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Alex enjoyed the day at Wilderness of the Smokies with his family.

The Most Important Things

Hospice patient gets a chance to swim one more time

When ten year-old Alex Cain's Caris Healthcare clinical team asked him what was important in his life, he told them he loved to swim and go to water parks. Realizing that time was precious, Jennifer Smith, Alex's social worker, immediately sprang to action and applied for a National Hospice Foundation Lighthouse of Hope Fund grant. In January, Alex and his family traveled to Wilderness of the Smokies, an indoor water park in Tennessee, for a weekend of fun in the water.

Alex was diagnosed with hepatopulmonary syndrome and cirrhosis of the liver. He is on continuous oxygen as his disease makes it extremely difficult to breathe. He's home-schooled now and misses attending school and getting out of the house. The trip to the water park was a dream come true – an opportunity for Alex to feel normal again and forget about being a hospice patient, even for a little while.



The smile on Alex's face says it all.

The clinical team did not accompany Alex to the water park but Jennifer did go ahead of time to make all the necessary arrangements. Although he was only able to remove his oxygen for a brief time and took several rest breaks, Alex and his family enjoyed the day and didn't want to leave!

"They had a great time," Jennifer says. "They were thankful for the experience as they would not be able to afford the trip themselves. They were grateful for the family time."

Caris Healthcare, a multi-state hospice provider, has a program called 'The Three Most Important Things'. It is based on the question, "What are the three most important things we need to know about you to provide excellent care?" It was through this program that Alex's desire to swim again came to light.

"It is always humbling to see a wish come true for one of our patients," Jennifer says. "It was a gift to our staff to see Alex's huge smile in the pictures at the water park. Alex's parents have been under a tremendous amount of stress so to be able to give them the gift of getting away with their family for the weekend was also a gift to our staff."



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 Sarah Meltzer at 703-837-3149 or smeltzer@nationalhospicefoundation.org

LETTER OF GRATITUDE

Before we dive into 2016, I want to take a moment and celebrate all the wonderful accomplishments you helped the National Hospice Foundation make real in 2015.

Thank you, caring donors who gave to the Lighthouse of Hope Fund to support once-in-a-lifetime experiences for 17 hospice patients.

Thank you, spirited donors who attended our Gala and recognized the importance of expanding access to hospice care to those from diverse cultures by raising \$23,000 for NHPCO's Diversity Initiative.

Thank you, compassionate donors who understand the importance of clinical education around the globe who helped us realize (and surpass) a gift challenge, raising over \$23,000 for the Global Partners in Care Scholarship fund for African nurses and social workers.

Thank you, passionate fundraisers who utilized our Become a Fundraiser program, NHF's innovative fundraising platform, and turned their event into fundraising successes including an organized Horse Ride, a Road Race, and a Golf Event.

Thank you for honoring and supporting hospice care to Veterans, children, and patients around the globe by awarding the ASAE Power of A Awards to Global Partners in Care (Gold Award) and We Honor Veterans (Summit Award).

The National Hospice Foundation accomplished a many great things in 2015 with your help. As we turn the page to focus on new moments in 2016, know that we could not have made any of it happen without you.

Thank you.

Sarah Meltzer

SARAH MELTZER
VICE PRESIDENT, PHILANTHROPY, NATIONAL HOSPICE FOUNDATION

In 2015, NHF raised funds for Global Partners in Care, We Honor Veterans, and Lighthouse of Hope.



NHF Gala To Raise Funds for Moments of Life: Made Possible by Hospice



The theme for the National Hospice Foundation Gala being held on Friday, April 22, 2016, is “Moments of Life” and a portion of the funds raised that evening will benefit NHPCO’s public awareness campaign launched in 2014. Although the campaign has been extremely successful, there are many people still struggling with end-of-life issues who don’t know they can access hospice care.

This campaign captures vivid and powerful ‘moments’ that showcase what people receiving hospice care genuinely experience. The videos, blogs, and photos that live on the Moments of Life website tell the real story of hospice – that choosing hospice is not giving up.

The campaign is even expanding its content to include palliative care. Added in 2015, “Deadra’s Story” follows a young woman with Lupus and highlights the benefits of palliative care. Deadra gained another year and a half with her family because of palliative care and hospice.

The campaign’s messages have been shared with tens of millions of people. There’s still more work to be done and more people to reach! Guests at the NHF Gala will have an opportunity to donate to the campaign through a live appeal. The funds raised will help Moments of Life continue its mission to educate the public about hospice and palliative care.

Guests will also enjoy a silent and live auction, entertainment and dancing. Opportunities are still available to participate. More details about the NHF Gala can be found on the back of this newsletter.

How you can help!

Visit MomentsOfLife.org/donate to make a secure, online donation.

If you would like to share your hospice story with the world, visit MomentsOfLife.org/shareyourstory or email communications@nhpco.org.



Spreading Hospice Awareness to Underserved Populations

NHPCO diversity initiative addresses underutilization of hospice care in diverse communities

An exciting new partnership between NHPCO and Morgan State University is helping further NHPCO’s strategic goal to expand hospice and palliative care access to underserved populations including African American, Latino, and other diverse communities. Initially, NHPCO and MSU will collaborate on offering non-credit courses focused on educating caregivers in diverse populations throughout the Baltimore metropolitan area, the state of Maryland, and neighboring communities, to make informed decisions about end-of-life care.

Four two-hour courses will be offered twice during the calendar year beginning in March 2016 and will include facilitated discussions led by hospice and palliative care experts. Course topics include: What is Hospice and Palliative Care; How to Plan and Communicate your Future Health Care Wishes; Loss, Grief and Bereavement; and Spirituality and Hope at the End of Life.

“We will start this important work with Morgan State University, but the overall plan is to equip local hospices around the country with a model for working with HBCUs in their areas to

address this disparity of care,” says President and CEO J. Donald Schumacher. “The new partnership with Morgan State University will allow us to reach African American families in new and different ways.”

To further support the work of hospice providers, in addition to the MSU collaborative, in 2015, NHPCO created the Diversity Advisory Council – a group of hospice and healthcare professionals and experts working together to increase access to hospice and palliative care. In addition, NHPCO has several outreach guides available online, free of charge. The guides outline key principles and insights to help hospices better serve this diverse community.

NHF supports the work of NHPCO’s diversity initiative.

To learn how you can help please contact Sarah Meltzer at 703-837-3149 or smeltzer@nationalhospicefoundation.org.



National Hospice Foundation

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Learn more about NHF at

www.nationalhospicefoundation.org

2016

NATIONAL HOSPICE FOUNDATION GALA

In conjunction with NHPCO's 31st Management and Leadership Conference

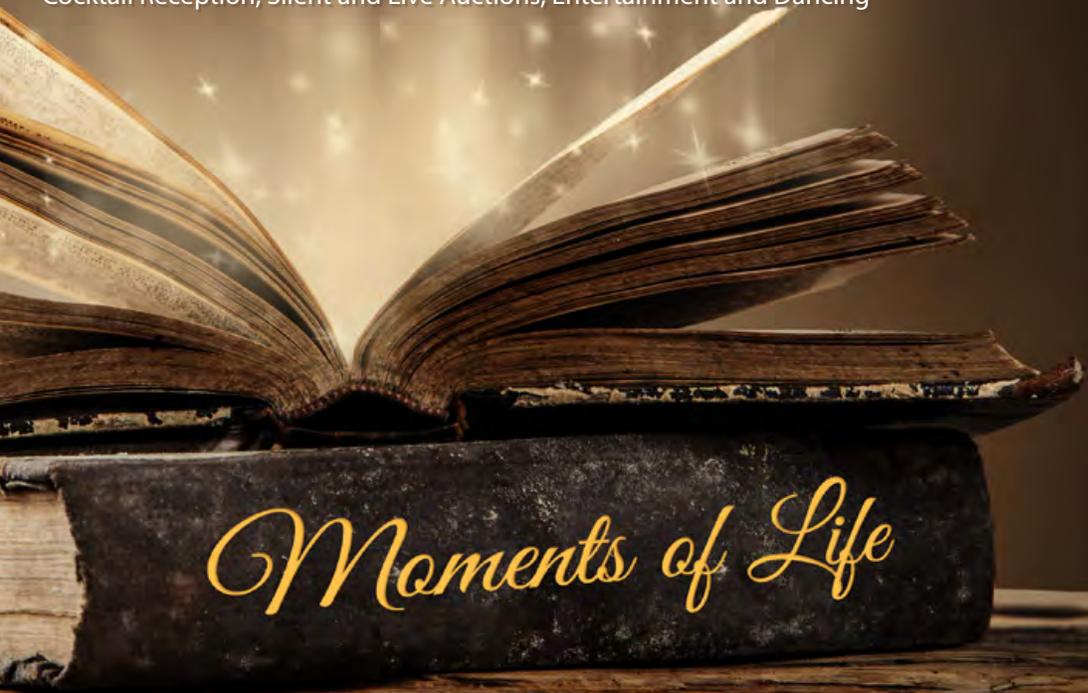


National Hospice Foundation

FRIDAY, APRIL 22, 2016

Gaylord National Resort & Convention Center National Harbor, Maryland

Cocktail Reception, Silent and Live Auctions, Entertainment and Dancing



Moments of Life

HELP US SHARE THE STORIES

of hospice.

This black tie evening will feature stories of hope. Of love. Of joy. Of living life to the fullest.

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*as of February 10, 2016
For a full sponsor listing, please go to our website.

www.nationalhospicefoundation.org

Learn more about how to purchase tickets, become a sponsor or donate an auction item by contacting Joy Nguyen at (703) 647-5167 or jnguyen@nationalhospicefoundation.org.