# Compassion in Action

Spring 2022

Samaritan

#### APRIL 16 IS NATIONAL HEALTHCARE DECISIONS DAY

### Gift of Timely Conversations

National Healthcare Decisions Day inspires and empowers people to document and discuss their healthcare wishes with their family, physicians, clergy, and other trusted advisors should they become injured or ill and unable to speak for themselves.



Sadly, it is very common to put this important conversation off because it's difficult to think and talk about pain, illness, and mortality.

"By talking about these topics, you gain control of having your wishes honored if illness or injury suddenly made you unable to speak for yourself while causing a lot of stress on your family if they need to make a decision about your care," says Dr. Stephen Goldfine, Samaritan chief medical officer.

To help, Samaritan offers complimentary copies of *Five Wishes*, a legal, easy-to-follow advance directive.

Visit Samaritan's website to get your copy, access additional resources, and give the gift of peace of mind and better healthcare outcomes to your family.

# **Benefits of Grief Support**

"I don't know how I would have survived the past six months without Samaritan," Suzanne Egan-Hill confided. In 2020, she experienced the loss of her brother, her mom, and then in 2021, her husband.

Samaritan provided compassionate care for her mom that brought their family peace of mind and, more importantly, helped Ellen maintain her quality of life. This positive, firsthand experience led Suzanne, pictured with a quilt she sewed during her grief journey, to call Samaritan again when George, her husband, needed the comfort of hospice during the final stages of his battle with Leukemia.



After George passed away, and as she was coping the compounding loss of her loved ones, she discovered Samaritan offered grief support. The Samaritan Center for Grief Support provides counseling and grief support groups for patients' family members for 13 months after their loved one passes away.

"I felt especially listened to by my grief counselor, Lynn Kiernan" said Suzanne. She even took Lynn's recommendation to sign up for a grief support group and registered for *Grieving the Love of Your Life*. The group atmosphere enabled Suzanne to see that she was not alone in her grief. In fact, the group formed such a strong bond that they continued to meet weekly after the group ended.

Samaritan offers a number of grief support groups at no charge thanks to the charitable support of our donors, each designed to meet different needs. Professional bereavement specialists lead the groups. For more information, contact The Grief Center at (856) 596-8550 or CFGcounseling@SamaritanNJ.org.

# **Welcoming New Board Members**



Samaritan is proud to welcome Kathleen Noonan and Jason Wolf to our volunteer board of trustees.

Kathleen is the chief executive officer of Camden Coalition of Healthcare Providers. Jason is the managing principal and founder of Wolf Commercial Real Estate (WCRE).

# Above and Beyond celebration of life GALA

Samaritan gratefully thanks the sponsors and donors who helped make our Above and Beyond Celebration of Life Gala a success! Approximately 100 guests joined us online for the event that raised more than \$151,000 in charitable support. The money raised from the event benefits patients and their families, as well as those grieving a loss – right here in South Jersey. As a not-for-profit provider, support from generous donors enables us to offer more services to more patients and their families.



Watch Gala & View Program Book at SamaritanNJ.org/Gala

# **Gifts In Loving Memory**



Each year, Samaritan is the grateful beneficiary of memorial gifts. Most of these gifts are in loving memory of patients who received our care. These thoughtful donations, in lieu of flowers, help to sustain Samaritan's mission of service.

When combined with the generosity of others, these contributions ensure Samaritan's services will continue to be there for all who need them.

Honor your loved one with a memorial gift today. Make a secure online donation at *SamaritanNJ.org/Donate.* 



### **Honoring Our Volunteers**

The Gala honored our volunteers with the Samaritan Circle of Excellence Award.

This amazing group of 500 dedicated individuals offers their time and talent to further Samaritan's mission of service with passion, energy, responsiveness, and love for Samaritan and the community we serve.

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> Join us in thanking our generous donors: SamaritanNJ.org/ Donors

# Palliative Program Expands to Serve You Better

Among the first, largest, and most experienced palliative medical providers in the region, Samaritan is proud to announce the expansion of its palliative care services.

Led by Chief Medical Officer Dr. Stephen Goldfine, Samaritan's palliative care team of physicians and advanced nurse practitioners is now expanding to include nurses, social workers, and care coordinators. Their unique team approach helps patients and those who care about them live their best life every day.

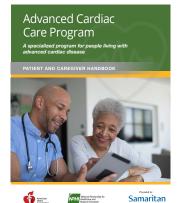


Samaritan palliative specialists help patients understand their treatment options, help them express and document their goals of care, support their decisions, and optimize their quality of life.

Along with providing expert medical care, Samaritan recognizes that supportive services are essential to helping patients and their families stay in the comfort of home whenever possible. Social workers provide support, guidance, and coordinate helpful services that may include personal care, meals, and other resources to help you stay at home.

Please call Samaritan or visit our website to learn if palliative care is right for you.

# Cardiac Program & Handbook Helps Patients Live Best Life



Samaritan is the exclusive New Jersey provider of Advanced Cardiac Care Program, a special program that surrounds you with the services you need to stay safely and comfortably at home for optimal quality of life while living with heart failure.

Visit Samaritan's website to learn more and to request your free copy of the Advanced Cardiac Care Program Patient and Caregiver Handbook. The handbook reviews symptom management, medication, diet, advance care planning, and tips for self-care.

Cuidador cardíaco de cortesía ahora disponible en español.

# **Becoming Palliative Ambassadors**

In Memory of Their Daughter



Darryl and Andrea Gladden recently copresented with Chief Medical Officer Dr. Stephen Goldfine at the Goals of Care Coalition of New Jersey Summit 2021 on "Improving Equity in Serious Illness Care: Ethical, Cultural & Spiritual Considerations." As palliative care ambassadors, The Gladdens are inspired – and supported – by the life-affirming benefits of palliative and hospice care. They share their experiences nationally and locally in honor of their beloved daughter Deadra.

In 2015, Deadra, 28, was living with severe pain from lupus. She was in a hospital bed and unable to move. With Samaritan's expertise, she was able to find quality of life and "feel like a normal 28-year old." She passed away in 2017 in comfort and peace with her family by her side.

# Six Palliative Facts You Should Know

#### Palliative care:

- Provides an extra layer of support for anyone living with any serious illness at any stage.
- Relieves pain, symptoms, and stresses of your serious illness.
- Includes an expert team to address your physical, spiritual, and emotional needs.
- Specialists will listen to your goals of care, explain your options, and support your quality of life.
- Includes collaborating with your current physicians and other specialists.
- Is covered by insurance, just like any other medical specialty.



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#### **Inside This Issue**

Palliative Care Program Expands Benefits of Grief Support Complimentary *Five Wishes* Gala Honors Volunteers And more!

Because of your referrals, volunteer time, and generous donations, we are the largest hospice provider in the state of New Jersey. Thank you!

### Join Our Team

Begin your career at South Jersey's first and largest hospice provider! We're hiring nurses, certified home health aides, and more. Enjoy a competitive salary, an excellent benefits package, training and professional development, and much more. Be part of our great team and apply today! SamaritanNJ.org/Careers

### Crocheters and Knitters Wanted

Samaritan is looking for volunteers to knit or crochet lap blankets for our hospice patients. The blankets should be for all genders and made in cheerful or neutral colors. For more information, contact Sharon Wenner at (856) 552-3238 or SWenner@SamaritanNJ.org.

# **Physician House Calls Improve Quality of Life**

Having a primary care physician or nurse practitioner who can help keep you as healthy as possible, cure you when you are sick, and help you manage a chronic condition without the stress of an office visit is important.

Samaritan Chief Medical Officer Dr. Stephen Goldfine says, "Receiving medical care at home is critically important to our patients and providing care without the need of an office visit will reduce patient stress and improve their quality of life."

Samaritan HomeVisit Physicians primary care doctors and nurse practitioners are here to visit you in your home, wherever you call home, to help you with physical evaluations, medication management, medical testing and coordination, inhome fall risk assessments, and more.

These convenient services assure that you get the care you need for chronic conditions when you are homebound and can't get out to your primary care physician's office. Medicare and most major insurances are accepted.

To schedule an appointment call, (856) 222-3292.