

TALBOT HOSPICE FOUNDATION
VOLUNTEER LUNCHEON
MAY 6, 2009

*A Non-profit Organization
for the Community, Supported by the Community*

**The May 6, 2009, Volunteer Luncheon
at The Oaks,**
is solely supported through the generosity of the
Marita Menzies Endowment.

Marita was the Volunteer Coordinator of Talbot Hospice. When she passed away suddenly in 2004, an endowment was created by her husband, R. Michael S. Menzies, to support the education and appreciation of Talbot Hospice volunteers. This elegant luncheon remembers Marita and honors Mr. Menzies's wishes, thereby enabling Talbot Hospice to show gratitude and respect for the incredible commitment of our volunteers.

In fiscal year 2008, *over 12,728 volunteer hours were donated* to the community by Talbot Hospice volunteers; a value of over a quarter million dollars, according to the Independent Sector.



Talbot Hospice Foundation is the premier resource in Talbot County for those facing life limiting illness and grief. We offer hope and compassionate support services to all community members facing end-of-life issues. All services are provided without charge to patients and families.

Important Facts to Know about Talbot Hospice

1. Hospice is a concept of care, not a geographic place.

Hospice is actually a philosophy of care that focuses on quality of life issues when the course of a patient's disease can no longer be reversed or when an individual has chosen comfort over cure. Hospice care is centered on the person, not the disease. Its focus is on the family as a whole as well as the patient, with the emphasis on quality of life, not extending life. In most cases, hospice care includes counseling and bereavement services for family, friends and the community at large.

2. Hospice is for people with various diagnoses, not just cancer.

While about half of the patients receiving hospice care are cancer patients, the other half are coping with the end stages of illnesses such as heart disease, lung or kidney disease, dementia, strokes, AIDS, neuromuscular diseases and others.

3. Hospice is about living.

All hospice resources are directed to relieving pain and suffering so that every ounce of enjoyment may be experienced in every minute. Living is being treated with dignity, still being in control and having the patient's choices respected.

4. Hospice care is provided wherever the patient is.

The services of the Foundation are available wherever people need them. Along with our partner, Shore Home Care Hospice, which provides the medical services, we serve people in their homes, assisted living facilities, nursing homes or in our Guest Wing at Hospice House. Our services are available to anyone regardless of age, ethnicity, spiritual belief or finances.

5. Talbot Hospice Foundation is a volunteer organization.

Hospice care varies greatly from one provider to another. Most hospices are owned and governed by a medical entity such as a home health provider or hospital. Hospices can also be for-profit entities which are accountable to their shareholders. Talbot Hospice, as a volunteer organization, is not a medical or for-profit hospice. We are in partnership with Shore Home Care Hospice and together we work as a team to provide medical, practical, social, emotional and spiritual support and counseling services. The care provided to our patients is essentially donated by nearly 300 volunteers from our community.

6. Talbot Hospice bereavement services are for everyone.

The Foundation has a variety of bereavement support services and groups. Anyone who has suffered a loss can use these services – they do not have to have had a family member receiving hospice care or Pathways services to participate. We provide individual counseling and many types of support groups. We have programs for survivors of suicide, widows and widowers, children, teens, caregivers and more. Grief is a normal, highly individual process and tears are healing. We help each person to feel safe and confident to grieve in his or her own way

7. Talbot Hospice services are provided at no charge

There is a cost for Talbot Hospice to provide our services to patients and their families yet you will never receive a bill from us. An example: the cost of a caring for

a hospice patient in our Guest Wing is about \$200 a day. Additionally, we offer Family Grants for people in financial need to help pay for basics such as groceries, medications, utility bills, transportation costs, etc. Depending upon the circumstances we also help with the cost of in-home professional care. Talbot Hospice Foundation can offer all our non-medical services at no cost to our patients and families thanks to the support of our generous community.

8. Talbot Hospice Foundation operates solely from community support.

The Foundation receives no money from insurance – Medicare, Medicaid or private insurers. We rely on the generosity of individuals, organizations and businesses in our community. We stretch every penny, relying on volunteers to do every job possible, from Guest Wing patient care, carpentry, grass cutting, electrical, gardening to receptionist, cooking, and in-home companion care-giving.. The Festival of Trees provides us with approximately 20% of our operating budget each year (over 800 volunteers work on this tremendously successful event). We are on the receiving end of so much gratitude for our unconditional care and support.

9. Talbot Hospice Foundation is a community organization.

The Foundation has services to offer everyone in the community. We have a loan closet full of equipment for Talbot County residents to borrow for any reason on a short term basis – wheelchairs, shower benches, walkers, bedside commodes, etc. Our meeting room is available at no cost to any non-profit organization to use for their functions or meetings. Our Pathways Program provides services to people who are seeking treatment for their end-of-life illness. Our weekly Caregiver Support Group offers an opportunity for anyone caring for a loved one to talk with others who know the same challenges, who support each other and share their stories.

10. Talbot Hospice Foundation continues to grow.

Talbot County continues to evolve to meet the increasing demand for our services. In the 28 years since our creation, we have served over 4,505 hospice patients, 489 of whom were cared for in our Guest Wing. Our dedicated staff and Board members are committed to providing exemplary, compassionate end-of-life care to everyone in our community who seek support and guidance through the end-of-life.



The staff at the Foundation welcomes your questions and concerns about end of life care giving, illness, grief and loss. Please call us at 410 822-6681, or even better come in for a personal visit at Talbot Hospice House at 586 Cynwood Drive in Easton. The staff is always available to talk with you and provide support, education and information. If we don't have the answer, we know where to find it.