



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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MEDINA –Hospice of Orleans, Inc. held its Annual Meeting & Volunteer Appreciation Luncheon at the United Methodist Church of Medina on April 27th. New CEO, Kellie Spychalski welcomed volunteers, members, and staff to enjoy a beautifully catered lunch by Catering By 2 Sisters as well as delicious desserts from Case-Nic Cookies.

Board President Sheila Myer presided over the Annual Meeting portion of the event where she called upon Treasurer Jon Costello to provide a summary of the financial results of the 2016 fiscal year. Mr. Costello also publicly thanked the hundreds of individual, civic, corporate, and foundation donors who contributed over \$425,000 to Hospice during the year. The Officers and Directors for Hospice for 2017-18 were elected during the meeting. The following will serve as Officers: Craig Lape, Chairperson; Maura Pierce, Vice Chairperson; Jon Costello, Treasurer; Annette Pearl, Secretary; and, Ada Grabowski, Assistant Secretary.

Chief Operating Officer Joel Allen took to the podium and provided a summary of 2016 accomplishments. While many successes were discussed, most notably, 143 volunteers donated more than 5,700 hours to support the mission of the organization, resulting in a cost savings of nearly \$95,000.

During the meeting, Brittany Dix, Development Manager presented Hospice’s Business/Civic Award to Darren Wilson on behalf of the Lyndonville Area Foundation, Inc. for their substantial support of the organization over the years with projects including enhancing the Bereavement program, contributing to the capital campaign for the Martin-Linsin Residence and most recently generously aiding in the implementation and enrichment of the Supportive Care program which has proven to be fundamental in establishing a continuum of care for patients in need. Mr. Wilson graciously accepted the gift, stating that the Lyndonville Area Foundation has been pleased with the work of Hospice and looks forward to continuing the wonderful relationship that has been established.

Mr. Gil Cain of Lyndonville received the Mary Janet Sahukar Award for being an avid supporter and advocate of Hospice services, always looking for ways to “give back” to Hospice. In presenting the award, Residence Coordinator Michelle Toenneissen cited spontaneous catered meals to patients in the Martin-Linsin residence, special holiday meals, and spending an abundance of time finding out what the residents “miss from home” as reasons that he encapsulated what this prestigious award stands for. Appropriately, Mr. Cain happened to be seated at the same table as Mary Janet Sahukar, for which the award was named, and prior to the award, Mrs. Sahukar humbly attributed her contributions as efforts made by herself and “many others.”

CEO Kellie Spychalski also recognized Earl Schmidt, Director of Veterans Service Agency for his meaningful contributions to Hospice’s We Honor Veterans program. In addition, Ms. Spychalski also acknowledged and thanked Chief Operating Officer Joel Allen for his outstanding contributions to

Hospice during his nearly seven year tenure with the organization. Mr. Allen is retiring from Hospice in May.

Volunteer Coordinator and Social Worker Chris Fancher was called to recognize many different men and women who volunteer their time and talents to Hospice. One such group was Girl Scout Troop 82127 who sought out opportunities to volunteer at Hospice throughout the year. Chris acknowledged and thanked all of the Girl Scout that have reached out this year to enhance the lives of Hospice patients.

Finally, Mrs. Fancher awarded a very unsuspecting volunteer, Cheryl Mart (that she lovingly referred to as her “right hand”) with the Volunteer of the Year award. Cheryl began as a volunteer about 5 years ago and has given the gift of her time weekly, whether it be coordinating volunteer schedules for the residence, maintaining volunteer files, or even learning a new computer system. Cheryl always brings an eagerness to learn and serve, and Hospice feels very fortunate to have Cheryl on our volunteer force.

Hospice of Orleans, Inc. offers a comprehensive continuum of care to those in the community diagnosed with serious illness as well as provides supports to their families and caregivers. Offering Transitions, Supportive Care, and hospice services at home, in the Martin-Linsin Residence, in a skilled nursing facility or hospital, Hospice of Orleans, Inc. helps patients make informed choices about their care, supports those who are caring for them, educates the community, and offers support to those who are grieving. For more information, contact Supportive Care and Hospice of Orleans at 585-589-0809.

Photos:

1 –Michelle Toenniessen & Gil Cain- received the Mary Janet Sahukar Award, named for Hospice of Orleans’ founding director.

2-Brittany Dix & Darren Wilson – accepted the Business/Civic Award on behalf of the Lyndonville Area Foundation for their longtime support of Hospice of Orleans

3– Chris Fancher & Cheryl Mart – Volunteer of the Year with Hospice Social Worker and Volunteer Coordinator





