



Meadowlark Notes

Issue 72

When Bad Things Happen

By Dawn Phelps RN/LMSW

Emotions ran high for Rabbi Harold Kushner and his wife Suzette on November 19, 1966, ranging from jubilation as they celebrated the birth of a baby daughter to disbelief and dismay twelve hours later when a pediatrician told them their three-year-old son Aaron would not live beyond his teen years. Aaron was diagnosed with progeria—an ex-

tremely rare disease known as “rapid aging disease” that strikes one child in every seven or eight million. By twelve months of age, Aaron’s hair was thinning, and the signs of aging were already setting in. He never grew taller than an average three-year-old, and by the age of ten, his body was physiologically the same as a man in his sixties. Aaron died in

his mother’s arms two days after his fourteenth birthday—he only weighed 25 pounds.

The Kushners’ tragedy is only one of many horrible things that happens to thousands of innocent people every day—accidents, natural disasters, senseless homicides, and agonizing illnesses. Bad things strike good people as well as the

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Director Notes

Celebrate Those Who Make A Difference

During the week of April 10 through April 16, lots of Americans will be consumed by their annual tax returns and the April 15 deadline. However, there is something else going on that week that deserves our attention, it’s National

Volunteer Week.

This is a time to recognize and celebrate the thousands of people who share their time and talents in communities across the country.

Most deserving of our

recognition are hospice and palliative care volunteers. These dedicated individuals make sure that the patients and families they support find hope within each day, have their dignity preserved, and are

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Celebrating Volunteers!



**MEADOWLARK
HOSPICE**

*Our Mission is to
provide loving,
compassionate care
for those living with a
life-limiting illness.*

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not-so-good.

The senseless illness and death of Aaron almost shook Rabbi Kushner's faith in God and sent him on a search for answers. About four years later, Kushner's book When Bad Things Happen to Good People was published. (After the death of my husband Ralph, I bought a copy of the book and found it helpful—my husband was one of the “good people.”)

Kushner's book has offered meaning and comfort to countless other parents and adults who experienced the too-soon death of a loved one. From Kushner's pain, words of hope and comfort have emerged, making something good come from the rabbi's heart-breaking experience.

According to Kushner, “Nature is morally blind,” while “God stands for justice, for fairness, and compassion.” He continues, “Laws of nature do not make exceptions for nice people. That is why good people get sick and get hurt as much as anyone.”

“None of us want to experience the pain of losing someone we love, and we will probably never understand exactly why things happen. So the challenge is to make our lives as meaningful as possible from this point on.”

“I don't believe,” Kushner argues, “that an earthquake is an ‘act of God.’ The act of God is the courage of people to rebuild their lives after the earthquake, and the rush of others to help them in whatever way they can.” His book points out that sometimes things seem to happen for no reason at all, that randomness just happens.

In his book, Rabbi Kushner told about the kindnesses Aaron received before his death. A family member got Aaron a baseball autographed by the Boston Red Sox team, and children played with Aaron in spite of his aging appearance. “People like that were ‘God's language,’ His way of telling our family that we were not alone,” Rabbi Kushner stated.

If you have experienced the death of someone you love, you probably had no control over what happened, but you do have some control over your future. Even though life may not make sense and may seem unfair, you can still make choices to try to live your life meaningfully, even in an unpredictable world.

There are many famous quotes in the story of “Lord of the Rings” that refer to bad things happening. Frodo, one of the main characters, says, “I wish none of this had happened.”



Then wise old Gandalf replies, “So do all who live to see such times. . . . All we have to decide is what to do with the time that is given to us.”

None of us want to experience the pain of losing someone we love, and we will probably never understand exactly *why* things happen. So the challenge is to make our lives as meaningful as possible from this point on. We can “*decide what to do with the time that is given to us.*”

By Dawn (Thorn) Phelps, RN/LMSW

Director Notes.....cont'd from pg 1

surrounded by love even at the final moments of life.

Last year, an estimated 430,000 hospice volunteers gave more than 19 million hours of service, reports the National Hospice and Palliative Care Organization.

Right here in our community, seventy-three trained volunteers support people during the journey at life's end and make the mission of Meadowlark Hospice possible. In 2015, those volunteers provided over 600 hours of direct patient care and over 600 hours of indirect patient care.

Hospice volunteers spend time at the bedside, help out family caregivers, participate with outreach efforts, assist in the office, provide fundraising support, and much more. They give of themselves to make life better for others.

Meadowlark hospice is so thankful for the hours of care our volunteers have provided the past year. On April 7th, our volunteers joined us at the annual Meadowlark Hospice Volunteer Appreciation Luncheon. This is our opportunity to say thank you to our devoted volunteers. Their hours of providing compassionate care and support for Meadowlark Hospice

Even when a person is dying, there can be a lot of living to do and hospice makes it possible by bringing care, compassion, and hope to patients and families facing life-limiting illness. More than 1.6 million Americans received the care of hospice every year. Meadowlark Hospice was honored to provide care to 181 patients in the counties we serve during 2015.

Most importantly, during National Volunteer Week, please take time to thank the volunteers in your community.

*Amy Burr RN, BSN
Meadowlark Hospice Program Director*

Volunteers Make a Difference!

Even when you're dying, there can be a lot of living to do. Hospice volunteers help make more special moments possible for the patients and families they serve every day. Across the U.S., more than 355,000 hospice volunteers give 16 million hours of service every year.

Right here in our community, 74 trained volunteers are working with Meadowlark Hospice, giving selflessly to help people live as fully as possible, even at the end of life. Our communities are better, more compassionate places because of their service.

April 12–16 is National Volunteer Week and every single volunteer deserves our appreciation and grateful acknowledgement. Meadowlark Hospice is very thankful for the volunteers willing to give their time to the patients and families we have in our care.

There are opportunities available for you to join our program and begin a journey that will change your life. Volunteering for hospice is an opportunity to grow in ways that you never thought possible. Many volunteers for Meadowlark Hospice have said the families they served blessed their lives more than they ever could have imagined. We encourage you to learn more about volunteering for hospice by contacting Meadowlark Hospice at 785-632-2225.

Calendar of Events

Apr 7	11:00 am	Volunteer Appreciation Luncheon in Washington at First National Bank, 101 C Street
Apr 11	6:30 pm	Concordia Bereavement Group (community-sponsored) - Episcopal Parish Hall, 117 W 8th Call Judy Lambert 785-243-4454
Apr 14	4:30 pm	Clay Center Bereavement Support Group - Meadowlark Hospice office
Apr 14	7:00 pm	The Grief Support Group (community-sponsored) - 214 W 2nd, Washington - Call Terri Clark 785-325-3200
Apr 21	5:30 pm	Belleville Bereavement Support Group—Library, 1327 19th Street
Apr 28	4:30 pm	Marysville Bereavement Support Group – South Plaza of CMH – use N door
May 9	1:00 pm	Concordia Volunteer Continuing Education
May 9	3:00 pm	Belleville and Republic Volunteer Continuing Education at Belleville
May 9	6:30 pm	Concordia Bereavement Group (community-sponsored) - Episcopal Parish Hall, 117 W 8th Call Judy Lambert 785-243-4454
May 12	4:30 pm	Clay Center Bereavement Support Group—Meadowlark Hospice office
May 12	7:00 pm	The Grief Support Group (community-sponsored) - 214 W 2nd, Washington - Call Terri Clark 785-325-3200
May 16	11:00 am	Clay Center Volunteer Continuing Education
May 17	9:30 am	Washington Volunteer Continuing Education
May 17	Noon	Marysville Volunteer Continuing Education
May 17	2:00 pm	Frankfort Volunteer Continuing Education
May 19	5:30 pm	Belleville Bereavement Support Group – Library, 1327 19 th Street
May 26	4:30 pm	Marysville Bereavement Support Group – South Plaza of CMH – use N door
June 9	4:30 pm	Clay Center Bereavement Support Group - Group will eat together, place TBA
June 9	7:00 pm	The Grief Support Group (community-sponsored) - 214 W 2nd, Washington - Call Terri Clark 785-325-3200
June 13	1:00 pm	Concordia Volunteer Continuing Education
June 13	3:00 pm	Belleville and Republic Volunteer Continuing Education at Republic
June 13	6:30 pm	Concordia Bereavement Group (community-sponsored) - Episcopal Parish Hall, 117 W 8th Call Judy Lambert 785-243-4454
June 16	5:30 pm	Belleville Bereavement Support Group - Group will eat together, Place TBA
June 20	11:00 am	Clay Center Volunteer Continuing Education
June 21	9:30 am	Washington Volunteer Continuing Education
June 21	Noon	Marysville Volunteer Continuing Education
June 21	2:00 pm	Frankfort Volunteer Continuing Education
June 23	4:30 pm	Marysville Bereavement Support Group – South Plaza of CMH – use N door



Hospice Gifts & Memorials

Your memorial gifts honor your loved ones and help others!

HOSPICE GIFTS

Dennis Cashier
Citizens State Bank-Marysville
Clay Center Chapter O.E.S # 180
Deb Dwerlkotte
Donna Ferris
Laura Friedrichs
Sherri Gaydusek
M. Renee Hoffman
Ashley Jacobson
Denise Kruse
Theresa Leonard
Lori Lohse
Jerri Mayer
Charles Nieman
Norway E.L.C.W.
Janet Pralle
Dorothy Richardson
Julie Roever
Trisha Roudybush
Frank Shoemaker
Mary J. Strunk
Dolores Wassenberg
Paul Woellhof

MEMORIALS

EDWARD "LEE" BIERY

Jody Anderson
Greg Buddemeyer
Ted & Becky Busenbark
Maxine Caron
Gary & Dianne Comstock
Mari Detrixhe
Phillip & Rosa Detrixhe
Friends & Neighbors
Patrick & Jolene Girard
Robert & Colleen Hoesli
Daniel & Cindy Koch
Jim & Jackie Koch
Robin Lambert
Lisa Strauss Mastin
Katie McKee
Jolyne Meyer
Gary & Jody Sipe
Donald & Mary Beth VanRoekel

DORIS BIGLER

Bruce & Warren Blake

L. RUTH CHAPMAN

"The Girls' Night Out" Club in
Kansas City

...L. RUTH CHAPMAN

Donald & Lila Adams
Carol & Tony Anderson
M.J. & R.P. Bieker
George & Karen Blomberg
Derald & Debra Craig
Friends & Neighbors
Ronald & Kathleen Geist
Cindy & Clark Irey
Ron & Sandy Larson
Gilbert & Marilyn McClure
Bob & Virginia McCoskey
Rene' & Curtis Novak
Lula Reed-Cepel
Trek Resources, Inc.
Stanley & Judith Yarrow

BRYCE CRAWFORD

Friends & Neighbors

LORENE DAHM

Thomas Jr. & Danean Brady
Mary Broderick
Darrell & Louanna Brooks
William & Doris Burnett
Thomas & Janet Claas
Beverly Desbien
Michael & Barbara Finnegan
Friends & Neighbors
Joyce Goering Norris
Mr. & Mrs. Lester Hooper
Gary & Shirley Johnson
William Kvicala
G. Dennis & Jean Larkin
Alan Parker
Gail Post
Rock Creek Flower Fund
Gail & Beverly Roepke
Michael & Cheryl Sieben
Carolyn Spillman
Lee & Shirley Wohler

HELEN DEWYKE

James & Karen Barleen
Roger & Wanda Bean
Joseph & Karen Benson
Leon & LaVerne Benteman
Robert & Patricia Brandt
Chapter IL P.E.O. Sisterhood
Denny & Georgia Dettmer
Marilyn & Larry Fox
Jerry & Beverly Hedke
Richard & Michelle Jensen
Tom & Marilyn Kilgore

...HELEN DEWYKE

Gregory & Carol Koppes
Jerry & Linda Kuckelman
Charles & Sherry Lee
Tony & Ann Mann
M.J. & D.E. Marsh
Stan & Jill Myers
Kenneth Jr. & Cynthia Nohe
Brad & Lynn Roepke
Mike & Nancy Shields
Donna Springer
Betty Sue & Doug Thomas
Dennis & Pamela White
Diane Winkenwader

RAY DOYEN

Central National Bank-Concordia
Angela Danner
Ed & Mari Detrixhe
Joseph & Sandra Detrixhe
Patricia Dwerlkotte
Daniel & Amaryllis Gerber
Christine & Lindsey Hale
David & Kathy Hasker
Jarold & Linda Hayden
Floyd & Carol Hockersmith
Jasperson Chiropractic Clinic
Gale & Barbara Longenecker
Gwen Miller

Armand & Esther Naillieux

MELVA GERARD

Stanley & Marlys Arnold
Thelma Corzine

Edson & Barbara Gibson

NELDA "WHITEY" GOINS

Victor & Cherri Anderson
Friends & Neighbors
James & Jane Goins
Charles & Patsy Kraemer
Pamela & Jonas Layton
Oscar & Carolyn Matlock
Janice Smith

HAAROLD GRANERE

Evelyn Peterson & family
MAXINE D. GREENLEE
David & Catherine Affolter
M/M Warren Charpie
David & Kathleen Dunn
Lloyd Everett
Bill & Sandy Fox
Friends & Neighbors
Dale & Janice Herschberger

Hospice Gifts & Memorials

Your memorial gifts honor your loved ones and help others!

...MAXINE D. GREENLEE

Hutchinson Mayrath
Bill & Terri Lee
Louise Liby
Ruth Lichtenstern
P. Taylor & Jacquelyn Meek
Delmar & Lorene Peterson
Mark & Carol Pfizenmaier
Marjorie Sanneman
Henry & Diane Steinbrock
Myron & Lucille Wohler

RONALD HAMMEL

Joyce Savener

LYNN HERMESCH

Ellen Averill
Inez Hermesch
Jason & Jennifer Hiltgen
Joe & Penny Howell
Ron & Connie Jacques
Don Prell

GERALDINE HOFFMAN

Walter & Charlotte Zimmerling

MARCELLA HOOD

Alberta Parry

RAPHAEL "RAY" LIERZ

Charlie & Rita Broxterman
Frankfort Community Care Home
Jerald & Rose Heiman
John & Beth Horigan
Donald & Stephanie Huninghake
Connie Lierz
Carol Mongold
Jayne Nichols
Cindy Packard

...RAPHAEL "RAY" LIERZ

Tracy & Verneil Stewart
Amanda Tirman
Sylvia Ann Wapp
Barb Williamson
DAVID L. LIVERS
Jerry & Beverly Hedke
IRMA MOSBURG
Central National Bank-Concordia
Sharon Coy
Larry & Carol Hanson
Rick & Alice Fay Hanson
Ila Johnson
Fred & Phyllis Larsen
Joyce Love
Patricia & Lynn Mosher
Stephen & Tanya Mossburgh
Raymond & Donna Nelson
Stan & Leann Schmidt
Jeff & Marie Wheaton

DEAN NELSON

Brenda Kane

Marilyn Nelson

TERRENCE "TERRY" O'NEIL

Potter's Jewelry

TIMOTHY O'NEIL

Potter's Jewelry

HARVEY OLSON

Laurie Anderson-Robinson

LOIS PRELL

Allen & Velora Prell

MICHAEL SWAIM

Doug & Susie Swaim

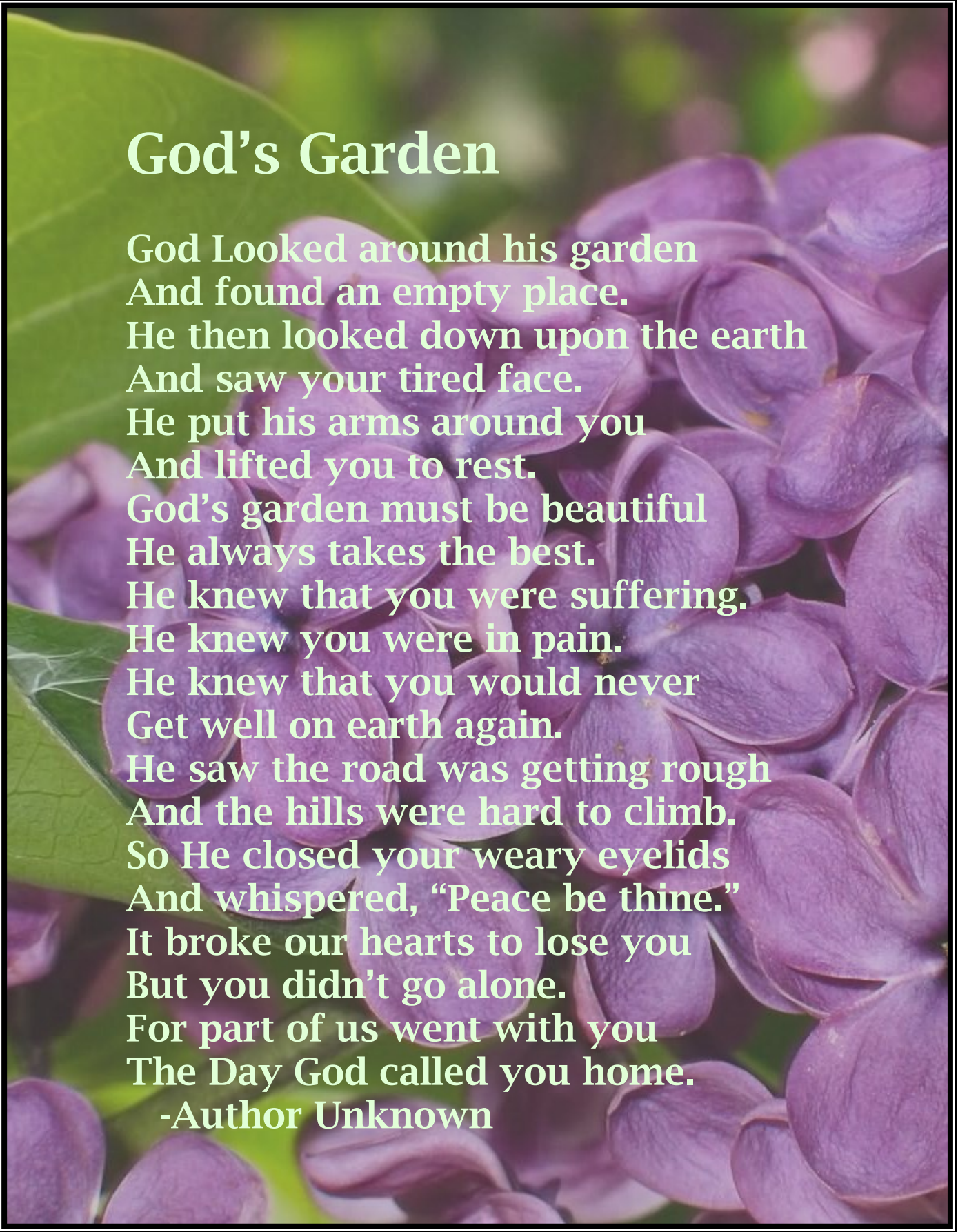
ROY TAYLOR

David & Catherine Affolter
American Legion Post 101
Avery Auto Parts-Lawrence &
Stephanie Avery
Jeff & Darcy Blackwood
Karen Bryan
Jim & Lori Carlson
Neal & Lisa Carson
E.M. Drube
Robert Fletcher
Jackie Foster
Friends & Neighbors
Patricia Halstead
Charles Holladay Jr.
Steve & Rose Landis
Judson & Tracy Lebo
Bob & Jerrie Loader
Gary & Christine Matteson
Jerald & Audrey McClain
Michael & Tracy Myers
Rodney & Lynn Ruthstrom
Mary Ann Sullivan
Henry & Mariruth Thomas
Lyle & Linda Underwood
Darrel & Coleen Weller
Ron & Donna Wichman
VIVIAN TINKHAM
Alberta Parry
MARGUERITE TOWNSDIN
Karen Bryan



The spring came suddenly,
bursting upon the world
as a child bursts into a room,
with a laugh and a shout
and hands full of flowers.

-Henry Wadsworth Longfellow



God's Garden

God Looked around his garden
And found an empty place.
He then looked down upon the earth
And saw your tired face.
He put his arms around you
And lifted you to rest.
God's garden must be beautiful
He always takes the best.
He knew that you were suffering.
He knew you were in pain.
He knew that you would never
Get well on earth again.
He saw the road was getting rough
And the hills were hard to climb.
So He closed your weary eyelids
And whispered, "Peace be thine."
It broke our hearts to lose you
But you didn't go alone.
For part of us went with you
The Day God called you home.

-Author Unknown



**MEADOWLARK
HOSPICE**

**709 LIBERTY
CLAY CENTER, KS 67432**

**Ph 785.632.2225
Fax 785.632.3557**

**Email mhospice@ccmcks.org
Web meadowlarkhospice.org**

*We are available to present
programs to area organizations!*

MEADOWLARK HOSPICE STAFF

Medical Director – John Ryan, MD

Assistant Medical Director – Randall Brown, MD

Nurse Practitioner - Michele Voelker, APRN

Program Director – Amy Burr, RN, BSN

Patient Care Coordinator – Deb Martin, RN, BSN

Hospice Staff Nurses – Stacy Behrends, RN, BSN; Debra Bollig, RN; Sherry Brown, RN; Debra Champlin, RN; Deb Hedke, RN, BSN; JoAnn Lips, RN; Pam Tremblay, RN; Sherry Wiese, RN;

Director of Social Services – Dawn Phelps, RN/LMSW

Social Workers – Stephanie Garrison, LBSW; Jennifer Hiltgen, LBSW; Joyce Nelson, LMSW

Bereavement Services Coordinator – Dawn Phelps, RN/LMSW

Chaplains – Rev. Susan Bantz; Kathy Ouellette; Al Paredes; Sr. Mary Savioe; Rev. Susan Sawyer; Sr. Marilyn Wall

Volunteer Coordinator – Darlene Melton

Billing/Insurance – Ronna Urban

Administrative Assistant – Lilly Hitsman; Charlotte Rundell; Lisa Seley

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