

## Honoring Our Own Veterans

Not only does KCH&PC have an amazing, dedicated staff that care for our patients each day, we also employ several Veterans who have served our country and made personal sacrifices for the freedoms we all enjoy. To those who have served, we thank you.

### Beth Sonnevile, Desert Storm Veteran & Chaplain, KCH&PC



Raised in Moline, Il., along with two brothers and a sister, Beth Sonnevile reached her senior year of high school with no solid plans for the future. At a very young age, Beth had felt called to serve in a pastoral role. However, upon graduation, she chose the Navy instead.

Beth's naval career began in Washington, D.C., on the staff of a 3-Star Admiral, the Chief of Naval Personnel. She served five years active duty before joining the Naval Reserve, in which she served an additional 15 years. "The military offered me the opportunity to travel to different places and meet and work with different people," said Beth. "I loved the diversity."

In the Reserves, Beth helped mobilize construction battalion and medical personnel during Desert Storm. "The Navy taught me that I'm capable of doing so many things and that I'm stronger than I thought. Sometimes being in a challenging situation brings out the best in people."

During her service, Beth also earned a BS and an MS, making her eligible for direct commission as an officer in 1994, when she moved into Naval Intelligence. She received two Navy Achievement medals during her career and retired from the Navy on April 1, 1999.

A few years later, Beth returned to her early desire to serve in the ministry. In 2002, she was ordained a non-denominational minister by an interfaith church. She began volunteering with KCH&PC and then received clinical pastoral education at St. Joseph Medical Center. In February 2010, she joined our staff as one of our part-time chaplains.

"I get to be with patients wherever they are – in fear, disappointment, gratitude, whatever they're feeling.

And I don't have to fix anything, just be with them," says Beth.

She feels an instant camaraderie with her Veteran patients. "The title 'chaplain' touches on the military experience, and I think they feel comfortable sharing things they might not share with other people." That's definitely an answered call.



### "KC Hospice Hero" Recognized

Reynold Davis lost his wife of over 37 years to cancer in 1988. She received hospice care during her battle with the disease. "I had never heard of hospice before," says Reynold. "But KCH was the absolute best organization and a real lifesaver for me."

A retired high school teacher of 40 years, Reynold has since given to KCH over 100 times. He says giving has become routine for him.

In July, Mary Zahner Bauer, KCH's major and planned giving specialist, presented Reynold with our first "KC Hospice Heroes" award, recognizing his passionate commitment to the families we serve. "We're very grateful for Reynold's many years of support and are honored that he chose KCH," said Mary. "We couldn't do what we do without people like him."

Says Reynold, "Really, I think KCH chose me."



Reynold Davis with his dog, Govie, and his great-granddaughter, Kaitlyn

  
**Kansas City Hospice  
 & Palliative Care**  
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Visit our website at  
[kansascityhospice.org](http://kansascityhospice.org)

If you would like your name removed from our newsletter mailing list, please contact Kansas City Hospice & Palliative Care at 816.363.2600

Editor: Kenyon Anderson

## Coming Events

### Solace House Support Groups

Start dates: August 30 or October 12  
 Call 913.341.0318 for more information.

### Hold My Hand: Walking with Children & Teens Through Their Grief Journey

August 13 – 10 a.m. to noon  
 September 14 – 6 to 8 p.m.  
 October 15 – 10 a.m. to noon  
 November 30 – 6 to 8 p.m.  
 December 10 – 10 a.m. to noon  
 Solace House  
 8012 State Line Rd., Suite 202  
 Shawnee Mission, KS  
 Call 913.341.0318 to register.

### Camp Carousel

September 23-25  
 Heartland Presbyterian Center  
 Parkville, MO  
 Call 913.341.0318 for more information.

### On the Upswing Golf Invitational

Honorary Chair: Walter White,  
 KC Chiefs Ambassador  
 Monday, October 3  
 9 a.m. registration, 10:30 a.m. tee-time

Meadowbrook Golf & Country Club  
 9101 Nall Ave., Prairie Village, KS  
 Visit [KCHevents.org](http://KCHevents.org) or call 816.363.2600 for sponsorship and registration information.

### KCH&PC Volunteer Training

October 3, 6 and 13  
 Centerpoint Medical Center, Independence, MO  
 Please call 816.276.2640 to pre-register.



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A PUBLICATION FOR FRIENDS OF KANSAS CITY HOSPICE & PALLIATIVE CARE

FALL 2011

## Longtime Volunteer Receives "Heart of Hospice" Award



Doris Lisenby

Doris Lisenby, volunteer at KCH&PC, was recently honored with the Missouri Hospice & Palliative Care Association's "Heart of Hospice" Administrative Volunteer Award, at the MHPCA Advocacy Day Luncheon, for her outstanding volunteer service. Following the death of her husband and

wanting to give back, Doris began volunteering in 1991 and has given over 1,000 hours each year since.

Doris is often here early, making coffee for the crew. She is also still hard at work when some of us head for home, just wanting to get that one last pile of papers filed for the accounting department. She is regularly

found kneeling on the floor, tucking important papers into the lowest drawers. There is nothing glamorous about the tasks Doris performs. They are, however, important and necessary just the same.

She is also known for giving incredible neck rubs to staff that truly take the edge off on particularly stressful days. She tidies up the office, makes fresh coffee throughout the day and takes care of whatever housekeeping issues she sees. She also has educated others in the community about hospice care and brought new volunteers to our door.

This was truly a well-deserved honor. Thank you, Doris, for being the heart of Kansas City Hospice. You're one in a million!

KCH&PC recognizes an outstanding volunteer each month, and these incredible folks and their good work are highlighted on our website. Check it out at [kansascityhospice.org](http://kansascityhospice.org)

## Solace House's 9th Annual *On the Upswing* Golf Invitational

Join our lively group of Solace House supporters for a fun-filled day of golf, prizes and on-course contests! We're thrilled to announce this year's Honorary Chair, Walter White, retired Chiefs tight end, long-time Chiefs Ambassador, and current vice president for Commerce Bank. On Monday, October 3, at Meadowbrook Golf & Country Club, registration begins at 9 a.m. with a shot-gun start at 10:30 a.m. Beverages and lunch are included.



Walter White

Co-chairs for the event are Sherry Ainsworth, board member and 10 years with Solace House, volunteering with elementary-age children; and Eddy Scanlon, 12 years with Solace House, volunteering with teens.

For more information and to register, visit [KCHevents.org](http://KCHevents.org), or call Vicki Rancilio at 816.276.2616.



Eddy Scanlon and Sherry Ainsworth enjoy a cart ride at last year's tournament

Friends,

I'd like to extend a warm and grateful welcome to new Board members, Dr. Barbara Lukert, Donna Payne and Jim McDowell. All bring a wealth of experience in healthcare. Dr. Lukert is an Endocrinologist and Professor of Medicine at the University of Kansas. Donna is a nurse executive who has worked in home health, hospital administration and a host of other healthcare environments. Donna is returning to the Board after having served in the 1990s. Jim McDowell, retired Hallmark executive, who has volunteered in many capacities, is the newest member of the KCH&PC Foundation Board of Directors.

We also welcome Lynne Brown to the role of Board Chair. Lynne has been a stalwart member of the Board for several years and steps into her term as Chair with enthusiasm, wisdom and commitment.

The Board of Directors is such a crucial part of our organization. We're fortunate beyond words to have such an amazing group of people to govern KCH&PC. I'm often touched by the energy and willingness of these individuals to engage in this vital community endeavor.

*Elaine McIntosh*  
Elaine McIntosh, President & CEO



Dr. Barbara Lukert



Donna Payne



Jim McDowell



Lynne Brown

## Grieving Kids Enjoy a Weekend of Hope

Camp Erin 2011 was a success with 45 campers attending! There were four groups of kids, the teens being the largest with 13 campers. The individual groups participated in many activities including: song-writing, creating memory boxes, making stress balls, planting a flower pot and setting off an "emotional volcano" (actually a 2-liter bottle of soda). Other events brought the entire camp together, such as campfires, meals, a luminary service, a visit from Pets for Life, swimming, horseback riding and a challenge course. Parents/guardians joined us for lunch on Sunday for a reunion with their children, as well as some education about the weekend's goals and activities. We heard lots of positive feedback.

We could not have accomplished this event without the 22 volunteers and 13 staff members/interns who spent the weekend with the campers. Several additional volunteers spent some time at camp, including employees from New York Life who adopted Camp Erin as a service project. We now are looking forward to a camp reunion in August at Royals Stadium, courtesy of the KC Royals and the Moyer Foundation.



Campers creating mandalas, one of many activities offered at Camp Erin

## Donate Tax-Free from Your IRA

Don't forget! For one more year, IRA owners age 70 1/2 and older can make a direct transfer from their IRA to their favorite charity and **bypass any income or estate taxes**. The transfer may be up to \$100,000 in one year.

To take advantage of this opportunity and make a gift transfer to Kansas City Hospice & Palliative Care, simply send a letter instructing your financial planner, custodian or plan administrator of your desire. Download a sample letter on the "Major and Planned Gifts" page at [kansascityhospice.org](http://kansascityhospice.org).



We thank Samantha Green, President of Crawl for Cancer, for the generous donation in memory of her mother, Beverly McCauley, one of our home hospice patients, who passed away on June 15. Pictured here with her father, Jim McCauley (Beverly's husband of "57 years and 22 days"), and Elaine McIntosh, President/CEO of KCH&PC, Samantha says, "It's not only what you do for the person who is sick, but for the families. You were there to hold our hands as we walked through this. What you did for us was absolutely remarkable."

## Kansas City Hospice Partners with We Honor Veterans

KCH&PC has always been committed to serving our Veterans. To further that commitment, we have joined the National Hospice & Palliative Care Organization's *We Honor Veterans* program, a collaborative effort with the Department of Veterans Affairs.



On March 17, we became a Level 1 Partner, which includes staff and volunteer training and implementation of a "Military History Checklist" that identifies Veteran patients, evaluates the impact of his/her experience and determines benefits to which the Veteran and surviving dependents may be entitled. KCH&PC is currently working toward Level 2 (of 4) Partner status.

"I'm honored to have the opportunity to work on this initiative for KCH&PC," says Patty Poore, team manager. "I encountered a patient once who had been a prisoner of war. After learning of the horrific torture he endured, I was moved to do whatever I could to make his last days as comfortable and peaceful as possible."

The *We Honor Veterans* program has helped KCH&PC become better organized and focused on enhanced education for our staff, volunteers and the community. For more information, call 816.363.2600.

## The Full Circle Society Recognizes Members

Full Circle Society members gathered at the Kansas City Hospice House for a wine tasting and social hour and to view the newly installed recognition wall. This wall serves as a way for us to publicly say "thank you" and to inspire others. Whether gifts are recognized publicly or given anonymously, all donors will be invited to future gatherings. As David E. Trueblood said "It takes a noble person to plant a seed for a tree that will one day provide shade to those whom one may never meet." We thank each and every noble person whose gift, through their estate plans, will provide shade for the many we serve. If you'd like more information about the Full Circle Society, contact Mary Zahner Bauer at 816.276.2625 or [mbauer@kchospice.org](mailto:mbauer@kchospice.org).



## Kansas City Hospice & Palliative Care Chosen to Partner with StoryCorps

Kansas City Hospice & Palliative Care has been chosen as one of only six healthcare organizations nationwide to partner with the national nonprofit, StoryCorps, during the pilot year of its new initiative, Legacy, a program designed to encourage and support the act of reminiscence, and to preserve and share the stories of people with life-limiting conditions.



Center at the Library of Congress.

"We are constantly reminded that every life is its own great drama, and we're so privileged to get a glimpse of these stories through our work with families," says Elaine McIntosh, President/CEO, KCH&PC. "StoryCorps will help us preserve these stories, and we know they will be a wonderful gift through many generations."

Legacy staff trains and prepares its partners to conduct and record interviews using equipment provided by StoryCorps. Nine KCH&PC volunteers participated in specialized training and facilitated the interviews with our patients. Participants receive a copy of the interview to share with friends and family, and another copy of the initial stories are archived at the American Folklife

"The storyteller was a total stranger at the beginning of the hour, but by the end of the hour I felt I knew her better than many others I've associated with for years," says Jim Hannah, Legacy volunteer facilitator for KCH&PC, about participating. "This was a grace-filled and cherished experience."

KCH&PC seeks donations and experienced volunteers from the community to support the continuation of this program. Contact Kathy Fetters, 816.276.2640 or [kfettters@kchospice.org](mailto:kfettters@kchospice.org) for more information.

## Volunteer. Donate. Shop.

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