HOSPICE HOUSE TOURS SCHEDULED

Whether you are ready to refer a patient or simply want to evaluate our services and level of care for yourself, touring one of our general inpatient care facilities offers one of the best ways to learn more about what sets Hospice of the Western Reserve apart. To register for one of the open house dates, visit hospicewr.org/openhouses.

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Ames Family Hospice House
Tuesday, August 20, 6:00–7:00 p.m.

David Simpson Hospice House
Tuesday, September 15, 10:00–11:00 a.m.

For more information or to register, visit hospicewr.org/walk.

HOSPICE OF THE WESTERN RESERVE Walk to Remember Sunday, September 15 | 8:00 a.m. to Noon Cleveland Metroparks Zoo 3900 Wildlife Way, Cleveland Our professional and community partners are cordially invited to join us for our second annual Walk to Remember. Bring your family and friends and enjoy a day at the Zoo and Renaissance while supporting special programs and services for our hospice patients and families. Entertainment, team photos, prizes, t-shirts and breakfast included. Tickets (early bird rate): adult ($20), child ($10), family ($50).

WALK TO REMEMBER, FLY AWAY TO THE CARIBBEAN!
Win a one-week stay for up to four people in the charming Pilot House on the island of Saba, plus a $1,000 travel voucher. Explore an underwater paradise off this volcanic island rated one of the top 10 dive locations in the world! Experience tropical birds and wildlife, explore lush landscapes ranging from coastal beaches to rainforests. To purchase your chance to win, visit the Walk to Remember site, hospicewr.org/walk. All proceeds will benefit our patients and families.

For more information or to register, visit hospicewr.org/walk.

Letter from the Chief Medical Officer
As we prepare to celebrate our history at our Annual Meeting on August 8, I would like to extend a personal invitation to all our healthcare partners and community supporters to join us.

Our region has grown in prominence as a hub for healthcare innovation, research and state-of-the-art care. Hospice of the Western Reserve is proud to have been a part of that movement, growing from our humble beginnings as a tiny office in Lake County in 1978—Family Cancer Services, Inc.—to one of the largest and most respected non-profit hospice organizations in the country, with more than 900 employees, 2,000 educated volunteers and a service area encompassing eight Northern Ohio counties.

Today, we care for people with any serious illness, and the unique Diagnoses to the areas of cancer, HIV/AIDS, dementia, heart disease, COPD, chronic kidney disease, and pediatric and geriatric end-of-life care. In this issue, we take a closer look at cardiac patients and some of the special challenges and considerations.

As physicians, we share a commitment to providing the best quality of care. We need to ensure the comfort of our patients when we can no longer cure them. Better prognosis, empathetic conversations with our terminally ill patients and their families will help them to receive more timely and appropriate palliative interventions. We value your expertise and referrals, and we will continue to work with you to advocate for dignity, comfort and outstanding care for our patients and families.

Your partner in care,

Dr. Charles Wellman
Chief Medical Officer
Hospice of the Western Reserve

Hospice of the Western Reserve 35th Annual Meeting August 8, 5:00 p.m.
Join Hospice of the Western Reserve for a special milestone Annual Meeting celebrating the rich heritage and history of Greater Cleveland. Held at the Global Center for Health Innovation on Thursday, August 8. Guest speakers are Michael Heaton, “Minister of Culture” for The Plain Dealer, and Austin Carr, Guard, Cleveland Cavaliers, 1971-80. Daryl Stuermer of Genesis will entertain with a special acoustic performance. Admission and valet parking are free, but reservations are required. To register, visit hospicewr.org/celebrating35, or call 216.486.6645.

Eighty-nine-year-old Leonard Dzigiel has a primary diagnosis of aortic stenosis along with chronic rheumatoid arthritis, and he was diagnosed with and treated for lymphoma in 2011. There have been no subsequent recurrences of the cancer. That same year, he experienced increasing episodes of shortness of breath and chest discomfort from heart failure. Within a time span of 11 months, he was transported to the ER three times.

Mr. Dzigiel, a life-long resident of Cleveland’s Slavic Village, is tinkering in his garage and enjoying the unseasonably warm spring weather. Though the day I arrive for my interview, he motions for me to meet him, then guides his walker to the side door and up the steps of the century-old family home. As we sit at the kitchen table with his wife, Evelyn, and daughter, Janice, Mr. Dzigiel and his family recount his recent medical history.

Mr. Dzigiel and his family consulted with his cardiologist, Dr. Lloyd Green of University Hospitals, who reviewed options for care. Mr. Dzigiel was presented with the option of participating in a volunteer research study for high risk surgical and extreme risk patients. Through randomization, the study offered Mr. Dzigiel a 50/50 chance of receiving a transcatheter aortic valve implant (TAVI). After a thorough review of the study and further consultation with both his family and Dr. Green, Mr. Dzigiel elected not to participate.

“For me, the deciding factor was quality of life,” he explained. “I do not want to spend my remaining time visiting the hospital and undergoing frequent tests and additional procedures. I want to be at home spending time with my family.” — Leonard Dzigiel

Hospice of the Western Reserve treats all regulatory consultation with both his family and Dr. Green, Mr. Dzigiel with his wife, Evelyn.

Mr. Dzigiel currently receives palliative care under the agency’s Western Reserve Navigator program. One of the benefits of the program is providing a temporary safety net for patients who no longer qualify for hospice by partnering with their physicians to support their care. The program provides the patient’s physician with an “extra set of eyes and ears,” preventing unnecessary trips to the ER, and ensuring the patient is following the doctor’s protocol.

After an initial assessment by an advanced practice nurse, Mr. Dzigiel completed a plan of care. Working together, we can ensure end-of-life palliative care is viewed as an integral part of cancer care challenging. Adding to the challenge is the fact that patients can die from progressive pump failure or sudden death. Current therapies are meant to prevent both while addressing symptoms and comorbidities of heart failure.

During an exacerbation, it can be difficult to distinguish whether the patient’s disease is worsening or whether it is being caused by other factors, such as a difficulty taking scheduled medications or a high dietary sodium intake. Making this distinction sometimes requires evaluation by a heart failure specialist, who, through a detailed evaluation which may include cardiopulmonary stress testing, can determine if the disease is worsening or non-adherence to the treatment plan is causative.

Despite problematic difficulties and acute fluctuations, signs that the disease is advancing include:

- Inability to tolerate medication due to hypotension, renal failure or other symptoms
- Persistent symptoms of cardiac insufficiency at rest (NYHA class IV) despite adequate medication dosing
- Ejection fraction < 20
- Progressive cardiac dilation

You may have already been contacted for input regarding your patients’ medical conditions. In the coming days and weeks, you will continue to follow up with physicians who have provided referrals. We recognize other diagnoses may be present which qualify your patient for hospice Medicare benefit. Only by this means can we be certain that our patients will receive the appropriate end-of-life care that they deserve. Questions may be directed to Ericha Frygojlawy, Chief Marketing Officer, 216.701.1899, or efrygojlawy@hospicewr.org. The video can also be viewed on Hospice of the Western Reserve’s YouTube channel.

To request a free copy of the DVD, speak with your Hospice of the Western Reserve Providers Relations Manager, or email Ericha Frygojlawy, Chief Marketing Officer, at efrygojlawy@hospicewr.org.
Mr. Dzigiel, a long-time resident of Cleveland’s Slavic Village, is tinkering in his garage and enjoying the unseasonably warm spring weather. "For me, the deciding factor was quality of life," he explained. "I do not want to experience episodes of shortness of breath and chest congestions any longer. I do not want to spend my remaining time visiting the hospital and undergoing frequent tests and additional procedures. I want to be at home spending time with my family. We asked about hospice as an alternative. Dr. Green agreed to make a referral." Mr. Dzigiel and his family recount his recent medical history. Mr. Dzigiel and his family consulted with his cardiologist, Dr. Lloyd Dzigiel, a 50/50 chance of receiving a transcatheter aortic valve replacement (TAVR). Both his family and Dr. Green had much to live for, but one of his biggest goals is to have the opportunity to provide the right care in the right place at the right time.

When is a Patient with Heart Failure Ready for Hospice?

By Rebecca Boxer, MD, MS, University Hospitals Harrington Heart & Vascular Institute

Assistant Professor of Medicine, Case Western Reserve University

Editor’s Note: In this guest column, we will feature a provocative perspective from a different physician in each issue.

Submissions are welcomed. Send to: lbtenichoo@hotmail.com

**HOSPICE OF THE WESTERN RESERVE**

The Hospice Institute

**17th Annual Fall Conference | Friday, September 20**

This year’s conference theme is “Diversity & Inclusion, Bridging the World of Difference.” The conference will be held Friday, September 20, 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., at Executive Caterra at Landerhaven, 6111 Landerhaven Dr., Mayfield Hts., and will include continental breakfast, lunch and break sessions. Continuing professional contact hours (0.6) are offered for nurses, social workers and care managers. The registration fee is $125 ($60 for full-time students). Register by August 23 to receive the $110 early bird rate. Call 216.383.3751 or email: hospice@hospicewr.org.

**SUBMISSIONS ARE WELCOMED. SEND TO: LBTENICHO@HOSPICEWR.ORG**
Walk to Remember

Sunday, September 15 | 8:00 a.m. to Noon
Cleveland Metroparks Zoo
3900 West Creek Parkway, Cleveland, OH 44107-4212

Our professional and community partners are cordially invited to join us for our second annual Walk to Remember. Bring your family and friends and enjoy a day at the Zoo and Rainforest while supporting special programs and services for our hospice patients and families. Entertainment, team photos, prizes, t-shirts and breakfast included. Tickets (early bird rate): adult ($20), child ($10), family ($50).

For more information or to register, visit hospicewr.org/walk.

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August 5, 5:00 p.m.

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Benefit Concerts

Friday, August 9 | 8:00 p.m.
Beachland Ballroom and Tavern
15711 Waterloo Rd., Cleveland

On the following night, Friday, August 9, enjoy an evening featuring concert starring Daryl Steuer of Genesis with the opportunity for preconcert meal and great cocktail party. Proceeds benefit Hospice of the Western Reserve’s patients and families.

Purchase tickets at hospicewr.org/celebrating35.