Hospice of the EUP Spring 2025

Legacy Society Newsletter



I am delighted to introduce the inaugural issue of the Hospice Legacy Society Newsletter. A publication dedicated to you – our cherished supporters who have made a profound commitment to ensuring compassionate end-of-life care for generations to come. Through your foresight and generosity, you are helping to build a future where individuals and families facing life's most challenging moments receive the comfort, dignity, and peace they deserve.

At Hospice of the EUP, we are privileged to witness the profound impact of legacy giving every day. Whether through bequests, charitable trusts, or other planned gifts, the generosity of our Legacy Society members, ensures that no patient is ever turned away, that families find support in their time of need, and that the compassionate care we provide remains available for years to come. Your commitment is not just a gift to Hospice of the EUP – it is a promise of hope and healing to those we serve.

This newsletter will serve as a way to celebrate the generosity of our donors, share stories of lives touched by your kindness, and provide insights into planned giving opportunities. In this issue, you will find donor stories, upcoming events, and financial planning insights. We hope these stories inspire you as much as they inspire us.

We also invite you to stay connected with us – whether by attending special gatherings, sharing your own stories, or simply reaching out to learn more about the many ways your support makes a difference. Your commitment to Hospice of the EUP's mission is deeply appreciated, and we are honored to have you as part of our Legacy Society family.

Thank you for your unwavering support and dedication to our Hospice organization. Your generosity is a gift of hope and compassion, ensuring that no one faces their journey alone.

With gratitude,

Tracey E. Holt, Executive Director

We make a living by what we get, we make a life by what we GIVE. Winston S.Churchill

Hospice of the EUP

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Four decades of commitment to Hospice Is a Sawruk family affair



Don and Nancy Sawruk

Nancy Sawruk's involvement with hospice began around 1990, first as a Madrigal Dinner volunteer, then a board member. Nancy served as producer of the Madrigal, an annual Christmas holiday fund-raiser, for 30 years. During that time she also got involved with hospice patient care. Thirty-four years later, serving Hospice of the EUP is a lifestyle.One might say that hospice is now part of Sawruk's DNA.

"Absolutely," Nancy said. "When my children were still in high school, they were encouraged to help out. Stacia was a hospice volunteer when she was here and going to LSSU. She took people grocery shopping, picked up drugs for them. We were in a glitch one day and needed a hospital bed delivered to somebody. Andre didn't want to do it, but he and a friend delivered the bed, then stayed an hour to visit with the patient. They realized, 'hey this wasn't as bad as I thought it would be.' He can shoot the gab with anyone. I kind of made them get involved, then they were fine with it. My grandniece Madeline started hospice care when she was two years old. I took her with me to lunch at a patient's house. The patient was so happy to have her there. The next week I showed up without Madeline and she was very disappointed, so I brought her again the next time. My other grandniece, Grace, got involved with hospice care. When they built the house, (my sister) Brenda got involved and she would bring the girls (Madeline and Grace). They grew up knowing that death is a part of living. (Brenda's daughter) Stacey is now on the board. Just one person volunteering can make such a huge difference."

Nancy, who combines a warm, quick wit and tireless commitment to service, has made a lasting impression on the program and hospice families. She has taken her devotion one step further by joining Hospice of the EUP's Legacy Society and leaving a portion of her estate to the organization.

"Look around at what hospice does. There's always an expense," said Nancy, noting that lasting gifts are vital to Hospice of the EUP's future.

"We have a phenomenal hospice house that will need continuous care and repairs. There are valuable employees such as our director, Tracey Holt, who's amazing, fundraising person MaryJo Duvall, aids who are there around the clock and hospice nurses. Insurance companies don't cover the cost of placement when remaining at home is no longer an option.. We rely heavily on generosity of our patrons to make sure there are always funds available."

"My Aunt Nancy is one of the most selfless people I know," said Grace, who is now a Lake Superior State University freshman. "She has dedicated many years to hospice, and I've witnessed firsthand her dropping what she was doing to go up to the house and help. She's done haircuts, cooked dinners and played music at the house for as long as I can remember. And so much more. She's truly been an inspiration to me growing up, and I hope one day to be half the woman she is."

Later, Nancy started delivering medications and visiting patients. She later became trained and provided patient care for over 20 years. These days she mainly helps at the reception desk and visits patients. A few years ago she even helped organize a patient's wedding. Continued page 3

"It just makes you feel good to know that you're helping other people when it's so difficult for the families because they are so close," Nancy said. "It's much easier for a non-family member to take care of a person who is actively dying because the emotional attachment is not there, yet you know they must be taken care of. Family members and good friends feel like a load is taken off their shoulders in the care department so they can focus on being with the patient. (Visits) also help patients who are still able to communicate to just talk. That's very important to a lot of them. They're comfortable telling a volunteer things that a family member might not be ready to hear, or that they're not ready to share."

"Nancy stands as a testament to the boundless capacity of the human heart to extend empathy, solace, and companionship to those at the cusp of their life's conclusion," Holt said. "Her presence as a hospice volunteer brings joy and a sense of assurance to patients and their families. During challenging times, you can count on Nancy to create precious moments that will forever hold a special place in the hearts of those she serves."

Nancy hopes others will consider Hospice of the EUP in their estate planning. "It's just such an easy thing to do in this day and age," she said.



A Warm Welcome

I am thrilled to welcome you to the inaugural edition of our Hospice Legacy Society Newsletter! As a valued supporter of our mission, we want to keep you connected to the heart of our work and share how your generosity is making a profound difference in the lives of patients and their families.

In this newsletter and upcoming editions, you'll find inspiring stories, updates on the impact of your donations, and a closer look at the programs and services that are possible thanks to your kindness. Your support helps us provide compassionate care during life's most challenging moments, and we are deeply grateful for your partnership.

Thank you for being a vital part of our community. Together, we are helping to bring comfort, dignity, and peace to those who need it most.

Warmly, Craig Krouth

President, Board of Directors - Hospice of the EUP



Planned Giving

Charitable Benefits

- Receive an estate tax charitable deduction
- Reduce the burden of taxes on your family
- Continue to use assets or property during your lifetime
- Leave a lasting legacy to Hospice of the EUP

Hospice of the EUP... *is about more than traditional healthcare.*

It's about hope and much more,

it's providing solutions in difficult times, when hope is in question,

it's being close in moments of fear,

it's about a friend with time to share,

it's laughter in the midst of tears,

its dignity,
it's humanity,

it's what we do!



What is Planned Giving? Planned gifts include bequests in wills or trusts, gifts of annuities, life insurance or other means. A planned gift is usually made from assets accumulated during one's lifetime that transfer at the donor's death. Although planned giving may involve financial or estate planning, it is not only for the wealthy. No gift is too small!

What are the Benefits of Giving? Giving your money to Hospice (as well as giving your volunteer time or giving goods) is one important way you can impact the quality of life in our community and be of service to your neighbors. A planned gift is a meaningful way to make an investment in the future of Hospice of the EUP. There are also significant income tax and estate tax advantages to planned giving.

Examples of Planned Gifts

Bequests: You can name Hospice of the EUP as a beneficiary in your will or trust agreement. Your bequest might be an outright gift of cash, a percentage of your estate, mutual funds, stocks, real estate or personal property. The advantage of leaving a gift to Hospice of the EUP in your estate planning documents is that it allows you to make a contribution without sacrificing your resources during your lifetime, and can reduce or eliminate taxes imposed on your estate.

Gifts of Life Insurance: Hospice of the EUP can be named as a beneficiary or owner of a life insurance policy.

Making a gift of life insurance enables you to arrange a future gift to Hospice of the EUP without financial impact during your lifetime. Charitable tax deductions may also apply to these gifts.

Gifts of Appreciated Real Estate or Securities: Gifts of appreciated real estate or securities allow the donor to avoid capital gains on the sale of the assets. A donor can transfer appreciated real estate or securities in -kind to Hospice of the EUP and Hospice can then sell the assets without having to pay taxes on the gain because it is a qualified charity.

Charitable Trusts: A trust is a special type of "holding" device for assets. Basically, you can assign a certain amount of your assets to the charitable trust. The trust "holds" them and pays out the income for those assets—interest or dividends, for example, according to your instructions. Charitable trusts enable you to make a size-able contribution to Hospice of the EUP while receiving significant tax deductions and also retaining an income stream from the Trust.

Gift Annuities: A Charitable Gift Annuity is a lifelong contract between a donor and a 501(c)3 qualified public charity. When you purchase a Charitable Gift Annuity, the organization invests the gift and pays some of it to you, and up to one beneficiary, in fixed monthly payments for the rest of your life.