa May, MSW, LCSW-C, CT, Director of Family Services, contacted Anne Shannahan, the Hospice Performance Improvement Coordinator and Compliance Officer, to ask how they might make Miss Dot’s dream possible. According to Anne, “I heard that local residents Doug and Cindy Jurrius had a Cadillac convertible, so I called them up. They said they would love to do it.”

When the big day arrived, Miss Dot was anxious and didn’t want to be alone on her ride, so Roxie Palmer, CHPNA, HHA, Hospice Home Health Aide, agreed to come on her day off and ride with her. Ironically, before coming to work at Hospice, Roxie had provided home health care for Miss Dot through Shore Home Care. Roxie comments, “It was my first ride in a convertible too!”

To make her ride complete, Anne created a banner with the words, “Ms. Talbot Hospice,” on it. The banner was constructed from air conditioning duct work webbing and bright green Duck Tape®—courtesy of the recent construction at Talbot Hospice. She even stapled a plastic flower to Miss Dot’s hat.

With oxygen in tow, Miss Dot boarded her chariot, giving the “royal wave” as she drove off. Cindy and Doug Jurrius took Miss Dot and Roxie for a ride around downtown Easton, including a drive by the old Waverly Press building to see its new transformation. She waved at all who saw her and even asked to go around one more time. Doug Jurrius stopped and bought the group ice cream – Miss Dot’s favorite treat.

Roxie recalls, “At one point she asked me to take off her hat so she could feel the air blow through her hair.”

In reflecting on her day, Miss Dot exclaimed, “It was wonderful and the ice cream was the topping on the cake. The caregivers are wonderful here. I love that they are just being themselves.”

Miss Dot’s daughter, Beth Brown, comments, “She loved her trip in the convertible. She talked about it for days.” She adds, “The Hospice staff is like a family. They genuinely care.”

Virginia, who has been with Talbot Hospice for 16 years, comments about the staff’s role in making patients’ wishes happen in their final days, “Everyone has a part when we do something special. We have had holiday meals, birthday parties, anniversary dinners, and even cooked favorite meals for our patients. Personally, I get a thrill and

a tickle just to see the expression on the patient’s face when their wish comes true. It makes all the difficult moments worth it.”

Miss Dot still relishes the banner and flower that helped dress up her special ride. She comments about the plastic flower still in her room as, “a special flower for a very special day.”

Helping patients celebrate life is what Talbot Hospice does best.



Pictured back row, left to right are Cynthia Jurrius, Roxie Palmer, CHPNA, HHA, Hospice Home Health Aide, and Doug Jurrius. Pictured front row is Talbot Hospice patient Dortha “Miss Dot” Fink, age 90, of Royal Oak. Cynthia and Doug Jurrius gave Miss Dot and her caregiver Roxie Palmer, the “ride of their life” in their vintage Cadillac convertible.

Helping patients celebrate life is what Talbot Hospice does best.

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After *many months* of construction...



July 5, 2013



August 2, 2013

The 10,000 square foot addition has essentially doubled the footprint and includes the following features:

- **Six new patient rooms** with smart bed technology for optimum comfort and safety. Connects with the nurse call system; includes bed exit monitoring system, patient positioning system and an integrated scale.
- **State of the art nurse call system** to monitor, track and report over 30 individual patient data items.
- **Two additional caregiver stations**
- **Fully commercial kitchen**
- **Private family area** with kitchen for family dinners
- **Recliner chairs** for patient and/or family member



November 3, 2014



November 30, 2014

...the expansion of Talbot Hospice is at long last complete.



October 4, 2013



January 13, 2014

- **Pull-out sofas** for family members to stay overnight
- **Speaker docks** for therapeutic music
- **Designated space for the chaplain**
- **Bereavement Center** for the community with program space and a lending library
- **Large meeting room** with media equipment
- **Office space** for medical staff

- **Green spaces** including gardens, patios and a memory wall
- **Storage space**
- **Additional parking** for families, visitors and staff

We hope you'll join us

for one of our public tours in October (see page 7 for details).



February 3, 2015



September 1, 2015



Capital Campaign Donors

\$1,000,000 +

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We proudly announce the opening of
our newly expanded

**Eleanor A. Koons Hospice House and
the Clark-Guthrie Center**



The public is invited to tour

Tuesday, October 20, 11 a.m.–12 noon

Thursday, October 22, 4–5 p.m.

Monday, October 26, 11 am–12 noon

Wednesday, October 28, 4–5 p.m.

586 Cynwood Drive, Easton, MD

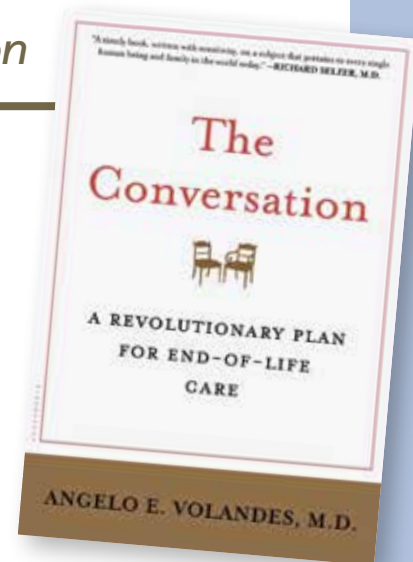
R.S.V.P. 410-822-6681 or slicata@talbothospice.org
to reserve a place on a tour

Talbot Hospice presents
DR. ANGELO VOLANDES,
author of
The Conversation

**Thursday,
March 31, 2016
6:30 p.m.**

The Avalon Theatre
Easton, MD

*Admission is free and
open to the public*



~ SAVE THE DATES ~

TALBOT HOSPICE MEMORIAL *Walk*

at Oxford Day
**Saturday, April 23, 2016
8 a.m.**

Walk 5K in memory
or in honor of a loved one.

— 35TH ANNIVERSARY — BARN DANCE

Saturday, April 30, 2016

6 p.m.

**Kirby Wharf Farm
Trappe, MD**



Bereavement and Caregiver Support Groups

All bereavement and caregiver support groups are open to anyone in the community without charge, regardless of whether or not your loved one is/was served by Talbot Hospice.

Groups meet at Talbot Hospice, 586 Cynwood Drive, in the Clark-Guthrie Center. For additional information, contact Shelly Kulp at 410-822-6681 ext. 16 or skulp@talbothospice.org.



Grief Support

Two six-week sessions of group grief support will be offered this fall.

Thursday evenings 5–7 p.m., September 10– October 22
No class on October 15.

Wednesday afternoons 1–3 p.m., October 14–November 18

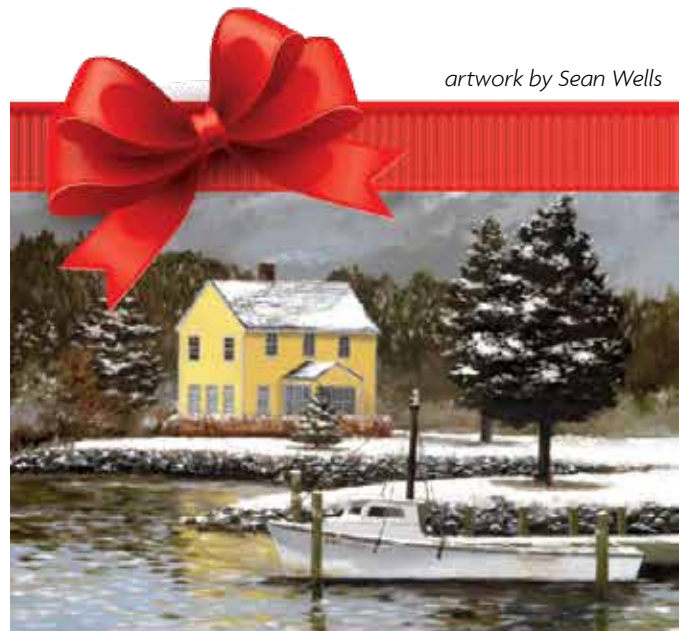
Caregivers Support

There is an ongoing support group for caregivers that meets weekly on Thursday afternoons from 1–2:15 p.m. Caregivers share ideas and find solutions to the challenging issues of caring for a loved one. Confidentiality highly respected.

Together...Silent No More

Talbot Hospice, together with Mariah's Mission, will be offering an ongoing monthly grief support group for those in the community grieving the loss of a loved one due to substance abuse. The group will meet on the 2nd Wednesday of the month beginning October 14, 6–7:30 p.m.

artwork by Sean Wells



It's a Wonderful Life



The 30th Annual Festival of Trees

Fashion Show

October 16, 6–10 p.m.

at the Milestone Event Center \$60 per person

Preview Party

November 27, 6–8 p.m.

at the Tidewater Inn \$50 per person

30th Annual Festival of Trees

November 28–December 1 at the Tidewater Inn

Mother Son Dance

November 28, 6–8 p.m.

at the Waterfowl Festival Building \$40 mother/son

Daddy Daughter Dance

November 28, 6–8 p.m.

at the Elks Lodge \$40/ father/daughter

Homes Tour

November 28 and 29, 10 a.m.–4 p.m.

\$30 in advance/\$35 day-of

Candy Cane Lane

November 28, 10 a.m.–2 p.m.

Easton Elementary, Moton Building \$5

festival-of-trees.org

What we have *achieved*,

since receiving the Certificate of Need for Talbot County, November 17, 2014 (as of August 31).

121

patients served

35

individuals served at Hospice House

275

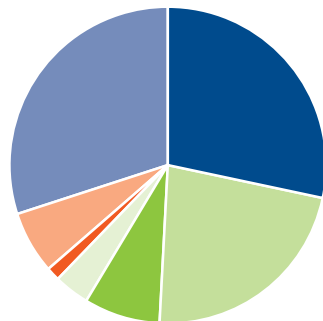
contacts our hospice chaplain has made with patients and families

250

individuals supported through our bereavement programs, individual contact or group session

100%

of families surveyed would "definitely recommend" Talbot Hospice



Volunteer Hours Served

(through 6-30-2015)

Direct Patient Care	2,200
Administrative Service	1,725
Education & Training	600
Bereavement	287
Gardening	100
Cooking	488
Other	2,300



Derrick Schindler, a/k/a Tenacious D. Derrick



Bill Rolle, a/k/a Nascar Nellie



Tim Boyle, a/k/a The Blonde Bombshell

Festival of Trees Drag Race

The 3rd Annual Drag Race held August 30 was great fun and a HUGE success grossing \$70,000. Tim Boyle, a/k/a *The Blonde Bombshell*, was declared Fastest on Two Heels while Joe Petro, a/k/a *Char Donnay*, won the Hot for Hospice award. Tootsie of Talbot, the award for most money raised, went to Derrick Schindler, a/k/a *Tenacious D. Derrick* single-handedly raised over \$25,000—more than

a third of the funds. Special recognition went to Talbot Hospice board member Bill Rolle, a/k/a *Nascar Nellie*, who was dubbed Hero for Hospice. The well-heeled field of racers also included Mike Butler, Josh Cooper, Joe Gamble, Keith Graffius, Erik Higginbottom, Ken Mann, John Mautz, George Paugh.

Many thanks to all twelve racers and congratulations co-chairs Sandy Hale and Erica Kirby!



Talbot Hospice is YOUR Hospice and has been serving patients and families residing in Talbot County, Maryland for 35 years.

- We serve patients in their homes, in nursing facilities, and in our Hospice House.
- We provide a clinical team comprised of medical directors, nurses, social workers, home health aides, certified nursing assistants, pharmacist, a chaplain, bereavement coordinator, volunteers, speech/physical/occupational/music therapists, and a dietary counselor.
- At the Eleanor A. Koons Hospice House on Cynwood Drive, patients receive individualized care and attention by professionals and volunteers in a comfortable, home-like environment 24-hours a day.
- Our Pediatric Care Program offers a comprehensive home based program that focuses on the coordination of medical services, psychosocial and spiritual support to children facing life threatening illnesses, while supporting their families. Other supportive programs for children include Rainbow Days and Camp Spirit.

We provide without charge:

- Trained volunteers
- Bereavement support in the Clark-Guthrie Center at Hospice House for anyone in the community who has suffered a loss, whether or not their loved one was served by Talbot Hospice.
- Spiritual support for anyone on the Talbot Hospice program
- Pathways Program, a volunteer program of supportive services for people diagnosed with a life-limiting illness of one year or less who continue to seek curative treatment
- We Honor Veterans Program
- End-of-Life Doulas

Please call our 24-hour Access Line at 410-822-2724 for information on referring to hospice or for a free in-home consultation.



Volunteer Training

The fall session of volunteer training has been scheduled on the following dates at 5:30 each evening with the exception of the first session.

- Monday, October 12 (5–9 p.m.)
- Wednesday, October 14
- Monday, October 19
- Wednesday, October 21
- Monday, October 26

Topics covered include:

- Hospice purpose & philosophy
- Admission criteria
- Volunteer roles
- HIPAA & confidentiality
- Attitudes and fears
- Death & dying
- Spirituality
- Listening skills and boundaries
- Family dynamics
- Cultural diversity
- Grief
- Hands on training, standard precautions

Volunteer training is offered two times per year, once in the spring and again in the fall. For more information, please contact Lori Lantz, Director of Volunteer Services at 410-822-6681 or llantz@talbothospice.org.

Talbot Hospice Celebrates Year of Transformation

With more than 200 guests attending, the Talbot Hospice Gala was held May 30th at Talbot Country Club and was chaired by Hynda Dalton, Cece Koons and Sheila Monahan. The benefit dinner and dance featured the band NightLife and netted \$140,000 to support the Talbot Hospice mission of caring for patients and their families at the end of life.

Board President Susan Piggott referred to the celebration as “the perfect culmination of a year of herculean efforts and transformative accomplishments as we attained the status of an independent, full service hospice. Our heartfelt thanks goes to our wonderful co-chairs and the sponsors whose generosity made this a spectacularly successful event.”



clockwise from above:

Karen and Michael Fisher

Christy and Hamish Osborn

Charles Monet, board member Diane Rohman,
Kathy and Dan Canzoniero

Susan and Alex Mandl

Gala Chair and board member Hynda Dalton and
her husband Tucker

Shirley Gooch and Frankie Thorington

Photos by Tom McCall



Guthrie Award Recipients Recognized

Talbot Hospice employees Donna Allen and Wendy VanNest were recently awarded the Eugene and Elizabeth Guthrie Award for Professional Development, an annual award created to honor and carry forward the commitment and passion of the co-founder of Talbot Hospice, Dr. Eugene “Buck” Guthrie and his wife, Betts. The purpose of the award is to educate Talbot Hospice staff in a manner that benefits both the individual staff member and the broader community. The award is for training above and beyond the usual requirements.

Wendy VanNest is Director of Pathways for Talbot Hospice, a volunteer program of supportive services for people diagnosed with a life limiting illness who are still seeking curative treatment. The Guthrie Award will enable Wendy to continue her ongoing education in thanatology, the study of death and dying, through the Association for Death Education and Counseling. Wendy is undertaking a year-long project of intensive immersion in the study of death and dying, loss and grief, spirituality

and religion, advance care planning, care for the caregiver, integrative medicine and holistic therapies, family dynamics and cultural diversity. Wendy will share her knowledge through volunteer in-services and plans to create a new program to increase outreach to caregivers.

Donna Allen is the Clinical Records and Billing Manager for Talbot Hospice and is responsible for ensuring

accurate diagnosis and procedure codes in billing. The Guthrie Award will allow Donna to take a Medical Coding Professional course which offers extensive training in the new International Classification of Diseases requirements (ICD 10) which become mandatory on October 1, 2015. The course also offers in-depth training in Current Procedural Terminology (CPT) and Healthcare Common Procedure Coding



Guthrie Award recipients Donna Allen, Clinical Records and Billing Manager, and Wendy VanNest, Director of Pathways.

System (HCPCS). These standardized coding systems assign numbers to every item and service provided in the delivery of health care and ensure that insurance claims are processed in an orderly and consistent manner.

“We are thrilled to be able to provide these two exceptional employees with the opportunity to further their education so that they are even better able to serve the patients and families in our care. Wendy and Donna truly live up to Dr. and Mrs. Guthrie’s passion and commitment to providing exceptional hospice care at the end of life.”

—Executive Director Mary Ellen Shea

THE GUTHRIE SOCIETY

GIFTS TO THE ANNUAL CAMPAIGN July 1, 2014–June 30, 2015

We are pleased to recognize members of The Guthrie Society, donors who contributed \$1,000 or more to the Annual Campaign from July 2014 to June 2015.

Sustaining members, those who have given for five consecutive years or more, are indicated by bold type.

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Mr. John Nielsen
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benefiting
Talbot Hospice.