



# Penn Home Care & Hospice Services

All your home care services  
under one roof

Wissahickon Hospice ❖ Penn Care at Home ❖ Penn Home Infusion Therapy

## POPCORN DAY AT THE PHILLIES BREAKS RECORD



Pitcher Aaron Fultz signs autographs during Popcorn Day at the Phillies.

This year's Popcorn Day at the Phillies raised a record \$66,000 for the David Bradley Children's Bereavement Program. Over 450 people of all ages attended this spectacular event, cheering on the Philadelphia Phillies as they beat

the Boston Red Sox.

"I can't get over the generosity of all our wonderful sponsors," exclaimed Andrea McLean, Popcorn Day event manager. "Their support makes it possible for Wissahickon Hospice to focus on children who are grieving. Children react and respond differently than adults, so it's important to have someone specially trained in working with children during a family member's illness and following their death. That's what this program is all about."

"I attribute much of this year's success to a great committee of volunteers including **(continued on page 2)**

## HOSPICE VOLUNTEERS RECOGNIZED FOR SERVICE

Hospice volunteers touch hearts and change lives by providing companionship to a person in the final months and weeks of life, offering support to family members and caregivers. They read or talk with a patient, stay with a patient while a caregiver takes a break, shop or run errands for a patient, call or visit bereaved families.

On Saturday, April 29<sup>th</sup> Wissahickon Hospice recognized and thanked their volunteers, providing lunch, gifts and door prizes. Several individuals were also recognized for their years of service and number of hours devoted to hospice (the complete list of those receiving special recognition is on page 3).

As a special treat, Peggy Jacobs, RN,

Home Care Coordinator for Penn Home Care and Hospice Services, demonstrated Jin Shin Jyutsu, the ancient art of releasing tensions by creating harmony and balance with one's energy flow.



Thelma Fletcher (right) and Phyllis Thomas practice a technique of Jin Shin Jyutsu, harmonizing attitudes by applying pressure to one's fingers.



**THANK YOU TO OUR  
"POPCORN DAY AT THE  
PHILLIES" SPONSORS**

**ALL STARS**  
The Family of David Bradley  
Drew & Marilyn Lewis

**PODS**

**MAJOR LEAGUE PLAYERS**  
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Canada Dry Delaware Valley  
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Emily Clemens  
Comcast Spectacor  
Dan Goldberg Consulting, L.L.C.  
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## WISSAHICKON HOSPICE WELCOMES TWO NEW PHYSICIANS TO ITS TEAM



Joseph Straton, MD, MSCE, (left) and David Casarett, MD, MA, join Wissahickon Hospice's team of Medical Directors.

On July 1, Wissahickon Hospice added two new physician leaders to its team. Joseph Straton, MD, MSCE was appointed Chief Medical Director and David Casarett, MD, MA was appointed Director of Research and Education Programs.

Drs. Straton and Casarett join Wissahickon Hospice's current Medical Directors, Russell Breish, MD and Carl Sharer, DO. Drs. Breish and Sharer will continue to oversee the hospice patient care teams and patients' plans of care.

Dr. Straton is an Assistant Professor of Family Medicine and Community Health at the University of Pennsylvania and Co-Director of the Symptom Management and Palliative Care (SYM-PAC) program at the Hospital of the University of Pennsylvania (HUP). Dr.

### POPCORN DAY (continued)

Doris and David Plager, Renee Mangano, Maryanna Phinn, Nancy O'Malley, and Jill Littman. Their efforts really made a difference."

Special guest appearances by the Phillie Phanatic and Phillies' pitcher Aaron Fultz were the highlights of the day. Activities included face painting, caricature drawing and button making. The day's entertainment included the band Spider and his Webs, Bumper T clowns and KL Chan, magician. Over 50 prizes were donated for a special raffle.

Straton is board certified in Family Medicine and in Hospice and Palliative Medicine. In his role as Chief Medical Director, Dr. Straton will focus on quality improvement and outreach initiatives, hospice-related education within the medical community, and will serve as a key liaison between our hospice team and physicians throughout the health system and the region.

Dr. Casarett is Assistant Professor in the Division of Geriatric Medicine at the University of Pennsylvania. He is also a staff physician at the Philadelphia Veterans Administration Medical Center (VAMC), where he directs the palliative care consultation service and is on the faculty of the Center for Health Equity Research and Promotion. Dr. Casarett is board certified in Internal Medicine and Palliative Medicine, and is a Fellow of the American Academy of Hospice and Palliative Medicine.

Dr. Casarett joins the team to focus on research projects in palliative care and to serve as a critical link between Wissahickon Hospice and the University of Pennsylvania. He will also support education and outreach.

"We are very excited to be adding Dr. Casarett and Dr. Straton to our hospice team" stated Joan Doyle, Executive Director. "Both have unique qualities and strong backgrounds in palliative

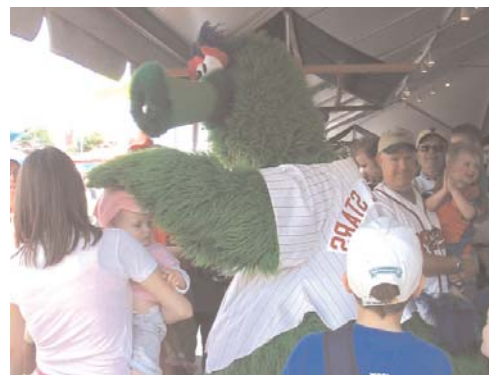
care, enhancing our ability to provide the best end-of-life care to our patients. We're already seeing the benefits of having them on board. Dr. Casarett is working with the University of Pennsylvania to develop partnerships for grants and research projects. Most recently, he assisted in a grant proposal with the Senior Law Center to provide legal help to hospice patients."

"Dr. Straton has begun working with the health system's administrators and hospital directors to better identify hospital patients who would benefit from hospice and palliative care. He is also developing strategies for how best to support those patients in our health system hospitals at end-of-life."

Ms. Doyle added, "Although compassionate, medically superior care is the key component in hospice care, successful hospice care does not begin when hospice enters the patient's home. For patients and their families to receive the full medical, emotional and spiritual benefit of hospice, it is imperative that the medical community identifies patients and educates them about hospice benefits when their condition becomes hospice-appropriate. It is my hope that these outreach and educational initiatives coordinated by Drs. Straton and Casarett will help physicians recognize hospice's role in the continuum of care."

All children 14 and under received a Phillies backpack containing a Phillies plastic batting helmet, magnet, Phanatic video, Frisbees and much more. To remember the occasion, Cherry Hill Photo took pictures of each party.

As part of the pre-event activities, Popcorn was sold at Penn Medicine at Radnor, Pennsylvania Hospital, Presbyterian Medical Center, the Joan Karnell Cancer Center, the Hospital of the University of Pennsylvania, and Penn Towers.



The Phillie Phanatic is always a favorite among the guests at Popcorn Day.

## USING TECHNOLOGY TO KEEP IN TOUCH WITH PATIENTS



Sandy Pierce, RN, calls a patient using the telehealth equipment.

As part of a research study with the University of Pennsylvania's School of Nursing, Penn Care at Home is using telehealth technology as an extension of care for patients needing extra support. This remote patient monitoring technology enables the agency's nurses to provide better continuity of care at a high level.

The program is very comprehensive. Patients check in daily to register certain vital signs and other medical information such as blood pressure, weight, blood sugar, and medication logs. One of Penn Care at Home's skilled nurses reviews the patient's information and schedules regular phone calls with the patient to discuss his or her plan of care.

But the phone used is not just any phone. This phone contains a telemonitor and camera, allowing the patient and nurse to actually see one another. By visually seeing the patient, the nurse can better assess the patient's condition and thus better support and advise the patient in his or her treatment.

Lisa Stanley, RN, Director of Penn Care at Home, stated, "Telehealth provides our nurses with the opportunity to check on patients in between visits, especially those who live alone. Sometimes that reassuring call from a nurse is enough to help them get through to the next visit."

"This program is critical, too, when a patient with chronic conditions is on multiple medications or when their medications change. We can more closely monitor the patient to make sure that medications are taken correctly."

Elizabeth Stine, RN, nurse manager of the program, added, "Telehealth is an intrinsic piece within the future of health care in the 21st century. Initial results show that providing this extra support to patients improves their chances of remaining home, where they want to be, rather than being readmitted to the hospital."

"I really wish we could expand this program to all of our patients," stated Sandy Pierce, RN, one of the nurses following patients on telehealth. "Patients who are receiving this service are much more compliant with following their physician's orders."

In addition to keeping people out of the hospital, some long term studies are underway to look at the impact of telehealth in improving job satisfaction with nurses working in home care. Given the current nursing shortage in this region, telehealth could become a crucial component to nurse retention.

## 2006 VOLUNTEER AWARD WINNERS

### Years of Service

#### 5 Years

Beatrice Burkett

Vivian Carson

Timothy Daily

Kymerli Denk

Beth Donnelly

Pamela Gainey

Kathleen Kilkenny

Valerie McGruder-Cortes

Nancy Ritchie

Cheryl Sterley

#### 10 Years

Joseph Borrelli

Pam Smith

#### 20 Years

Sister Miriam Fidelis

### Hours of Service

#### 100 Hours or More

Donna Belt

Timothy Daily

Pam Smith

Mary Vandenberg

#### 200 Hours or More

Barbara Arnold

#### 300 Hours or More

Ruth Braun

## RECENT GRANTS AWARDED

### For the Needy Patient Fund

The Scholler Foundation \$10,000

E. Rhodes & Leona B. Carpenter Foundation \$10,000

Fourjay Foundation \$5,000

Joseph K. Skilling Foundation \$5,000

Berwind Corporation \$2,000

### For the David Bradley Children's Bereavement Program

Dolfinger-McMahon Foundation \$1,000

### For General Operating Support

Georgia Hencken Perkins Fund of The Philadelphia Foundation \$2,864



Ruth Braun provided 427 hours of service.



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# Penn

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## Upcoming Events

### Bereavement Support Groups

All support groups  
are free of charge.  
Pre-registration is  
required.



### Bereaved Spouses or Partners

**Wednesdays, 4:45 - 6 pm**  
**Pennsylvania Hospital**  
**Pine Building**  
**8th & Spruce Street**  
**Philadelphia, PA**

### Adults Grieving Parental Deaths

**July - August**  
**Tuesdays, 6:45 - 8:15 pm**  
**Wissahickon Hospice**  
**1 Presidential Boulevard**  
**Suite 125**  
**Bala Cynwyd, PA**

*For more information about these events, please call 1-800-700-8807.*

### Volunteer Training


**Saturday & Sunday**  
**September 23, 2006**  
**Hospital of the University of**  
**Pennsylvania**  
**3600 Spruce Street, Plaza A**  
**Philadelphia, PA**

Become a hospice volunteer. Join us for  
our Hospice Volunteer training program.  
Approved by the National Hospice &  
Palliative Care Organization, our pro-  
gram is conducted by members of our  
professional team.

### Hutchinson Cup Regatta

**Saturday, September 30, 2006**  
**Schuylkill River**  
**Philadelphia, PA**  
**Masters Head Race**

For more information, go to  
[www.regattacentral.com](http://www.regattacentral.com).



**Monday, August 28, 2006**  
**Cedarbrook Country Club**

**Lunch**  
**Full format golf-shamble**  
**Carts**  
**Locker room privileges**  
**Cocktail reception**  
**Prizes**

**Proceeds benefit Wissahickon  
Hospice.**