

## **A few words in support of Local Hospice Residential Care ...**

In the past year we have had two close family members pass away. One, Barry, spent the final week of his life in Hospice. The other, my mother-in-law Ruth, spent her last weeks in a different type of facility (up until one day before her death when a Hospice bed became available). Family members had to remain at the facility in order to ensure staff were indeed giving her the pain meds as ordered by the doctor, and to try to give her personalized care that was not offered by staff. The staff-to-patient ratio at this facility made it impossible for staff to give her the care she desperately needed. There were just too many others they had to assist. It was heartbreaking to watch her suffer as she did. Ruth endured so much pain that she never would have had to if a Hospice bed had initially been available.

The care Barry received in Hospice (and Ruth that last day) highlighted even more so what Ruth had not received previously. Staff were readily available at ALL times. They explained everything that was happening and what to expect. Pain was expertly managed so neither had to suffer. Their Hospice room was like a room from home, from the bird feeder outside the window to the quilts on their beds - not at all institutional appearing. A bed for a family member was available in their room for comfortable overnight stays. The kitchen provided food so family did not need to leave their loved one to go find something to eat. The constant care of staff and volunteers allowed us to just be family members, able to spend precious time with our loved one.

Our family knows personally how Hospice beds in our area are so very much needed. No one should have to suffer needlessly. Your loved ones deserve this care in their final days in their home community. I cannot begin to express to you what Hospice care means to the patient and to the family who is suffering as well. I would ask you to support the building of our local Hospice in any way you are able.

Joan Taylor