



Penn Home Care & Hospice Services

All your home care services
under one roof

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

PENN FUTURE OF HOSPICE & PALLIATIVE CARE CONFERENCE

On March 16, 2006, Wissahickon Hospice, in partnership with the Office of Continuing Medical Education at the University of Pennsylvania, will be hosting the "Penn Future of Hospice and Palliative Care Conference." Nationally known and local experts will be speaking about current and upcoming advancements in hospice and palliative care. Other topics to be discussed include emotional and spiritual support, communication and decision-making, and pain and symptom management.

"For three decades hospice providers in the United States have been changing the care for dying people and their families by providing options and choices that enable patients to be in control of their care at the end of life. Yet hospice faces a number of challenges," said Dr. J. Donald Schumacher, Psy.D., President of the National Hospice and Palliative Care Organization and the conference's keynote speaker. "The healthcare land-

scape is changing. In order to meet present and future challenges relating to end-of-life care, we must build on successes of the past and carefully listen to the needs of the changing populations we are serving."



Dr. J. Donald Schumacher, Psy.D., President of the NHPCO and the conference's Keynote Speaker

Chairing the conference is David Casarett, MD MA, Medical Director of the Philadelphia VA Palliative Care Services and Assistant Professor of Medicine with the University of Pennsylvania Health System. Dr. Casarett has spent much of his career researching how patients approach the end of their lives. His research has taken him as far as the Republic of Botswana in Southern Africa, where he came to know the Holy Cross Hospice.

Like most hospices, the Holy Cross Hospice focuses on relieving their patients' pain and enhancing the remaining days of their lives. The hospice faces a unique challenge, though. They are located in Botswana, which has one of the highest HIV infection rates in the world. Not only does the hospice provide home-based services, but it also offers daycare for adults and the orphans who are left behind.

In planning the "Penn Future of Hospice

and Palliative Care Conference," it became clear the conference could serve to not only raise awareness about hospice in our own community, but also to reach out globally by donating all exhibitor fees to the Holy Cross Hospice.

"This conference is a shining example of what we can accomplish through strategic partnerships between health care providers in the United States and in underdeveloped countries," said Dr. Casarett. "It's inspiring to see how this conference came together, and how health care providers and institutions have stepped up to the plate to donate time, effort, and money to a good cause."

The "Penn Future of Hospice and Palliative Care Conference" will be held in the University of Pennsylvania's Houston Hall at 3417 Spruce Street in Philadelphia. The course is designed to meet the educational needs of healthcare providers, but it is also open to the public. The event is free to attend, but pre-registration is required. For more information or to pre-register, please contact Cindy Celi at 610-747-3429.



Two of the orphans cared for by Holy Cross Hospice in Botswana

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A MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



Joan Doyle,
Executive Director

One of the principles of Penn Home Care & Hospice Services and the University of Pennsylvania Health System of which we are most proud is our ongoing commitment to community education and service. To this end, I am delighted to announce that Wissahickon Hospice, in joint cooperation with The University of Pennsylvania Office of Continuing Medical Education, will be sponsoring the "Penn Future of Hospice and Palliative Care Conference," this March. This conference will serve not only to engender discussion on the emotional, social and scientific issues surrounding hospice and palliative care; it will also help raise funds for

the Holy Cross Hospice in Botswana, Africa. The University of Pennsylvania School of Medicine professionals have had an active relationship with Holy Cross Hospice for many years, and we are pleased to partner with conference chair David Casarett, MD MA (Medical Director, Philadelphia VA Palliative Care Services, Assistant Professor of Medicine, Division of Geriatric Medicine, University of Pennsylvania Health System) and keynote speaker, J. Donald Schumacher, Psy.D. (President of the National Hospice and Palliative Care Organization) to help further this important work.

The Penn Home Care & Hospice Services agencies have actively been reaching out to the community in other ways as well. Penn Care at Home, our home health care agency, recently instituted a Needy Patient Fund to allow us to provide home health care services to patients who do not have

insurance coverage or cannot pay for the services. Our Penn Care at Home King of Prussia office offers free blood pressure screenings twice a month at two subsidized senior housing units. In December, the Penn Home Infusion Therapy staff worked hard to provide supplies and funds to The Clinic in Phoenixville, which, much like our Needy Patient Fund, provides medical care to patients without medical insurance. In addition to these projects, all of the Penn Home Care & Hospice Services agencies joined together during the holiday season to take up a collection for local families in need.

I am proud that Penn Home Care & Hospice Services and our employees remain dedicated to the communities we serve. We look forward to continuing our "World Class, Community Focused" home health care services to our communities throughout the year to come.

LIGHT UP A LIFE, IN PICTURES

This year's Light Up A Life was a great success. Not only did we surpass our fundraising goal, having raised almost \$40,000 for Wissahickon Hospice's Needy Patient Fund, but hundreds of our neighbors and donors joined us at the tree lighting ceremonies all held the first week in December. We appreciate the help of our Light Up A Life committee members, all of our donors, everyone who attended the ceremonies, and our sponsors: Home Care Associates of Philadelphia, Commerce Bank, The University of Pennsylvania Cancer Network, Dr. Vicki D. Lachman, and National Penn Bank.



Pennsylvania Hospital, top left picture: L-R: Don Tollefson, Pennsylvania Hospital Guest Speaker; Lisa Stanley, Wissahickon Hospice Director; Joan Doyle, Penn Home Care & Hospice Services Executive Director; Joe Forte, Pennsylvania Hospital Light Up A Life Committee Chair; top right: Several Pennsylvania Hospital employees, many from the Engineering Department, created this display as a special tribute to the Pennsylvania Hospital community; bottom left: Pennsylvania Hospital Director Tim Morgan lights the tree with Angela and George McDermott; bottom right: Candle lighting at Pennsylvania Hospital



The Tribute Board is a compilation of the pictures of or notes written about the people being honored at the ceremonies.



PENN HOME INFUSION THERAPY REACHES OUT

For years, Penn Home Infusion Therapy has reached out to the community in the spirit of the holiday season, and this year was no different.

In 2003 Rex Smith, the Director of Penn Home Infusion Therapy, heard about the The Clinic, a non-profit medical center in Phoenixville. Dr. Lorna Stuart, a longtime Phoenixville family Physician, opened The Clinic in October of 2002 to provide medical treatment to patients regardless of their health insurance status. Patients are not asked to pay for the services received, but only to donate what they can afford to The Clinic. Their operation is financed primarily by donations and staffed mostly by volunteers.

Once Smith told his staff at Penn Home Infusion Therapy about The Clinic's good work, they took up the cause and have collected supplies and money for The Clinic

each year since then.

"This is the third year we've collected donations for The Clinic," said Smith. "Our staff continues to embrace this cause because of the tremendous service that The Clinic provides to the Phoenixville community for some of its most vulnerable residents. We are proud to contribute to an organization that offers so much in the area of health care."

This year, the Penn Home Infusion Therapy staff was successful in collecting most of the items on The Clinic's "Wish List," which included such items as coloring books, crayons, socks, and puzzles for their children patients; as well as super-market gift cards, postage stamps, and facial tissues. Several Penn Home Infusion Therapy staff members, joined by Santa Claus, delivered the supplies, \$265 in cash contributions, and some holiday



Penn Home Infusion Therapy staff members delivering supplies to The Clinic. L-R: Stan Blaszcak, Nancy Kramer, Santa Claus, The Clinic's Executive Director Elliott Bennett, and Rich Soulsby

cheer to The Clinic on December 22.

Every item Penn Home Infusion Therapy donated to The Clinic enabled more money to go directly to patient care and medications.



Phoenixville Hospital, top left: Steve Tullman, CEO of Phoenixville Hospital welcomes the attendees; top right: Kate Nice and the Phoenixville Area Choral Ensemble perform at the Phoenixville ceremony; right: Phoenixville Hospital Guest Speaker, Debbie Mitchell



Chestnut Hill, top: candle lighting at tree lighting ceremony; left: Light Up A Life Tree in Fountain Park Plaza, Chestnut Hill; right: L-R: Dr. Vicki Lachman, Chestnut Hill Light Up A Life Committee Chair; Lisa Stanley, Wissahickon Hospice Director; Rev. Maxine Maddox Dornemann, Chestnut Hill Guest Speaker



A LETTER OF THANKS

Dear Wissahickon Hospice,

I want to thank each and every one of your professionals who entered our lives when mother became ill. Words cannot truly express how grateful we are, as a family, for the many, many services that were rendered to make Mom's last months and days peaceful and pain free and for the care and concern that was given to me, her caretaker.

Hospice enabled us to share Mother's last days without fear in the knowledge that you were only a phone call away. I wouldn't trade the hospice experience for anything.



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Upcoming Events

Penn Future of Hospice & Palliative Care Conference

*March 16, 2006, 8:30 am - 12:00 pm
University of Pennsylvania's Houston Hall*

The latest in hospice and palliative care medicine will be covered at this professional conference geared to doctors, nurses and social workers. The Keynote Speaker is Dr. J. Donald Schumacher, President, NHPCO. Proceeds from exhibitor fees support the Holy Cross Hospice Program in Botswana, Africa. Please call Cindy Celi at 610-747-3429 for more information.

Popcorn Day at the Phillies

*May 21, 2006, 11:30 am
Citizens Bank Park*

Join us as we enjoy a day of fun, family, and America's favorite pastime- baseball. Popcorn Day includes lunch, tickets to

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

see the Philadelphia Phillies play the Boston Red Sox, a visit from the Phillie Phanatic, face painting, button making, and much, much more! Proceeds benefit Wissahickon Hospice's David Bradley Children's Bereavement Program. Please call Andrea McLean at 610-617-2400, x 7519 for details.

Tim Thomas Charity Golf Classic

*August, 2006 (date TBD)
Cedarbrook Country Club*

The 4th annual Tim Thomas Charity Golf Classic includes lunch and a full round of golf, followed by a reception and awards ceremony. The event is held in memory of Tim Thomas, a patient of Wissahickon Hospice, and will benefit the hospice's Needy Patient Fund and initiatives to educate the public and healthcare communities about hospice and end-of-life issues. Call the Development

Department at 610-617-2400 for more information.

Speaker's Bureau

A community service of Wissahickon Hospice providing continuing education on important subjects relating to end-of-life issues. This program is offered free of charge to churches, organizations and a variety of groups within the community. For more information call Ritajeon Reed, Director of Volunteer Services at (610) 617-2400.

Bereavement Support Groups

Wissahickon Hospice offers several bereavement support groups throughout the year. These groups are open to the community at large. Please call Wissahickon Hospice at 610-617-2400 for more information about dates and times or to pre-register.