

HOSPICE News

Northern
Michigan
HOSPICE OF
LITTLE TRAVERSE BAY

DEDICATED TO AFFIRMING LIFE BY PROVIDING COMPASSIONATE CARE

May 2002

FINDING COMFORT TOGETHER

A Mother's Wish

By Jan Morley, Children's Counselor
Hospice of Little Traverse Bay

Horizons have broadened for Denise Lee and Angie Jurek as a result of a mother's last wish and a kind grant from the Christ Child Society of Northern Michigan. The girls, who each lost a parent last fall, are developmentally disabled and are not frequent travelers, yet, over spring break, they traveled to Chicago (along with Angie's mom, her aunt, and me) to visit Shedd Aquarium, eat Chicago pizza and ride in taxi cabs.

"I'm going to miss this place," Denise said as we left the city.

I asked Angie, "Would you like to come back?"

"Majorly!" was the happy response.

The idea for the trip came about prior to Denise's mother's death from cancer in November. Denise and her mother had a special affinity for dolphins. Today, Denise wears a dolphin necklace and ring that her mother gave her for Christmas and her mother's dolphin earrings. She finds comfort in envisioning dolphins swimming in the sea. Denise's mom's last wish was for her daughter to be able to see a live dolphin. She learned just days before her death that the Christ Child Society of Northern Michigan had agreed to finance a trip to Shedd Aquarium for Denise and her friend Angie, whose dad had recently died in an automobile accident.

Denise and Angie were good friends from the Char-Em Community Base Program before the death of their parents, but they have become especially close since. The trip was beneficial for the girls in many ways—not least, giving them something to look forward to during a difficult time of transition and adjustment. Together they helped plan the trip, brainstormed questions for a special one-on-one session with a dolphin trainer, and moved ahead with their plans even though they were a bit anxious and apprehensive. The trip gave them a chance to practice their independence skills, gain new knowledge, and discover that interesting and happy experiences can lie on the other side of sad and difficult times.

It also gave them an opportunity to stay connected to

their deceased parents.

Angie brought along one of her dad's favorite Elvis tapes for the car ride. Denise said when she was watching the dolphins jump and swim she "felt like my mom was there with us, like she was one of the dolphins. It made me happy and sad."

If Denise's mom had been there, I think she would have smiled to see how the girls enjoyed themselves, asked questions, listened attentively, and learned. They learned from Maggie the dolphin trainer that dolphins seem to know when humans are injured or ill; they learned about protecting the environment; and they learned that the skills they use as volunteers at the Little Traverse Bay Humane Society are some of the same skills used to train dolphins.

As a special thank you—to Shedd Aquarium, which provided free VIP tickets, and to the Christ Child Society—the girls used part of their trip money to make a donation to the Aquarium, in memory of Denise's mother, Lynn Lee, and Angie's father, Eugene Jurek.



Angie Jurek and Denise Lee outside the Shedd Aquarium in Chicago.

*The Community Bereavement Program***Giving Back to Our Community**

By Tom Webb, President
Hospice of Little Traverse Bay Board of Directors

In keeping with the theme of giving back, I thought I'd share with you some information about our Community Bereavement Program. This program, made possible entirely through community donations and grants, is open to anyone in our area and free-of-charge. Our staff offer individual and family anticipatory grief and/or bereavement counseling, grief and loss support and education groups for adults, community education on grief and bereavement, workplace workshops or support groups, children's bereavement counseling and groups, annual *Handling the Holidays* seminar and community crisis intervention. All of these services are available to our community.

To support these services HOLT B currently employs two full time family counselors and a part time children's counselor. They provided supportive services to over 100 individuals in 2001. And the referrals keep coming. Thanks to our community, we have staff available to answer the call when we are needed. Through our community contributions, we can give back support for the grieving family, even if they did not experience other hospice services.

Hospice hopes to continue to expand the availability of these services as we continue to see an increase in demand. Currently our family counselors work with hospice families, bereaved families and community counseling referrals. As the need arises for further community outreach, we plan to be available to give that support back.

More information about what Hospice has done is included in this issue as our annual report to the community. We hope we emphasize enough how important **you** are to our success and ability to provide needed services. We are able to give back because you do! Thank you.

Three Year Comparison

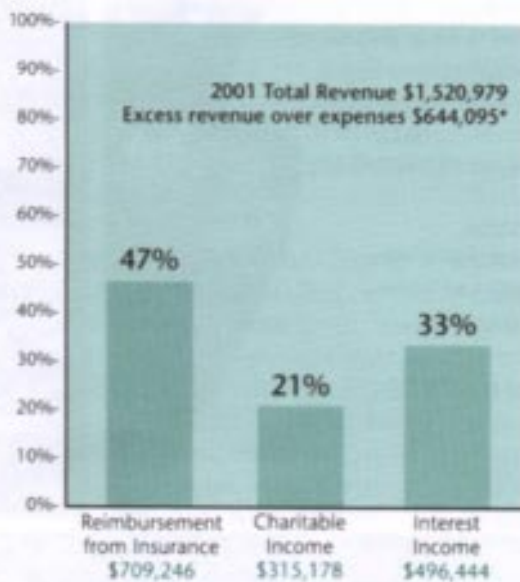
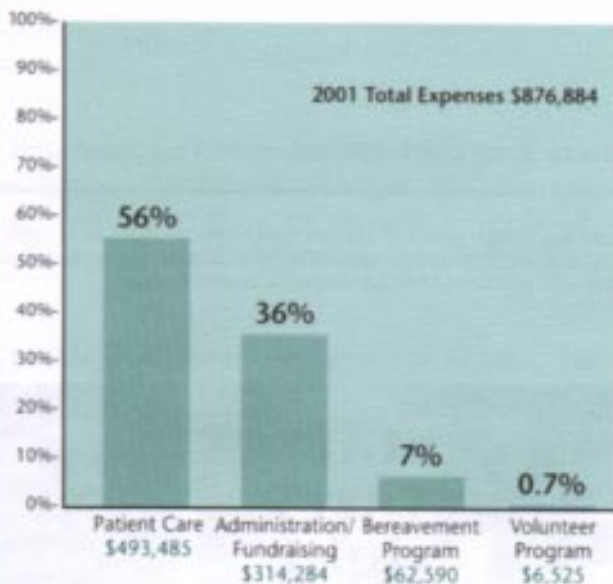
Hospice of Little Traverse Bay continues to grow and thrive to work diligently to be good stewards of the support you have provided for the services we provide.

	2001	2000
Total patients served	100	93
Males	48	51
Females	52	42
Residence		
Emmet County	80	76
Charlevoix County	16	13
Cheboygan County	4	4
Total patient days	6348	5266
Average daily census	17	14
Average length of stay	57 days	52 days
Length of stay less than 14 days	38	42
Length of stay less than 30 days	54	53
Average cost per patient day	\$138	\$131
Diagnosis		
Cancer	53%	57%
Cardiovascular	8%	12%
Respiratory	11%	7%
Neurological	12%	5%
Other	16%	19%
Location of Death		
Home	71	71
Hospital	12	4
Nursing Home	4	3
Revocation or Transfer	11	10
Volunteer Program		
Total volunteer hours	710	1309
Cost savings	\$11,396	\$11,100
Bereavement Program		
Number attending adult groups	50	50
Average monthly families in bereav.	90	90
Community bereavement referrals	37	29
Children's referrals	49	15
Children/Teen's group participation	21	12

Annual Report 1999-2001

Thanks to the support of the communities we serve. Our staff helped us. Please contact us if you have any questions about the

1999
93
45
48
74
17
3
6250
17
3 days
31
60
\$121
55%
20%
13%
12%
72
7
4
10
928
8,000
45
90
31
20
15



*\$480,988 due to changes in investment

Celebrating the American Spirit of Volunteering!

Hospice of Little Traverse Bay hosted their fourth annual volunteer recognition dinner at Stafford's Perry Hotel on May 2. This event provided the opportunity for Hospice staff to express their appreciation to the volunteers who make such a big difference in the organization. State Representative Scott Shackleton shared his thoughts on volunteering and hospice in a special tribute to the volunteers.

Since the beginning, volunteers have played a special role in the growth of our hospice, sharing their time, energy and expertise. Volunteers are absolutely vital in fulfilling the hospice mission to care for patients and families facing the end of life. From office work and fund raising to sitting with patients, our volunteers are a part of the hospice family.



You too can become a part of the hospice volunteer team. Call us today at 231-487-4825, you'll be glad you did!


**Northern
Michigan**
HOSPICE OF
LITTLE TRAVERSE BAY

416 Connable Avenue
Petoskey, Michigan 49770

Nonprofit org.
U.S. postage
PAID
Petoskey, MI
permit no. 261

This newsletter is published for Friends of Hospice of Little Traverse Bay. Please send any address corrections to: Hospice of Little Traverse Bay, 416 Connable Ave., Petoskey, Michigan, 49770-2297; 231-487-4825; Fax: 231-487-4228; Website: www.northernhealth.org
Hospice of Little Traverse Bay is affiliated with Northern Michigan Regional Health System

A Starry, Starry Night

The 20th annual benefit auction for HOLTB is underway! Led again by chairs Marsey Shuman, Barb Harbaugh and Holly Brown, this year is expected to be as elegant and fun as the Mardi Gras celebration last year! Volunteers have begun collecting contributions for the silent auction and many unique packages will be up for bid during the Live Auction. Anyone interested in working on the event should contact Lisa Ashley at 231-487-4787.

Benefit Auction Volunteer Opportunities

We're looking for help in the following areas: Raffle sales chairperson; Program distribution; Soliciting—art gallery, food, other gift in-kind; and Decorating committee.

Join the highly successful team who brings you the biggest fundraising event in Northern Michigan!

Mark your calendars to celebrate the 20th Annual Hospice of Little Traverse Bay Benefit Auction!

A Starry, Starry Night

★
Saturday, November 2
Nub's Nob

★
\$75 per person includes cocktails, a "dine around," entertainment, and the chance to take home some great items... over 400 in all!

HOSPICE OF LITTLE TRAVERSE BAY BOARD OF DIRECTORS:

Tom Webb, President; Roger Lintz, Vice President; Yvonne Collias, Treasurer; Katherine Kan, Secretary
Directors: Louise Graham, Shirley Hill, Vicki Patterson, Gretchen Olsen, Deborah Saur, Mike Nuorala, Ervin Hire, Jr., MD, Maureen Ronquist, Lori Schiller, Clinical Manager; Lisa Ashley, Program and Fund Development Manager; Paul Blanchard, MD, Medical Director