Lap blankets donated by local community comfort patient

Virginia Hirsch is 91 and “cold all the time,” she says. But under soft, fuzzy and beautiful lap blankets donated by the community, Hirsch is now always warm and cozy — and feeling very loved.

When Coastal Hospice put out a call for lap blankets for our patients, our friends and neighbors on the Shore responded with overwhelming kindness. Clubs lovingly knitted and crocheted blankets in beautiful colors and textures. Children hand-knotted fleece blankets together in cheery patterns. Talented seamstresses sewed and edged with skill, and quilters pieced together intricate designs. Others went out of their way to purchase generous supplies and deliver them to us.

And patients like Hirsch benefited, not only from the warmth of the blankets, but also from the warmth of the community’s love.

Hirsch was excited that the magenta fleece blanket and colorful crocheted throw she was given by Coastal Hospice matched her dog Daisy’s plaid coat — and her own pink fingernail polish.

Hirsch lives with her daughter, Joan Spine, in West Ocean City in a cozy home on a canal. She has been in the care of Coastal Hospice since the summer of 2014. Her family surrounds her with love and tries to meet her every need, but that can be hard, her daughter says.

Spine says being a full-time caregiver can be rewarding, but can also feel overwhelming. She depends on Coastal Hospice for help.

Hospice aides come often to bathe her mother and change her bed linens. Nurses recommend medications to make Hirsch as comfortable and pain-free as possible and have them delivered right to the door. Oxygen arranged by hospice keeps her breathing with ease. Hirsch enjoys the attention and visits hospice provides, and looks forward to them.

“The nurses are as kind as they can be,” Spine says. “They keep an eye on her and her medications, and really give me a break.

“They are so conscientious,” Spine continued. “The (hospice) girls are as sweet as can be, and don’t lose patience with my mother. They really try to do everything she wants. She loves them.”

“’The blanket is gorgeous. I didn’t know I was so well loved.’

~ Virginia Hirsch

Your chance to donate to our hospice residence is now

Drivers in the area can now get updates on the campaign to build Coastal Hospice at the Ocean. Thermometer signs, announcing fund-raising progress and inviting donations, are going up along well-traveled roadways across Worcester and Wicomico counties.

As the thermometers show, gifts and commitments to the project so far exceed $3 million. The campaign goal to build Coastal Hospice at the Ocean is $5 million. We will update the signs to keep you informed of the progress towards our goal during the months ahead.

The campaign committee, a team of dedicated volunteers led by Coastal Hospice Board members Macky Stansell and Dirk Widdowson, has been meeting privately with individuals, corporations and foundations in the region to secure support for this important facility.

Coastal Hospice at the Ocean is a hospice residence and outreach center that will serve the region in three vital ways. It will be a home for hospice patients, who live alone or with an equally frail spouse and can no longer manage day-to-day.

There will be a center for community-based palliative care: support, for those battling serious illness, in managing the physical, emotional and spiritual pain it often brings. In addition, there will be room for individual and group grief counseling.

Coastal Hospice at the Ocean will meet all of these needs. But at its heart, this will be a home. Each patient room will be outfitted to respond to

Continued on Page 2
Q: How does Coastal Hospice care for children with serious illnesses?

A: Coastal Kids Supportive Care, our pediatric program, is tailored to the needs of these young patients and their families.

While Coastal Hospice patients, as a rule, discontinue aggressive treatment when they opt for hospice care, pediatric patients and their parents are no longer required to make that choice. The child and family can continue to pursue a cure even as they accept supportive care. It would be hard to overstate the importance of this difference, initiated as part of the Affordable Care Act. According to one study, published in the Journal of Clinical Oncology, children with advanced cancer or other serious illnesses experience high physical and psychological distress throughout the course of their illness and especially at the end of life. Intense cancer treatments and disease progression can make the symptoms even worse.

During the last 12 weeks of life, prevalence of symptoms and levels of high distress can increase dramatically. Very often, the treatment intended to prolong the child’s life creates barriers to non-clinicians, making it harder for parents and children alike. Coastal Kids Supportive Care helps remove those barriers and, as the name suggests, assists the patient and family as they work toward their goal—improved quality of life.

Like all of hospice care, Coastal Kids Supportive Care is a palliative care program. Palliative care is a holistic, team approach that becomes an extra layer of support to the child and the family. Coastal Hospice’s palliative care doctors, nurses, social workers and counselors partner with the child’s primary care team to offer choices and focus on what matters most to the family.

Coastal Kids Supportive Care offers specialized medical attention for children with serious illness, providing comprehensive treatment for the relief of discomfort, symptoms and stress. The Coastal Kids team coordinates medications and even medical appointments. The goal of care is to improve the quality of life for both the child and the family.

For one family’s story, visit CoastalHospice.org, where you’ll find an interview with the mother of a former patient.

Coastal Hospice receives SU’s President’s Distinguished Community Leadership Award

Coastal Hospice is proud to be the 2015 recipient of Salisbury University’s Community Leadership Award, received during SU’s 89th year Spring Commencement on May 21.

Coastal Hospice board member Stephen Farrow nominated Coastal Hospice for the award, writing: “Coastal Hospice not only cares for community members at their most vulnerable, at the end of life, but also provides counsel and support to the family members and loved ones who grieve for them.

“It is the reputation for excellence and integrity, and for leading the way in providing for quality of life at its end that … qualifies Coastal Hospice and Palliative Care as a distinguished community leader,” Farrow said.

The award is presented each year to an organization and an individual. Retired educator and community leader Anthony “Tony” Sarbanes was also honored.

Faith Lauer achieves ICD-10 coding certification

Coastal Hospice’s Clinical Documentation Professional, Faith Lauer, has completed the 6-month certificate program for ICD-10 Coding offered by the Community College of the District of Columbia. ICD-10 is the 10th revision of the medical classification list by the World Health Organization. It contains more than 64,000 codes for diseases, complaints, social circumstances, injury causes, etc. and permits the tracking of many new diagnoses.

“For us to bill for patient’s care, we must assign the correct diagnoses codes for the primary terminal diagnosis and all related illnesses or conditions,” Lauer says. “This creates a picture of the patient for insurance companies, including Medicare and Medical Assistance. These codes also impact what medications hospice is responsible for paying for. If we don’t assign the correct codes or not all the codes needed, it can affect our reimbursement. It can also change what medications we would be responsible for paying for.”
Together, we can build a hospice residence on the Shore

We're almost there

Coastal Hospice
At the Ocean

Together, we have the chance to provide a home for the most vulnerable hospice patients in our community.

Many of those in the care of Coastal Hospice become unable to manage alone or need more help than a frail spouse can provide. Together, we can help.

Together, we can build Coastal Hospice at the Ocean, a hospice residence and outreach center.

Here patients will receive medical, spiritual and emotional support. They will be safe. They will feel at home.

Together, we can make this happen. Your tax-deductible investment in Coastal Hospice at the Ocean will help those most in need in our community.

For more information, call 410-641-5481
or go to CoastalHospice.org/Ocean

I WANT TO HELP

Please accept my tax-deductible donation to help build Coastal Hospice at the Ocean.

☐ $25  ☐ $50  ☐ $100  ☐ $1,000  ☐ __________

Name __________________________
Address __________________________
Phone __________________________
E-mail __________________________

Make check to: Coastal Hospice at the Ocean
Mail to: PO Box 1733, Salisbury, MD 21802

Or donate on-line by credit card at:
CoastalHospice.org/Ocean
All donations are tax deductible. Thank you.
COASTAL HOSPICE UPCOMING EVENTS

**Kicks For Kids**

*Saturday, July 11, 11 - 4 p.m.*

SSSC Sports Complex

**Benefiting Coastal Kids Supportive Care,**
*a program of Coastal Hospice*

Prizes for winning team and best team T-shirt. Activities for the whole family! Food trucks and lemonade stand. SSSC Sports Complex, 2316 Goddard Pkwy., Salisbury.

$300 per team of 10-12 players. Register on-line at: [coastalhospice.thankyou4caring.org/kicks-for-kids](http://coastalhospice.thankyou4caring.org/kicks-for-kids) or call Maureen McNeill at 410-742-8732

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**Taste of Finer Things raises $20,000 for Coastal Hospice at the Ocean**

Versakats performance will benefit Coastal Hospice at the Ocean

Friday & Saturday, June 19 & 20, 6 p.m.
at Carousel Hotel, Ocean City

Musical comedy dinner show and buffet

$40 per person

Make check payable to “Versakats Inc.” & mail to: 12808 Harbor Road, Ocean City, MD 21842 or call Pat Schrawder of the Versakats at 410-726-1234

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**Hats for Hospice raises $17,500 for hospice charity care**

The Hats for Hospice Committee for 2015 with co-chairs Alan Merritt-Hyle and Nancy Hall and honoree Diana Barber.

**Left to right:**

Alane Capen, Glenna Heckathorn, Donna Farrow, Harry Heckathorn & Steve Farrow

Buck Mann & Nancy Howard

Maryland Senator Adelaide Eckardt and Coastal Hospice president Alane Capen

The hat auction with auctioneers Bradley Gillis and Lana Foley

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**COASTAL HOSPICE FUNDRAISERS**
I cannot thank you enough for all the help you have done for my family, my son and husband, and thank you for taking care of me. I cannot praise you enough, but my Lord is first in praise. May God continue to bless you all.

I am doing wonderful — walking around enjoying my life. I have learned to want to live and not give up as best as I can. I had to stop driving, but I can handle that, too. I need to say thank you from me.

EZ

Dear Hospice Friends:

We would like to express our sincere and deepest appreciation and gratitude for everything Hospice did for us through our mother’s illness and passing.

The nursing skills and compassion of Ruth Walker and Mark (Platek), the night nurse, far exceeded any expectations. They were absolutely phenomenal!

The young lady who faithfully attended to mother’s personal hygiene was so loving and gracious to mother that mother would smile.

The spiritual support of Sharon Hutchison provided much needed comfort and encouragement as we watched mother slip away. Upon arrival at the Lake, we quickly realized the continuing of that same care and compassion we had at home. The assistance of hospice allowed us to keep our promise to mother that we would keep her in her home.

SM, JJ
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Mr. & Mrs. Kirby Wells
Mr. & Mrs. Philip L. Wells
Mary Wheatley & Family
Mr. & Mrs. Philip P. Wheatley

Ollie Wheatley, Mr. & Mrs. James W. Higgins, II
St. Luke’s Church

William R. Wheatley, Mr. & Mrs. Edgar A. Lanford
Mrs. Betty Lowe
Mrs. Charlotte Wheatley

Dewitt White, Richard Wilson

Michael White, Mr. & Mrs. Darryl L. Baker
Ms. Patricia A. Boudoin
Mr. & Mrs. Robert V. Brown
Mr. & Mrs. Bill Eihrick
Mr. & Mrs. James R. Fields
Mr. & Mrs. Vernon Pendeford
Mr. Alan D. Smith
Mrs. Donald V. White

O. Whitehead
Wicomico County Bar Association, Inc.

Mrs. Richard Widman
Mrs. Elizabeth C. Wootten

Andrew E. Whitehouse, Mr. & Mrs. Stephen A. Whitehouse
Dr. & Mrs. Joseph H. Whitehouse

Charles T. Whitehouse, Mrs. Kathleen B. Bloodsworth
Mr. & Mrs. Marion C. C. Delaney
Catherine S. Harman
Mr. & Mrs. Tom Hopkins
Mrs. Hilda H. Hudson & Family
Manokin Lodge 106, A. F. & A. M.
Mr. & Mrs. Clifford Martin
Douglas & Nancy Reading
Reading Farms
Mrs. Sarah H. Renshaw
Mr. & Mrs. Edward L. Stephens
Mrs. Pauline Walston
Mr. & Mrs. Donald V. White
Frances Whitehouch

Caroline Wickham, Mr. & Mrs. William E. Hall, Jr.

Arline Wiley, Mr. & Mrs. Tom Hopkins
Mrs. Hilda H. Hudson & Family
Manokin Lodge 106, A. F. & A. M.
Mr. & Mrs. Clifford Martin
Douglas & Nancy Reading
Reading Farms
Mrs. Sarah H. Renshaw
Mr. & Mrs. Edward L. Stephens
Mrs. Pauline Walston
Mr. & Mrs. Donald V. White
Frances Whitehouch

Samuel L. Wright, Mr. & Mrs. Tom Hopkins
Mrs. Hilda H. Hudson & Family
Manokin Lodge 106, A. F. & A. M.
Mr. & Mrs. Clifford Martin
Douglas & Nancy Reading
Reading Farms
Mrs. Sarah H. Renshaw
Mr. & Mrs. Edward L. Stephens
Mrs. Pauline Walston
Mr. & Mrs. Donald V. White
Frances Whitehouch

Lola Zaffirri, Mrs. Sharon Curtis
Mr. Robert W. Freeman
Mr. & Mrs. Harry T. Ford, Sr.
Ms. Linda A. Martin

GIFTS TO THE CAMPAIGN TO BUILD COASTAL HOSPICE AT THE OCEAN

American Legion Post #123
Bank of Ocean City
Mr. & Mrs. Ralph Capen
The Hershey Family
Delmarva Irish American Club
Mr. & Mrs. Steve Farrar
Ms. Tamara Fitchett
Mr. & Mrs. Frank Gunion
Mr. & Mrs. Frank A. Gunther
Ms. Judy W. Hunt-Harris
Hunt-Harris Foundation, Inc.
Rev. Sharon Hutchinson
Mr. & Mrs. James E. Jackson
Mr. & Mrs. Robert Purcell
Taylor Bank

The George Vinall Foundation

BUSINESS
Allstate Giving Campaign
Home Depot Charitable Foundation
Fitville Elementary-Middle-School Physical Ed Matching Gifts Trust
Wells Fargo Community Support
YourCause, LLC

CHURCH
Presbyterian Women of Wicomico
Spedend United Methodist Church
Wicomico River Friends Meeting

CLUB
American Legion Post #64
American Legion Sympathetic Post #166
Fraternal Order of Eagles Aerie #4503
Ladies Auxiliary
Harry F. McNeill, Berlin
Polish-American Social Club
Talbot Dance Club

FOUNDATION
Community Foundation of the Wicomico Region, Inc.
Mason Family Endowment Fund
Merck Foundation
The John B. Parsons Foundation

INDIVIDUAL
Charlene A. Abel
Joseph M. Baker
Shannon W. Baum
Michelle Bernstein
Lola M. Bradford
Frances R. Butler
Gary Costello
Jonathan Dempster
Charles V. Farnen
Frank Fields
Joseph K. Foster
Lindsay E. McCauley
Harry F. McNeill
Shawb Charitable Fund
Gina Shaffer
Earl T. Stevens
Jessica S. Smith
Janice P. Steele
Margaret E. White

INDIVIDUAL GIFTS

Rosalie A. Bright
Mr. & Mrs. Raymond Shockley
Milton B. Comley
Mr. & Mrs. Raymond Shockley
Ann C. Cristman
Mrs. Irene M. Raber
Hazel Schultz
Mr. Fred Schultz
Henry L. Vineyard
Anonymous
UPCOMING BEREAVEMENT SUPPORT ACTIVITIES

**Dorchester County**
**Dinner Social Group** – Kay’s at the Airport, Cambridge
First Mondays at 5 p.m.
RSVP ~ Doug Albert 410-228-7171

**Support Group** – Dorchester County Library, 303 Gay St., Cambridge
First and third Tuesdays at 6 p.m.
Information ~ Rev. Emanuel Johnson 410-829-0051

**Wicomico County**
**Lunch Social Group** – all at 1 p.m.
June 10 - The Cellar Door, 111 Camden St., Salisbury
June 24 - Lucky Star, 208 N. Fruitland Blvd., Fruitland
July 8 - Brew River, 502 W. Main St., Salisbury
July 22 - Ruby Tuesday, 413 N. Fruitland Blvd., Fruitland
August 12 - Bob Evans, Rt. 13 & Naylor Mill Rd., Salisbury
August 26 - Cellar Door, 111 Camden St., Salisbury
RSVP ~ Lynette Chase 410-901-2292

**Support Group** – Community of Joy Church, 302 South Blvd., Salisbury
Second and fourth Tuesdays at 1 p.m.
Information ~ Rev. Sharon Hutchison 443-614-3742

**Somerset County**
**Lunch Social Group** – Peaky’s, 30361 Mt. Vernon Rd.,
Princess Anne
First Tuesdays at 12 p.m.
RSVP ~ Rev. Elmer Davis 410-726-2583

**Worcester County**
**Lunch Social Group** – all at 1 p.m.
June 18 - Touch of Italy, Ocean City
July 16 - Sunset Grille, West Ocean City
August 20 - Lighthouse Sound, Bishopville
RSVP ~ Bob Carson 410-957-1133

**Support Group** – Ocean Pines Library, Ocean Pines,
Every Thursday at 11 am.
Information ~ Rev. Bob Miller 410-251-8163

These groups provide a time of respite and a safe place to express feelings in the grieving process. We offer these activities at no cost to any adult who has experienced the death of a loved one, even if they were not a patient of Coastal Hospice. For information, call 410-742-8732.