



# Journey

A PUBLICATION FROM HOSPICE OF THE WESTERN RESERVE

WINTER 2017/2018

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## Kayla's Dinner

ONE girl. TWO chefs. FOUR amazing days.



From top left – Kayla's Dinner Menu; Kayla plating the entree in Ristorante Giovanni's kitchen with Chef Zachary Ladner; Chef Zak, Kayla and Pastry Chef, Alyssa Ladner, after the Chef's jacket presentation.

## STAY IN TOUCH

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## OUR MISSION

*Hospice of the Western Reserve provides palliative and end-of-life care, caregiver support, and bereavement services throughout Northern Ohio.*

*In celebration of the individual worth of each life, we strive to relieve suffering, enhance comfort, promote quality of life, foster choice in end-of-life care, and support effective grieving.*

**F**ifteen-year-old Kayla Hoover is battling a rare brain disorder, but that isn't stopping the Mayfield Heights teen from making the most of each day. She is an inspiration to everyone who meets her. The progression of Kayla's brain tumor prevents her from enjoying many of the activities she used to love. So Michelle Miller, a social worker on Hospice of the Western Reserve's Pediatric Palliative Care team, worked a little magic to make one of Kayla's special wishes come true.

## Dear Friends,

2017 was a year of tremendous change. For many working in the healthcare field, it was an uncertain time as we prepared for the possible repeal of the Affordable Care Act. While lawmakers and insurance companies have their own agendas, Hospice of the Western Reserve has just one: to provide our community with the **best options** in hospice and palliative care. Hospice of the Western Reserve has been committed to excellence in compassionate caregiving for **40 years** and we are confident that we stand apart from the 50+ other hospice care providers in the region.



Remember that you **always have a choice** in your hospice care provider. The healthcare environment is increasingly competitive and, in response, some providers are creating new hospice programs that are out of their areas of expertise. Others are making it challenging to choose a collaborative hospice like Hospice of the Western Reserve. But what's good for the provider is not necessarily best for the patient. You are your own best advocate.

If you choose to elect the hospice benefit, or help a loved one to do so, we urge you to choose Hospice of the Western Reserve. **Why insist on Hospice of the Western Reserve?** Because we are simply the **best** at what we do.

We offer **hospice care anywhere** our patient's live. We also own and operate three inpatient hospice care units for those who need additional help managing symptoms. Our inpatient units are not hospitals. They are family friendly environments offering 24/7 care. It's the next best thing to staying at home.

Caring for the seriously ill takes a special combination of skills, compassion and resilience. Our team members are **caring and committed professionals** who live in the neighborhoods they serve.

Medical care should be about **people not profit**. We are a nonprofit community organization, there are no shareholders or investors.

It is a privilege to serve the families of Northern Ohio and we will do our best to meet your needs in 2018 and beyond.

**Bill Finn**

*President and Chief Executive Officer*



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## 2017 Annual Appeal

Kayla's story and our *Moments to Remember Program* are featured in our 2017 year-end Annual Appeal and in this issue of *Journey*. We asked Kayla to share her story because of the incredible grace and resilience she shows while facing a serious illness at only age 15. Learning how to cook was about more than working with the food. Kayla was choosing to embrace curiosity and joy. She created sweet memories for her family and touched the hearts of everyone at **Giovanni's**.

Hospice care is more than medical care. It is a choice patients make to live the best they can every day, whatever that means to the individual person. Our Moments to Remember program is one of the many reasons we are the finest hospice care provider in the region and it is supported through gifts to the Annual Fund. Please consider making a gift, and touching a heart, today.

Visit [hospicewr.org/kayla](http://hospicewr.org/kayla) for the video and to download recipes.

## Kayla's Dinner

"When I asked Kayla if she could think of an experience she would like to master, her eyes opened up so wide and she said, **'Yes! I would love to learn how to cook,'**" Michelle remembered.

Zachary Ladner, the master chef at Giovanni's, is a friend of Michelle's, so she approached him to see if he would consider helping out. Chef Zach and his wife Alyssa, the pastry chef, not only jumped at the chance, but provided a once-in-a-lifetime memory Kayla and her family will always treasure.

The two chefs at the five-star restaurant in Beachwood not only provided Kayla with three private



From top left...Lesson one: Chicken Piccata; Lesson two: knife skills; Lesson three: dessert course

cooking lessons in the kitchen at Giovanni's, but they also donated all the food and ingredients to prepare an Italian feast for her family members and friends. Kayla worked with Chef Zach to select the dishes she wanted to learn how to prepare, and planned her own menu.

"Taking the cooking lessons with the chefs and planning the celebration for her family and friends brought Kayla so much joy," Michelle said. "She not only loved

the experience; she also confided in me how much it meant to have something else to focus on besides doctor appointments and medical treatments."

Following dinner, the husband and wife chef team surprised Kayla by presenting

her with her own personalized chef's jacket. Hospice of the Western Reserve borrowed Kayla's favorite home recipes and worked with teen volunteers to create a cookbook, which was given to Kayla and all of the party guests.

Hospice also presented Kayla with a gift basket filled with culinary treasures. Seven-year-old sister Gianna, a budding artist, received a gift basket overflowing with art supplies.

"I was so happy and grateful that Kayla was able to do what she loved," said Jennifer Radicella, Kayla's mother. "Without the help and support of Hospice of the Western Reserve's Pediatric Palliative Care program and its Moments to Remember program, none of this would have been possible."

See Jennifer's letter on page 5.

Watch a video and download recipes at: [hospicewr.org/kayla](http://hospicewr.org/kayla)



### AMES FAMILY HOSPICE HOUSE

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Westlake, Ohio 44145-1077  
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Journey is produced by the Marketing Communications team at Hospice of the Western Reserve. To contact the team, or request the digital edition, please send an email to [communication@hospicewr.org](mailto:communication@hospicewr.org).

For previous issues of Journey, visit [hospicewr.org/journey](http://hospicewr.org/journey).

If you know one of our patients who has a personal dream or unfulfilled wish that would improve their quality of life, we may be able to give them a special Moment to Remember. Call Lori at (216) 383-3774.

# THE GIFT OF TIME

By David Beans

On October 1, 2014, my Father died at the age of 50 after a 10-month battle with cancer. On April 18, 2017, I released a music album I created entitled, **OK Boss**, about this journey.

OK Boss is a thematic record written to chronicle the experience of losing my father. Anyone who has gone through this battle with a loved one knows the incredible amount of emotions you experience - the rise and the fall, the hope and the misery, short days and long nights.

OK Boss was the last text message Dad sent me before he passed away. It was his response after I let him know my fiancée (now my wife), and I had just finished signing the papers to purchase our first house. He was so excited about the entire process, following it through text messages. I had also let him know we would be up to see him that evening at David Simpson Hospice House.

Dad and I had not been close for nearly ten years prior to his diagnosis of cancer - a result of a large tumor in his neck that he neglected to seek care for.

Due to his own personal battle with alcoholism, we mostly lost touch and resorted to catching up briefly on holidays during my adult life. I had provided him with an ultimatum due to his drinking and we both stuck to our guns - two stubborn men!

After his stage 4 diagnosis, he immediately began treatment through both radiation and chemotherapy. Family members - myself included - were invested in providing as much help as we could. Hospice of the Western Reserve provided us with the gift of time together, and the opportunity to reconcile our differences and become best friends. During his fight to live, Dad expressed his pride in my accomplishments and his love, finally letting me understand who he really was. Those ten months he battled were the best months my father and I had.

After signing the papers to purchase

our home, I arrived for a visit, but Dad was asleep in his hospice room overlooking the lake and too weak to wake up. He passed away the next day, holding the hands of both his children surrounded by loved ones as his favorite movie, Top Gun, finished playing.

OK Boss is as much for me as it is for him. It was written and engineered in my personal studio as a project of passion. The music is comparable to a cinematic soundtrack, combining orchestral composition, analog synthesizers and pure vocals to help share my personal story.

Since the release of the record and the music video for the song "Goodbye," we have been able to raise over \$3,000 for the Hospice of Western Reserve. The record release party and fundraiser held at SOL, a Latin-American inspired



Dad and my dog, Spencer



Dad, my sister and me

# Jennifer's Letter.



My wife Erin and I at David Simpson Hospice House with the giant check

confusion, joy and appreciation. If you've lost someone, I hope this helps you feel something.

Please help share this project and let others connect with its message. All proceeds from digital and physical sales will be donated to the Hospice of Western Reserve in tribute of David E. Beans and as a "thank you" for their wonderful care. More information is available at [davidbeans.com](http://davidbeans.com).

Because he was touched by a hospice experience and wanted to give back, David became one of our wonderful Hospice Heroes. Hospice

Heroes raise funds to support patient and family programs, usually by doing something they enjoy.

If you're interested in learning more contact Bridget Murphy - [bmurphy@hospicewr.org](mailto:bmurphy@hospicewr.org) or 216. 383.3715

While her friends are busy with school and making plans for their futures, Kayla faces serious medical treatments that limit her activity. One of her favorite things to do is cook. When Kayla was growing up, she was always writing down recipes. So when Kayla's Hospice of the Western Reserve's social worker, Michelle, asked her what she wanted to do most, I wasn't surprised when she said she wanted to be a chef.

But what was surprising was that Michelle actually made it happen through Hospice of the Western Reserve's Moments to Remember program! The Moments to Remember program engages patients in experiences that bring meaning to them and provide lasting memories for their loved ones.

Michelle talked to Chef Zach Ladner at Giovanni's Ristorante, the exclusive 5-star Italian restaurant in Beachwood, to see if he could help Kayla make her dream come true. Chef Zach and his wife, Alyssa, the pastry chef, gave Kayla free "professional" cooking lessons, and provided her the opportunity to host a meal of the dishes she learned to cook for our friends and family at the restaurant! Kayla was thrilled! It gave her something to look forward to outside of her medical appointments. The chefs even gave Kayla her own chef's jacket!

As a mother, I was so grateful that Kayla was able to do what she loved. Without the help and support of Hospice of the Western Reserve's Pediatric Palliative Care and Moments to Remember programs, none of this would have been possible. Without generous support from the community, the Hospice of the Western Reserve staff would not be able to have these programs.

It is because of you and your support of Hospice of the Western Reserve that Kayla's dream came true, and that our family will have such wonderful memories.

Thank you!

*Jennifer*



Jennifer with Kayla and younger daughter, Gianna

# HEALING ARTS AIMS FOR OUTREACH

WORDS & SNAPSHOTS

In collaboration with the staff of the Cleveland Public Library, Hospice of the Western Reserve took its Healing Arts program on the road this year, visiting two Cleveland neighborhoods. The workshops, made possible in part by funding from Cuyahoga Arts and Culture, are art therapy sessions available through Western Reserve Grief Services to help

people on their grief journey.

A Healing Arts Workshop session was held at the Langston Hughes Branch of CPL. Later, an art exhibit featuring photography and journaling done by four participants in Words and Snapshots, one of the many workshops offered, took place at the Martin Luther King Branch. The participants agreed to exhibit their work to help make others aware of the healing benefits of art therapy for those who are grieving.

"The goal of the traveling series is to make the workshops more accessible in the community for those who can't necessarily attend one at our Lakeshore campus," explained Diane Snyder Cowan, Director of Western Reserve Grief Services. "This concept has the potential to help us serve individuals who are unaware of our grief support services, or who are uncomfortable or unable to attend sessions at hospice locations. We're looking forward to bringing the workshops to more community locations in 2018."



From Left: Paulette Zaryczny Mollie Borgione, HWR art therapist, Brittany and Venetia Forbes.



Brittany, A workshop participant and opening reception attendee.

For a full list of classes, workshops and other offerings made available through Western Reserve Grief Services, visit [hospicewr.org/griefandloss](http://hospicewr.org/griefandloss)

## YOU'RE INVITED TO our (sort of) FAMOUS WAREHOUSE SALES!

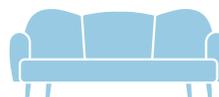
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## WORLD WAR II VETERAN HONORED; Wife Survived Three Concentration Camps



Bob and Kati

Our patients and their families inspire us every day. Their life histories and legacies leave an indelible impression on those of us who are privileged to care for and support them. They provide a glimpse of lives and events most of us only know from books and movies. Such was the case with Bob Roth, and his wife, Kati.

Bob and Kati's love story is remarkable. Bob didn't know it when he was serving in Nuremberg, Germany, but he would one day marry a German woman. His wife of more than six decades, Katherine (Kati) Klein, is a survivor of three Nazi concentration camps: Auschwitz, Dachau and Bergen-Belsen.

Despite the odds, after peace was achieved, they both made it to the United States and each other.

Read more about Bob and Kati's story at [hospicewr/western-reserve-carelink](http://hospicewr/western-reserve-carelink)

Editor's Note: Bob died Sept. 12, 2017, his 92nd birthday, not long after his pinning.



The Veteran's Pinning Ceremony, arranged by Hospice of the Western Reserve, honored Bob's service during WWII. More than 20 friends and family members attended.

## SHARE HOLIDAY TREATS WITH PATIENTS AND FAMILIES!

Consider making an extra cookie tray for hospice patients and families. We gratefully accept cookie donations during the holiday season. Cookies and baked goods can be delivered to Ames Family Hospice House and David Simpson Hospice House volunteer offices, and the reception desk at Hospice of Medina County (see addresses on page 3.) Goodies will be served with a smile on Christmas Eve and throughout Christmas morning.

If you would like to donate cookies and cannot drop them off, please contact Lori Scotese at 216.383.3774 or [lscotese@hospicewr.org](mailto:lscotese@hospicewr.org).



Do you have a story to share? Like Kayla's mom and Bob's wife, sharing their experiences of being a hospice family member is a way to give to others. For many, healing is in the telling. Visit our testimonial page at [hospicewr.org/sharemystory](http://hospicewr.org/sharemystory) to share your story. You'll offer more comfort and support to other families than you can imagine.

If you do not speak English, language assistance services, free of charge, are available to you. Call 216.383.6688.

OBAVJEŠTENJE: Ako govorite srpsko-hrvatski, usluge jezičke pomoći dostupne su vam besplatno. Nazovite 216.383.6688.

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## 100% COMMUNITY COMMITMENT

**N**ine years ago, successful Medina business owner and philanthropist Pat Spoerndle decided to put his passion for golf to work to give back to his hometown. That's when the concept behind his unique annual fundraiser, **100 for Hospice**, was born.

Pat plays **100** consecutive holes of golf in one day at Fox Meadow Country Club and solicits **100** percent tax-deductible donations from family, friends and local businesses. Then he donates **100** percent of the money raised to help hospice families in the local Medina community.

This year, he raised more than \$29,000 at the golf outing, putting him well past the \$200,000 mark over the nine years he has held the fundraiser.

The funds raised in his first three years went toward building the HMC Hospice of Medina County's headquarters. Now that that HMC and Hospice of the Western Reserve are affiliated, Pat has created the **100 for Hospice Endowment**, where money has been used for training, education and supplies for area hospice volunteers.

Thank you, Pat, for your continuing commitment, and for supporting the meaningful work of hospice volunteers in the Medina community!

Pat Spoerndle with HWR  
development team members  
Genevieve Costanzo and  
Angie Braidich.

