



National Hospice
Foundation

Giving Matters

A newsletter of the National Hospice Foundation

FALL 2016

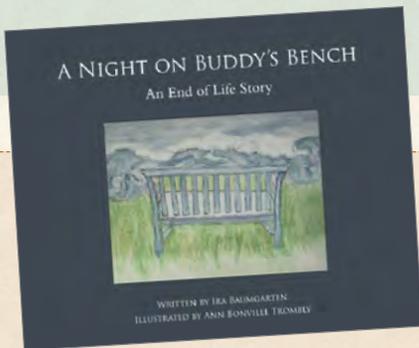
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About A Night on Buddy's Bench

In hope of resolving the unanswerable – Why did my friend die so young? What does it mean that we die? – an old man ventures out late at night to Buddy's bench, drawn by local rumors of its resident kind spirit. Unsure what he believes or where to begin, he experiences a profound realization that fills his heart with peace.

A Night on Buddy's Bench is a picture book and audio CD designed to help initiate end-of-life conversations that can comfort both the living and the dying. With its heart-felt words and beautiful watercolors, *A Night on Buddy's Bench* is perfect for sharing with family members or friends who are in hospice or dealing with loss, or for contemplative reading.

To learn more or purchase the book, go to: www.anightonbuddysbench.com



Pictured are illustrator Ann Bonville Trombly, and author Ira Baumgarten.

Book on Grief Helps Readers and Benefits NHF

A bench on a small island off the coast of Maine is the centerpiece of the book *A Night on Buddy's Bench: An End of Life Story*. In the story, the bench represents more than just a place of rest; it's a space for reflection, support, and peace. Author Ira Baumgarten wrote the book as a way to deal with the loss of three family members and he hopes that readers, who may be dealing with grief and loss, will find the content helpful.

Proceeds from the hardcover book, which includes beautiful watercolor illustrations by Ira's mother-in-law Ann Bonville Trombly and an audio book version, will be donated to the National Hospice Foundation. Ira chose NHF after doing research online about hospice. Both his mother and aunt received hospice care and as a thank you to caregivers nationwide, he chose to give on the national level.

"Hospice was so helpful to our family and inspired us to write the book and give back," says Ira.

"It's a beautiful way to give some credibility and visibility to what I want to do." He plans to use the book as an opportunity to reach out to bereavement counselors at hospice organizations to develop grief groups with facilitated discussions. "My long-term goal is to work with hospices and create a discussion guide," he says.

"Ira and his family have created a very helpful resource for people dealing with grief and loss," says NHF Vice President of Access and Philanthropy Sarah Meltzer. "We thank Ira for choosing NHF to benefit from book proceeds and for his commitment to supporting hospice care."



Betty and Carl Songayllo

Stories from Lighthouse of Hope

Cross Timbers Hospice patient Carl Songayllo wanted to take one last trip with his wife, Betty. Juanda Walker, social worker, reached out to NHF's program Lighthouse of Hope to secure funding for the couple's trip to San Antonio.

"Your organization allowed them both to spend quality time with one another before their lives revolve more and more around his illness," said Juanda. "He is so thankful."

Carl sent a personal letter of thanks to NHF:

Dear Good People,

I want to thank the people who made this trip possible for me and my wife. We really needed it. It was so good to get away for a while and try to forget what is going on even if it was just for a little while. My wife works so hard every day taking care of the place and me. If anyone deserved it, it was her. It's been so long since we have had the time to concentrate on each other.

It was a blessing from a great bunch of people. I want to thank all people involved in this including Cross Timber Hospice and especially Wanda who did the work to get this off the ground.

Again I can't thank ya'll enough.

Sincerely,

Carl Songayllo

Michael and Sharon Bryant's wish was to spend time together away from home. In the summer of 2016 the couple received news that Michael had a terminal diagnosis so time away, alone, would help ease the stress they both were feeling. Jennifer Smith, social worker at Caris Healthcare, applied for a Lighthouse of Hope grant to send the couple on a small getaway to a quaint cabin in the woods.

"During the trip the patient and his wife would sit outside on the deck drinking coffee and engaging in their life review while taking in beautiful scenery and enjoying the serene environment," says Jennifer. "This experience gave this



Michael and Sharon Bryant

couple peaceful time together that they would have not enjoyed without the National Hospice Foundation. When they returned home they felt refreshed and thankful, despite the journey they still have ahead of them."

Michael Bryant died on July 21, only a few days after he returned from the trip.

Chris Earls of Eugene, Oregon is a South Coast Hospice patient. Knowing that time is precious, Chris wanted to visit with his teenaged son Zachary who lives in Indiana. South Coast Hospice social worker Cheryl Nix applied for a Lighthouse of Hope grant to fund Zachary's trip to Oregon.

In the application, Cheryl expressed just how important this trip would be in Chris's own words: "I just want to spend time with him. It could just be watching



Chris and Zachary Earls

a movie or talking. He does still need me. I want to continue to help him be a better man in this life."

In June of 2016, Zachary traveled to Oregon to spend time with his father. This is a snapshot taken during their time together.

The NHF Lighthouse of Hope Fund offers children and adults with a life-limiting illness, such as cancer, heart failure, liver disease, end-stage renal disease and ALS the chance to take a break by allowing them to have their wishes and dreams come true. Such dreams, big or small, can help people with life-limiting illness improve the quality of their lives in ways medicine alone cannot.

To learn more, please contact Emily Van Etten at 703.647.5165 or evanetten@nhpco.org.

You Can Participate in Workplace Giving

"Few companies make giving easier than Microsoft. One of the many things I love about this company is our annual Give campaign that encourages employees to sign up to give to causes they care about. It's part of the culture to give back, and this is supported throughout the company through Give campaign events and tools that make it easy to donate or find volunteering opportunities. It's important enough that we have internal tools that make giving and requesting a company match literally as easy as clicking a button. We donate millions every year to foundations, universities, and charities to support their work.

I donate to the National Hospice Foundation because I've seen first-hand what hospice can do. My father opted for hospice when he was dying of colon cancer, and the nurse who cared for him and my mom while he was in his last days was nothing short of amazing. I learned at a young age—this was some twenty years ago—that hospice was an option, an important option, for the terminally ill. I learned that preserving quality of life as long as possible was essential for 'a good death.'"

KRISTEN KENNEDY, NHF SUPPORTER AND MICROSOFT EMPLOYEE

Kristen gives through her workplace that matches every dollar she donates.

Does your employer offer matching gifts?

Many employers have matching gift programs that can double or even triple your contribution. Make the most of your donation by requesting a matching gift form from your employer. If you send a completed and signed form with your gift, we will take care of the rest!

If you are a federal employee, you can participate in the annual CFC, which runs from September 1 through December 15. Support through the CFC will help such great programs as We Honor Veterans continue to provide programs and services focused on improving the quality of hospice care for Veterans and their families.

The CFC number to use: **NHPCO #11241**. To support Global Partners in Care's work **#11018**
Want to learn more? Contact Sarah Meltzer at smeltzer@nationalhospicefoundation.org or 703-837-3149.

It's Back to School! Help a Nurse or Social Work Student in Africa Today.

NHF is helping Global Partners in Care fulfill a special challenge to give more nurses and social workers in Africa the opportunity to provide quality hospice and palliative care for patients and their families. There's still time to participate in our scholarship challenge!

Global Partners in Care, in partnership with the African Palliative Care Association, started the scholarship program to further the knowledge and skill of African nurses and social workers in the provision of palliative care. Since the scholarship's start in 2011, 33 clinicians (nurses and social workers) from Kenya, Tanzania, Nigeria, South Africa, Malawi and Cameroon have benefited through formal training and/or attending conferences.

Pioneer, leader and compassionate friend to Global Partners in Care, Becky McDonald, left a legacy gift that will provide a 1:1 match up to \$15,000 until September 30. Becky's gift and yours will inspire others to give and help double the impact of your gift and this work!

Make your gift today by visiting globalpartnersincare.org/becky.

NATIONAL HOSPICE FOUNDATION SCHOLARSHIP CHALLENGE

TAKE THE CHALLENGE TODAY!

"The scholarship has provided a platform for me to achieve a major part of my dream which is to acquire a solid foundation in palliative care."

HABOREBE OLOFADE, SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENT



National Hospice Foundation

Committed to compassionate care at the end of life

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Learn more about NHF at

www.nationalhospicefoundation.org



National Hospice Foundation

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