



Jennifer Volz with her sons today: (l to r) Thomas, Zachary, Eric and Nate Balogh. (Inset: Jennifer and Peter Balogh with their young sons before his passing in 2009.)

A Family's Story: "Hospice Doesn't Just Nurse People... They Help Families, Too!"

Jennifer Volz was just 38 when she lost her husband and best friend Peter Balogh after a courageous three-year battle with stage IV colon cancer. He died two days before Christmas 2009, leaving Jennifer alone with four little boys – ages 5, 6, 9 & 11, without a father.

Fast forward 15 years. Jennifer opened up about those dark days at a recent gala to benefit The Community Hospice. She says hospice not only cared for Peter during his final weeks at home but also provided grief counseling for her and her boys after his passing. "Hospice stepped in and helped make sense of a senseless situation. All I cared about was them, how to get them through it. I didn't want them to be victims, to have psychological trauma. I had to make sure they had the tools to deal with it." They met with a bereavement counselor as a family and sometimes the boys worked with hospice's art therapy program while Jennifer met with the counselor. The following summer, the boys also

attended hospice's Camp Erin, a weekend bereavement camp in the Adirondacks designed to help children and teens grieving a loss to learn coping skills while also participating in fun camp activities, and making friends with other children experiencing loss so they know they're not alone.

Jennifer spoke to a crowd of 260 people with her four now-adult sons standing behind her. They all wanted to be there "to give back and support hospice." Will Hannah, the counselor who worked with Jennifer and the boys 15 years ago, was there. "I remember these young boys missing their dad, toting toy trucks, Legos and dinosaurs," he says. A grief counselor for 28 years, Will had been the one who listened to their heartbreak and struggles, tried to help them honor their father, and make sure they knew it was not their fault. He says hearing Jennifer share her story all these years later touched him. "I

watched Jen step forward to share her grief journey with a large ballroom full of people. To see each one of those now young men quietly stand behind their mom in support of her was very moving," says Will.

Jennifer says hospice has been there for her at other times, including when her sister died, and when her grandmother "Mim" got liver cancer. Jennifer cared for her for a year and was heartbroken upon her passing when a hospice nurse shared with her just how much Mim loved her. "You know you were her favorite?" Jennifer was moved that "the kind nurse who cared for Mim" had cared enough to listen and "help Mim die with grace." To this day, it impacts Jennifer how much hospice services have touched her life. "They don't just nurse people, they come in and help family too. I've had a lifetime of experience with it!"



Can Hospice Help Someone You Love? Please Call Us At (518) 724-0242.

Walk in Honor or in Memory of a Loved One: Join Us for the Annual “Walk for Hospice”!



Lace up your sneakers... you're invited to The Community Hospice's annual **“Walk for Hospice”** set for **Saturday, June 14**, (check in at 9 am, walk kicks off at 10:30 am, luncheon at 11 am) at Siena College, Loudonville.

Walk individually or as a team in honor of or in memory of a loved one. Everyone who registers will receive a complimentary 2025 Walk T-shirt. Lunch will be provided by the Wagon Train BBQ immediately after the walk. Live musical entertainment will feature The Refrigerators.

For more information or to register, please visit www.Walk4Hospice.org or contact Jodi at 518-525-1070.

 **WALK**
FOR HOSPICE '25



Star-Studded Event Raises \$165K for Hospice Patients & Families

*Music & massage therapies for patients, art therapy for grieving children, free grief counseling for the community, a wish fund for patients, and a special camp to help children and teens who have lost a loved one. The Community Hospice relies on the generosity of donors to provide the community with all of these “extra” services **free of charge** and you have come through!*

Thank you to all the stars who turned out at our annual “Swinging on a Star” gala at the Rivers Casino in March which raised \$165,000 to support those “extra” services for which there is no reimbursement or insurance. Proceeds will also support basic items that homecare patients at Eddy Visiting Nurse and Rehab Association need but can’t afford, like medication, food, clothing and electricity. We are grateful to Presenting Sponsor **Regeneron Pharmaceuticals** for making the evening possible.



Leaving a Legacy

“Someone is sitting in the shade today because someone planted a tree a long time ago.”

- Warren Buffett

That’s a powerful statement when you think about it. Many times, things happen in our lives that make us think of our own mortality, what we want to accomplish in life and how we want to be remembered during our time on this earth. What legacy do we want to leave to our children or grandchildren, and the society we live in? Not only do we pass on our valuables, but we also pass on our values to those we have interacted with during our lifetime.

If The Community Hospice has impacted you, a family member or friend in any way, please consider leaving a legacy gift to us so that we can further our mission to serve seriously ill people and their families during the process of dying and grieving. We enhance quality of life with comprehensive, compassionate services that respect the dignity of those we serve.

Please call The Community Hospice Foundation at (518) 482-4433 or contact us through our website at www.givetocommunityhospice.org.





Serving patients and families in eight counties:

445 New Karner Road
Albany, NY 12205

communityhospice.org
facebook.com/TheCommunityHospice

*Albany, Schenectady, Rensselaer, Saratoga,
Columbia, Greene, Montgomery, Washington*

NON-PROFIT ORG.
U.S. POSTAGE

PAID

ALBANY NY
PERMIT #664

Hospice Care Is Available in:

☒ Your Home ☒ Nursing Homes ☒ Hospitals

Call **(518) 724-0242** if you or a loved one needs care or support.

Words of Wisdom from Hospice Patient: “Hospice Makes All the Difference. It’s Not Interfering. It’s Making it Better!”



Linda Bell during a visit with her Hospice Nurse Steve Millington.

Sixty-five-year-old Linda Bell is a cancer survivor. She triumphantly beat breast cancer after being diagnosed in 2002. But after 22 years in remission, Linda was diagnosed again in December 2023. This time, the cancer had spread to her liver, lungs and bones.

On Thanksgiving Day 2024, Linda had to be hospitalized for 11 days when the effects of her chemo became too much for her. She remembers nothing about those 11 days. But a career nurse

herself for 30 years, Linda knew what she wanted. She wanted to be home so she turned to The Community Hospice.

Hospice provides Linda a care team to help manage her pain. She receives visits from a nurse, a social worker, and a chaplain. Her social worker is currently arranging

massage therapy sessions for her which she is very much looking forward to. “I think hospice has made all the difference in my life because I have my own ideas on death and dying,” says Linda.

“I want to be home and not go to the hospital anymore. With hospice, I don’t deal with anything. I don’t have to worry about meds. I have a beautiful hospital bed, oxygen... I have everything I could possibly need,” she exclaims, adding that

at home, she can be with her husband Mike, and see their three adult children & grandchildren, their dogs, and see friends as well.

Linda and Mike had both experienced hospice before with the death of his mom and both of her parents. “Hospice has made it so much easier to deal with a terrible thing,” says Linda who faces her journey with a remarkable and positive view. “I don’t feel depressed at all. I couldn’t be happier.” On one afternoon, she was home crocheting with a friend. “It allows me to do the things I want to do and feel comfortable and not worry.”

Linda says hospice has been “amazing.” She not only recommends it, she advises people to seek help earlier. “Everybody waits too long... then it becomes urgent. Do it before it becomes urgent. We’re prepared, we have everything,” says Linda. “They helped us organize supplies and everything. It’s silly to wait too long. It’s added support. It’s not interfering with life, it’s making it better!”