



# HOSPICE *Happenings*

Providing physical, emotional, and spiritual support to terminally ill patients and their families with free, around-the-clock registered nursing availability and trained volunteers.

## Coming Together for Palliative Care

On April 11, VHOCC hosted a dynamic community conversation on palliative care. We brought together a wide range of participants, including VHOCC staff and volunteers plus representatives from Forks Hospital, Jamestown Clinic, North Olympic Healthcare Network, Olympic Area Agency on Aging, Olympic Medical Center (including its hospital, clinics, home health, and cancer center), Peninsula Behavioral Health, and the Washington Rural Palliative Care Initiative (WRPCI).

**What is WRPCI?** The Washington Rural Palliative Care Initiative aims to build a palliative care mindset in rural communities where access to these specialists is limited. By offering virtual consultations and training resources for generalist clinicians, WRPCI helps rural providers bridge the gap — empowering them to deliver compassionate, high-quality care even in the absence of embedded specialists.

**Palliative Care vs. Hospice Care.** Palliative care shares much with hospice. Both prioritize a patient's goals, manage symptoms, reduce non-beneficial treatments, and support emotional and spiritual well-being. By shifting the focus to comfort and support, patients and families often experience less stress, greater comfort, better quality of life, and sometimes, greater life expectancy. Unlike hospice, palliative care can be introduced much earlier for people facing serious or life-limiting illnesses. It emphasizes comfort and quality of life, regardless of the stage of disease or need for other therapies.

Because palliative care is often not covered by insurance, many communities lack access to these services. VHOCC is uniquely positioned to offer palliative care on the east end of Clallam County, thanks to our non-reliance on billing-based funding. On the west end, Forks Hospital is creating innovative pathways to expand access.

**Looking Ahead: Collaborating for Better Care.** Delivering palliative care across Clallam County's large yet resource-limited landscape requires strong collaboration. This initial gathering marks the beginning of what we hope will become an ongoing, community-wide conversation about enhancing palliative care. By working together, we can better meet the needs of patients, families, and caregivers throughout our region.



Our Lending Closet and delivery volunteers supply medical equipment to both hospice and palliative care patients, plus community members — always at no charge.



## We Appreciate Our Volunteers 24/7/365!

While April officially marks Volunteer Appreciation Month each year, we're grateful to our volunteers every minute of every day! We currently have over 185 volunteers who reflect VHOCC's mission and give freely of their time and talents, affirming life while serving others. We make every effort to match talents and skills with appropriate areas of service. While some of our volunteers have professional degrees and experience, most are just folks who want to help their friends and neighbors while serving the community. Interested in volunteering? Visit [volunteerhospice.org](http://volunteerhospice.org) to learn more!



## VHOCC Resources & Program Calendar

All programs are free of charge. Registration is required for all except Follow-Up Grief Support Groups and Death Cafés. All programs are subject to cancellation. Call 360-452-1511 or email [reception@vhocc.org](mailto:reception@vhocc.org).

### COMMUNITY ORIENTATIONS

#### **In-Person: Port Angeles**

First Wednesday of each month, 11 a.m.–noon.  
VHOCC office, 829 E. 8th Street, Port Angeles.

#### **In-Person: Sequim**

First Tuesday of each month, 11 a.m.–noon.  
Location given at time of registration.

### GRIEF SUPPORT GROUPS

#### **In-Person Group: Port Angeles**

Mondays, July 28–Aug. 25, 1–3 p.m.

#### **In-Person Group: Sequim**

Mondays, Oct. 27–Nov. 24, 1–3 p.m.  
(June 2025 group registration has closed.)

### FOLLOW-UP GRIEF SUPPORT GROUPS

Drop-in groups open to those who have attended a VHOCC grief support group.

#### **In-Person Group: Port Angeles**

First Thursday of each month, 4:15–5:15 p.m.

#### **In-Person Group: Sequim**

Fourth Monday of each month, 1–2 p.m.

### EMPOWER YOURSELF: ADVICE FOR LIVING ALONE

A practical, 4-week series on Home Maintenance, Cooking for One, Household Finances, and Self-Care.  
Mondays, Sept. 8-29, 2025, 2-4 p.m.

### ONE-ON-ONE GRIEF SUPPORT

For anyone in the community grieving a loss. Call 360-406-4439 and ask for bereavement support.

### SOUL CARE

#### **SPEAKER SERIES**

Offered every other month on the second Wednesday.

**Wednesday, July 9, noon–1:30 p.m. via Zoom**

**Wednesday, Sept. 10, noon–1:30 p.m. via Zoom**

Speakers and topics to be announced.

#### **DEATH CAFÉ 'TEA TO DIE FOR'**

Open, casual, freeform discussions relating to end of life, death and dying. Offered monthly from 4–5:30 p.m.

**Port Angeles:** Fourth Wednesday of each month at the VHOCC Conference Room, 829 E. 8th Street.

**Sequim:** Second Monday of each month at KSQM-FM, 609 Washington Street, #17.

## Celebrating Our Remarkable Nurses

I write this note in May, and Nurse Appreciation Week occurs annually from May 6 through 12. So, this is a great time to recognize how vital our hospice nurses are to the mission and heart of VHOCC.

Hospice nurses are the frontline of care. They manage pain and symptoms, administer medications, monitor patient conditions, and respond to changes with clinical expertise and emotional sensitivity. They provide holistic care.

At VHOCC, our nurses are integral members of a wide-ranging interdisciplinary team that includes staff, volunteers, partner agencies, and providers. This means they often find themselves coordinating a complex network of services to ensure seamless, high-quality care. They must be exceptional communicators and tireless advocates, especially when partners may not have a full picture of a patient's evolving needs. VHOCC nurses routinely adapt care plans in real time, often stepping into roles beyond traditional hospice nursing responsibilities when other disciplines are unavailable.

And their contributions don't stop at clinical care. Our nurses offer something even more profound: presence. They forge deep relationships, providing nursing support, a calming presence, and a compassionate ear. They are there for the most intimate, tender moments — often shaping how patients and their loved ones experience the final chapter of life.

It's a privilege to work alongside these remarkable individuals. I am endlessly grateful for the strength, grace, and dedication our nurses bring to their work every day. They are, without question, angels among us.

*Priya Jayadev, Executive Director*



Photo by Susan Doupe

## Grateful for Grief Support

We came together in 2021, broken and grieving, and also reeling from the effects of the pandemic. Not knowing each other, we'd all registered for VHOCC's 6-week Grief Support Group, which was then online only due to the pandemic. Astrid shepherded our group as we navigated our new normal. The circumstances of our spouses' passings were all different, but we shared the pain and loss of grief. After the class ended, many of us continued to meet weekly on Zoom — crying, talking, and supporting one another. We met for the first time in person at a restaurant. Four years later, we continue to meet as often as our schedules allow. We text each other often, checking in and sending resources to help on the journey. We still marvel at the grace of our lifetime friendships that started as a result of such deep, gut-wrenching trauma. I believe there are no accidents as to who is brought together in this lifetime.

*Theo Skogsberg, also on behalf of Claire Rausch, Karen Pinell, and Trent Pomeroy*



## Volunteers of the Month

**MARCH:** **Sandy Schultz** volunteers as a Lending Closet Assistant, and enjoys helping people who come to borrow medical equipment. She also says she enjoys learning something new every shift! Sandy received a gift certificate to dine at Chestnut Cottage, a longtime VHOCC supporter.



**APRIL:** We celebrated our volunteers this month, with several joining a fascinating private underground tour of Port Angeles. Volunteers were also treated to lunches in our conference room and at the Old Mill Café in Sequim.



**MAY:** **Susan Sellon** takes on a job and owns it! She scours local businesses asking them to support our fundraising efforts and our Volunteer of the Month program. We were pleased to give her a gift certificate to one of her favorite restaurants, Traylor's.

**JUNE:** Meet the queen of organizing! Since she started volunteering over six years ago, **Dana Doss** has held various positions. She seems to have found her niche in our incontinence supplies room, where organization is key to efficiency. We honor Dana with a gift certificate to one of her favorite restaurants.



## VOLUNTEER





**All services are free.**

**We don't bill:**

- ♦Patients ♦Families
- ♦Insurance ♦Government

**We rely on community support.**

## Your Support Keeps Us Going

Many people are currently extra concerned about their personal finances. This has resulted in many nonprofits, including Volunteer Hospice, receiving fewer donations than in a typical year.

We're so grateful for all of you who continue to support everything that keeps us going. Running our organization — even with all our wonderful volunteers — requires essential day-to-day expenses. The delivery trucks need repairs and gas, our patient-care supplies need constant replenishing, and the mattresses on our hospital beds wear out because they're used day and night. And of course, we pay our extraordinary nursing/clinical staff and mission support team.

Every gift helps, and some might make more sense to you than others. If you have a donor-advised fund, can make a stock gift, or are required to take a minimum distribution from your retirement account, a gift to Volunteer Hospice could possibly save you taxes. Now more than ever, we need your support to keep up with our caseload, ensuring we (hopefully) don't turn anyone away.

Lastly, I love meeting you, our donors. So if you're in the neighborhood, please stop in and say hello. I'd like to thank you in person and hear why you care enough about Volunteer Hospice to help us the way you do.

*Lisa Palermo, Development Director*

## HOSPICE HUGS: Thank You to Our Generous VHOCC Supporters!

### General Fund

1st Security Bank  
Gary Avender  
Rosemary Brauning  
Georgina E Bridges  
Sidne Cameron  
Dr. Leonard Chance  
Rosemary Cockrill  
Ron Coles  
Philip J Crescenzo  
Janet Culver  
Patricia K Doran  
Brian Dougherty  
Stanley J Forsell  
Barbara Gardner  
Jim Heckman  
Pam Hooper  
Anne Hornor  
Jo Anne Hughes  
Karla Larson

Leslieann Luboff  
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Laurene McLane  
Deborah J Mecham  
Melissa N Moody  
Janet Mullen  
Terry Ann Norberg  
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Dale Russell  
Richard S. Seaman  
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Grant Simpson  
Sherry Smith  
Jeffrey E Thorpe

Margaret Tremaine  
Vanguard Charitable  
Karen Walter  
Willard L. Todnem and  
S. Anne Todnem Family Trust  
Jacquelyn A. Witte

### Community-Sponsored Fundraisers

Esprit Gala & Conference  
Peninsula Men's Gospel Singers  
Port Angeles Community Players  
Yodelin Broth Company

### Grants

Ben & Myrtle Walkling Memorial Trust

### Volunteer of the Month Program

Alder Wood Bistro  
Chestnut Cottage Restaurant  
Port Angeles Underground Tours  
Traylor's Restaurant

# Volunteer Hospice

OF CLALLAM COUNTY

829 E. 8th Street, Port Angeles, WA 98362

Nonprofit Org  
U.S. Postage  
PAID  
Olympic Mailing  
& Printing Services

## Clinical Staff

Haley, RN, BSN, Clinical Team Manager

Lynn, RN, BSN, MS, Lead Nurse

Shelby, Patient Navigator

Ashley, CNA

Becca B, CNA

Becca W, RN, BSN

Brittany, RN

Christy, RN

Deb, RN

Ellen, RN

Jannae, RN, BSN

Jeanette, CNA

Mary, RN, NP

Molly, RN, BSN

Nicole, RN

## Mission Support Staff

Priya Jayadev, Executive Director

Lisa Palermo, Development Director

Astrid Raffinpeyloz, Volunteer Services Manager

Heather Loyd, Administrative Services Manager

Myrna Schaaf, Administrative Assistant

## Board of Directors

Roger Oakes, President

Loriann Hamilton Ridgeway, Vice President

Karen McCormick, Secretary

Stuart Koop, Treasurer

Wendy Brown

Marca Davies

Thom Hightower

Suzanne Lockwood

Tyrrell Prosser

Peter Raiswell

Ted Ripley

Sandra Tatro

## 6 Ways to Help Volunteer Hospice

- Volunteer.
- Donate at [volunteerhospice.org](http://volunteerhospice.org).
- Add Volunteer Hospice to your will.
- Donate needed items to the Lending Closet.
- 'Like' our organization Facebook page.
- 'Follow' us on LinkedIn.

Would you prefer to receive this newsletter via email?  
Contact us at [office@vhocc.org](mailto:office@vhocc.org). Thank you!



**Thank You, 2025 Esprit Gala & Conference!** We were delighted to welcome Esprit attendees to our offices in May, just before the annual week-long gathering began. Esprit events, including a talent show and auction, raised funds for another generous contribution to VHOCC. We thank Esprit for their faithful support over the years, plus an opportunity to share an entertaining evening at the talent show. Pictured from left: Sandra (Esprit), Lisa (VHOCC), Caela (Esprit), Astrid (VHOCC), Priya (VHOCC), Jan (Esprit, holding a clock for the auction), and Lynn (Esprit). See you all next year!