Volunteers gather to learn about Macky and Pam Stansell House

Volunteers attended a gathering on June 21 at DiFebo’s Italian Restaurant in Berlin to share appetizers and learn the latest news about the Macky and Pam Stansell House of Coastal Hospice at the Ocean.

The event featured an overview about the Stansell House project with new images and updates on the construction progress of the facility in Ocean Pines.

Volunteer Services Manager Renée Smith shared the various volunteer roles that will be available at the Stansell House once it opens in early 2019. Volunteer opportunities include patient care, welcome desk, gardening, meal prep, flower arranging and other activities.

The group also enjoyed watching never before seen aerial footage revealing the construction progress.

Lastly, volunteers were invited to join Coastal Hospice staff, Coastal Hospice Board of Directors and local community members in the effort to pledge support for the project and collectively name a room in the home.

The Stansell House will serve as the first ever hospice home for the Lower Shore – including Dorchester, Somerset, Wicomico and Worcester counties. Too many of the terminally ill on the Lower Shore are unable to have adequate care at the end of their life in their home. That may be because they live alone, or their spouse is unable to give them the care they require at this stage. In early 2019, the Stansell House will be a safe home for Coastal Hospice patients who need it the most.

In addition to being a home for Coastal Hospice patients in need, the Stansell House will provide space for families to receive advice and work directly with the team social workers, grief counselors, spiritual counselors, nurses and doctors on how to best coordinate the care the patient and family needs during this vulnerable time.

The Stansell House will also serve as a hub for the care coordination team and an outreach center. Education will be provided on site, as well as one-on-one and group grief support.

Construction of the Stansell House is scheduled for completion in late fall/early winter, but additional support is needed to fund the project. Coastal Hospice invites volunteers to be among the first to make a pledge to name and support a community-funded room in the residence. Volunteer Stephanie Shores has taken the lead in contributing toward the $5,000 goal to name the Work Room on behalf of Coastal Hospice volunteers.

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Welcome our newly trained volunteers!

New volunteer training was offered at Philmore Commons in Salisbury for prospective volunteers on June 20, and four wonderful people spent the day completing the requirements to become patient care volunteers.

Topics included the Coastal Hospice philosophy, admission criteria, communication, family roles and values, cultural diversity, end of life changes, bereavement and grief, coping and self-care, and pain management, as well as the role of the volunteer.

This course will be offered again September 19, location to be determined. If you know anyone who may be interested, please refer them to Volunteer Services.

Volunteer Jane Whitmore honored by Wicomico County Commission on Aging

Coastal Hospice volunteer Jane Whitmore was honored by the Wicomico County Commission on Aging during their Annual Senior Volunteer Recognition reception on May 10. The annual event celebrates active volunteers, age 55 and older, who have demonstrated significant contributions to Wicomico County.

Jane has contributed more than 250 volunteer hours, primarily at Coastal Hospice at the Lake. She was drawn to hospice work because of her desire to help families when their loved ones were approaching the end of life. It was not long after Coastal Hospice at the Lake began operating on the second floor of Deer’s Head Hospital in Salisbury in 2001, that Jane took advantage of the tour offered to the public and began her volunteer relationship with the organization.

In just the past year, Jane has made hundreds of patient visits, providing comfort to patients as well as their visitors. She often acts as eyes and ears for busy nurses and CNAs and can get assistance if patients are uncomfortable. Also, she assumed responsibility for the documentation of the hours volunteers are required to submit and is often asked to mentor new volunteers. Further, she continues to serve as one of the experienced volunteers on a panel presentation for new volunteers.

Jane has functioned as an exemplary volunteer – dedicated, caring and giving. She is mindful of regulations and offers suggestions for improvements. She understands the inpatient operation and knows what needs to be done and when. Coastal Hospice is fortunate to benefit from Jane’s “heart for hospice.”
Stansell House and Volunteer-named Room

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Pledging support for the volunteer-named Work Room can be made by filling out a card available through Volunteer Services or the Advancement Department.

To find out more about the campaign, please contact the Coastal Hospice Office of Advancement at 410-742-8732 and ask to speak with the director, Heather Duma.

Volunteers enjoyed helping with Camp Safe Harbor

Volunteers enjoyed spending the week with youth, ages 6-12, for the 4th Annual Camp Safe Harbor at Salisbury University, June 25-29. Camp Safe Harbor is a joint program developed by Coastal Hospice and the social work department of SU. The camp is for youth who have recently suffered the loss of a loved one. Counselors, volunteers, and youth enjoyed fun filled days of activities and also shared stories and memories of those they have lost.

Volunteer Susan Henry wrote the following poem about her week at Camp Safe Harbor:

Campers and counselors
Volunteers too
I know I could not of made it this week without you.
Thanks for your time.
I think you won’t mind
If I tell everyone
The thoughts that I feel are special and true.
The impressions you’ve made
The memories I’ll save
You’ve listened.
You’ve shared.
It’s helped me cope.
It’s given me hope.
You’ve shown me you care
Camp Safe Harbor
I’m so glad I was here.

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The volunteer-named work room will be located on the ground level of the Macky and Pam Stansell House of Coastal Hospice at the Ocean. The rooms in teal are already supported through pledges and donations. The rooms in yellow are available for individuals to name.

Margo Ralph, Kristi Wike, Tiffany Barry, Ellen Lowe, Dave Duitscher and Susan Henry volunteered to work Camp Safe Harbor, June 25-29. They had a great time supporting the 25 children participating in the camp. Coastal Hospice thanks each of these volunteers for their help during the program.
Calender of Events

July 4  Holiday and office closed

July 25  Salisbury Chew & Chat on
        Anticipating Grief and Loss Rituals
        Noon - 1:30 p.m., Philmore Commons
        Learn more regarding how to anticipate grief and loss.

August 28  Berlin Chew & Chat on
           Anticipating Grief and Loss Rituals
           Noon - 1:30 p.m., CHO-Racetrack Rd.
           Learn more regarding anticipating grief and loss.

September 3  Holiday and Office Closed

September 19  Introduction to Coastal Hospice for new Patient Care volunteers
               9 a.m. - 4 p.m., Philmore Commons
               Encourage interested individuals to contact Volunteer Services Office regarding volunteer training opportunities.

September 25  Salisbury Chew & Chat Open Volunteer Forum
               Noon - 1:30 p.m., Philmore Commons
               Share your favorite experiences, get perspectives from other volunteers, and enjoy an exchange of ideas in an open discussion.

Photographed below: George Shoben, volunteer for the We Honor Veterans Program, presented Coastal Hospice patient Ed Dietsch, 96, with a plaque, American flag blanket and salute to honor his service during World War II. Dietsch was overjoyed during the presentation on June 18. “This is so beautiful. This is such a beautiful day,” he said.