Hearts for Hospice



Spring 2022

Friendship that has lasted a lifetime, and more.

Karen Hile and Tracy Kelly enjoying hiking the Colorado mountains.

(Karen on left, just prior to her cancer diagnosis.)

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Gulfside in the Community



Like to color? Love your pets?

The Women for Gulfside have two FUNdraising Events just for you!

Have fun and support a worthy cause by entering our Online Coloring Contest to support our Family Bereavement program and the 2nd annual Online Pet Pageant to support the Pet Peace of Mind® program at Gulfside Hospice.

Each project will accept online entries for a \$10 donation and then participants may encourage their family and friends to vote for their entry (art or pet) with a donation of \$1 per vote. Winners of each contest will be announced in April.

To learn more, scan the QR codes below with your smartphone, or go to www.gulfside.org/make-a-gift.html

Virtual Coloring Contest

Benefiting Gulfside's Family Bereavement Program



Virtual Pet Pageant

Benefiting the Pet Peace of Mind® program at Gulfside







The Women for Gulfside are committed to raising awareness and increasing involvement within Pasco County to enrich the lives of patients and families.

www.WomenForGulfside.org

Meetour GEM of a Donor!

For Tracy Kelly, when it comes to BFF's - Best Friends Forever - Karen Hile was "someone you could count on to share the running miles and triathlons; be a sounding board; be by your side through divorce and the passing of beloved pets; and help you through whatever life tossed your way." Their friendship began July 4, 1997, through their love of running and lasted until Karen's passing in 2011.

As a way to pay tribute to their friendship and in gratitude for the great care Karen received from Gulfside Hospice, Tracy has been a GEM of a donor since 2012 - someone who **G**ives **E**very **M**onth. Giving every month for more than ten years, she has created a loving legacy for Karen that has helped hundreds of hospice patients. Tracy has been able to double her monthly contributions, thanks in part to her company, USAA, and their matching gifts program.

What made you decide to support hospice in the way you do?

Towards the end of Karen's valiant fight to overcome her illness, Tracy moved in with her to take care of Karen after work and spend the nights with her. When it was no longer possible for Karen's mother, Ann Hile, or Tracy to care for Karen at home, she was brought to Gulfside's Rucki Center for Hospice Care. The care she received there was wonderful. "There is no doubt in my mind that the team at Rucki Hospice House were like angels in the room because I felt the care and compassion with which they cared for Karen. I will always cherish what Hospice has done for Karen."

What do you wish everyone knew about Gulfside Hospice's care?

"I will always treasure what Gulfside Hospice has done for Karen," said Tracy. She was gratified to learn that no patient is turned away from receiving quality care from Gulfside Hospice because of inability to pay. All donors, especially our sustaining GEM - Giving Every Month - donors make this possible.

No one in need of care should ever be turned away because of their financial situation or lack of insurance. Reimbursements from Medicare. Medicaid and private insurance cover about 85% of the cost for our



"Karen (right) and I did many a marathons together, but she was my biggest cheerleader as I ran the Boston Marathon."

patients and families. Your donation helps Gulfside Hospice fill the remaining gap - ensuring that no patient is ever turned away because of an inability to pay. Through your donations to Gulfside Hospice, you make this possible and all donations are used right here in Pasco County.

How can YOU become a GEM Donor?

A GEM donor - Giving Every Month - is someone who commits to supporting Gulfside Hospice every month with a financial gift. Regardless of the donation size, GEM donors help ensure continuity in the compassionate care that we provide to our patients and their families. Do you work for a company that has a matching gifts program? Please check with your employer - the gift you make today can be matched or doubled by your employer.

To become a GEM donor, contact Karen LeRette at karen.lerette@gulfside.org or 727-845-5707.



10th Annual Hittin' the road for hospice breaks fundraising records

It was a day filled with motorcycles, friends and fun.

For a decade, motorcycle riders have been coming together to raise funds for Gulfside Hospice and support patients in need and their families. During the 10th annual Hittin' the Road for Hospice run this February, records were set when the crowd raised just over \$30,000 to help hospice patients and families right here in our local Pasco County community.

The 10th annual Hittin' the Road for Hospice motorcycle poker run, presented by KanTime Healthcare Software, was held on February 19 with more than 150 riders in attendance. The run started at Harley-Davidson New Port Richey and ended with a celebration at the Zephyrhills Moose Lodge #2276, with multiple stops along the way.

Several motorcycle clubs worked to raise money before the event in competition for the "Wings & Wheels Award" given to the top fundraising team. Ultimately, the Golden Eagles Motorcycle Club took home the trophy for the fifth year in a row by raising \$2,270.

All event proceeds benefit Gulfside Hospice and provide hospice care and resources for patients and families in Pasco County, regardless on their ability to pay.

For more information, contact Leesa Fryer, Fundraising & Event Planning Manager, at 727-845-5707 or leesa.fryer@gulfside.org.





Bruce Schuman, president of the Golden Eagles Motorcycle Club, kisses the Wings & Wheels Award trophy. The club raised \$2.270 to win the trophy for the fifth year in a row.







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In Loving Memory

Gulfside offers a variety of ways to remember your loved ones on our Walls of Caring, in our Butterfly Gardens and with memorial gifts.

From July 29, 2021, to February 28, 2022, generous donations were given to Gulfside Hospice from families and friends in memory or in honor or the following loved ones, who will remain in our hearts forever:



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A Special Gift to Last a Lifetime



For so many of our families who have experienced Gulfside Hospice, there is a desire to honor the memory of their loved one and to say "thank you" for the compassionate care they received while in our care. There are several ways you can leave a lasting legacy for your loved one while providing a continuum of care for other hospice patients in need.

Wall of Caring Tribute Plaques: The Wall of Caring celebrates the life of your loved one for all to remember. A dedicated plaque with your chosen inscription commemorates their life journey and shows the legacy they left behind.

Butterfly Garden Pavers & Benches: Our Butterfly Gardens feature a beautifully designated path of engraved bricks and personalized benches that lend itself to a place of quiet and serenity each time you visit and remember your loved one.

To make a tribute gift to the Wall of Caring or the Butterfly Garden, visit www.gulfside.org or contact Karen LeRette at Karen.Lerette@gulfside.org or call 757-845-5707.



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