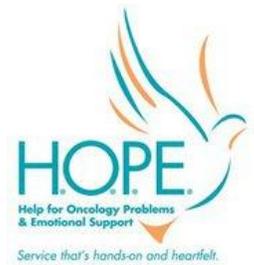


APRIL 2020

H.O.P.E. LIFELINE



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H.O.P.E. (Help for Oncology Problems & Emotional Support) is an all volunteer cancer support network that provides free assistance to cancer patients and their families facing the challenges of cancer. H.O.P.E. is a 501 (C)(3) non-profit funded through donations. Our office is located at 13275 Blymire Hollow Road, Stewartstown, PA. The official registration and financial information of Help for Oncology Problems and Emotional Support may be obtained from the Pennsylvania Department of State by calling toll free, within Pennsylvania, 1 (800) 732-0999. Registration does not imply endorsement.

H.O.P.E. does not receive funding and is not affiliated with the American Cancer Society. Funding comes from donations made by private individuals and the civic/business community. Phone: 717-244-2174 or 717-244-2161.

(E-mail: barb@hopeforcancerfamilies.org www.hopeforcancerfamilies.org)

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15th Annual Voices for Hope Benefit Banquet

**Thursday, May 7, 2020
5:30—9:30 p.m.**

Out Door Country Club

**Tickets \$75.00 per person
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Help
H.O.P.E.

Support

H.O.P.E. Haven

H.O.P.E.'s Office Hours are Monday through Friday, 9:30—3.
Please call in advance to set up an appointment for:

- Intake
- Wigs/hats/scarves
- Pantry

Please direct all calls to the H.O.P.E. office at 717-244-

Support Group Meeting

With the Corona virus issues at this time we will be cancelling the April Support Group Meeting .

We will announce when the next meeting will be in our Newsletter.

Please pay attention to our Newsletters for further information.

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危机

“When written in Chinese, the word crisis is composed of two characters—one represents danger, and the other represents opportunity.”

- John F. Kennedy

*If you would prefer to receive our newsletter by email (and help us save postage), please send a note to our Assistant Director Carol Nelson, at assistant@hopeforcancerfamilies.org, and she'll put you on our list. (And it will have color!)
Thanks!*

FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK

Who would have thought we'd be nostalgic for 2019? Yet here we are, in near limbo, glued to the news about this scary pandemic. Social distancing and sheltering in place are the new buzzwords. At this writing probably most of us in the Southern York County population don't even know anyone who has contracted Covid-19, but all of the scientists are saying it will still get worse before it gets better, with predictions ranging from a few more weeks to months.

The most at-risk are the elderly and those who are immuno-compromised. Cancer patients of course fall into this latter category, and many fall into both. They can't shelter in place if they're undergoing treatment. Patients who are undergoing active treatment for cancer are presumably at higher risk than those who are in remission. Patients who are in the first year after stem cell transplantation or CAR T cell therapy could be at higher risk for complications.

The good news is that as of March 12 there had not been any reported cases of patients with cancer infected with the coronavirus in the U.S., and cancer institutions all over the country are taking precautions by screening patients and visitors for the virus. Different hospitals are implementing varying measures, from contacting patients before scheduled treatment to assess their health to screening them again on entry and then providing them with a mask and possible testing once they arrive for treatment. Some treatment centers are rescheduling routine follow-up appointments for patients with cancer who have completed active treatment.

Another concern is the potential for drug shortages since China is the second-largest exporter of drugs to the U.S. Fortunately so far cancer therapies do not appear to be impacted. Meghan Baker, of the Dana-Farber Cancer Institute, said of her hospital, "Our pharmacy has been preparing for Covid-19 since we first heard about the outbreak, and we made sure to have enough medications on hand for our patients. We know that many drugs are produced in areas that have been affected by Covid-19, so we are continuing to monitor the situation."

The final word comes from Cardinale B. Smith, of Mount Sinai Health System in New York. "I know this is a super anxiety-provoking time, but we should all remain calm. It is important to remember that the vast majority of people in the United States will not become infected with the coronavirus and will not be at risk for severe illness and complications, including patients with cancer. We all just need to remain vigilant."

H.O.P.E.'S ANGEL CORNER

BY BARB TITANISH, PRESIDENT & CO-FOUNDER H.O.P.E.

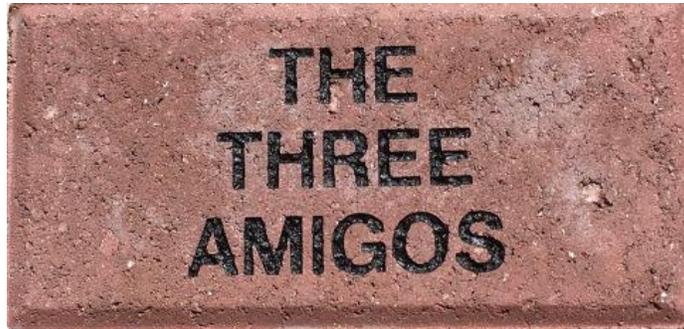


On March 10 I had the honor of speaking at the **Zone 4-B Lions and Lioness Clubs** social.

It was a wonderful evening among friends, many whom I have known for over 40 years, as well as an opportunity to make new acquaintances. I was able to watch a H.O.P.E. volunteer, **Norma Lingenfelter**, and another friend, **Carolyn Stone**, receive the Melvin Jones Award. This is the highest award presented by the Lions and Lioness clubs.

I also had the distinct honor of meeting **Charles Wehrly**, from Wehrly's Auction House. Charlie was also honored with this prestigious award for all his volunteer work in the community and his work with the Lions Clubs even though he is not a Lions member. It was very endearing to watch this proud 84-year-old man realize it was he they were talking about. Charlie was so humble when he received the award; he said he only did what neighbors were supposed to do—help one another.

Charlie's message holds true especially in these trying times of the coronavirus. Charlie is such an amazing auctioneer he was able to persuade people to buy wrapped white elephant boxes whose contents were unknown, and he even auctioned off an empty fruit crate! Everyone had a wonderful time and they raised \$1,950.00 for H.O.P.E. All who attended and bid are angels, and Charlie is a special one.



Named the Three Amigos by tears extraordinaire has been else involved with the more

Hope Haven into existence. Craig Snook, Greg Alban, and Mike Long have been part of the team from the start, and they've worked on almost every aspect of it, from tearing down to helping rebuild to painting to plumbing to clearing to cutting down trees to....well, you get the idea.

Craig Snook, this trio of volun- a godsend to Barb and everyone than two-year job of bringing

Barb has been blessed with 'godwinks' since she and her friend Jeanette Cartwright began H.O.P.E. more than 25 years ago. Craig, Mike, and Greg are three of those. All three men retired recently and jumped at the opportunity to help at the farm. Mike was the first 'amigo' recruited. Barb's husband Ed asked Mike to join the team for his plumbing expertise. You could say Craig was a bit blindsided; Barb knew his retirement date from his wife Lynn, a regular volunteer, so when Craig became available Barb pounced. Greg's wife Ruby, another longtime volunteer, told him about the project (he claims it was to 'keep me out of her hair') and he was able to fit it into his already packed rotation of volunteer gigs. All three brought knowledge and skills from previous jobs and did a lot of on-the-job learning as well. All three also downplay their contributions and defer compliments with a joke. Not only has everyone in the office appreciated what they've done, but they love having them around to lighten the physical and sometimes emotional load.

Mike Long has been on board since November of 2018 and has reported to 'work' daily. His most difficult job, the one he was recruited for, was reversing all the plumbing in the house. This was an involved, messy job. He also helped gut what was a workshop and is now the new office. After Kinsley Construction crews did their job, Mike and his compatriots painted and completed other tasks to get the house and office ready for occupancy, and then they helped move all three of the rooms from the Community Center – the office, serenity room, and pantry. When not working indoors they spent hours outside clearing the area around the buildings, hauling trash, and creating trails through the woods beyond. They've also been taking out trees and then cutting them into firewood to sell. They're still doing this. Mike shrugs off any praise, and says it is a blessing that Barb and Ed asked for his help. As for public recognition of his contributions, Mike said he and the others are "doing this because we are able to help. The cancer patients are the ones deserving of being honored."

Craig Snook joined the work crew in December and he still comes in almost daily. Our beautiful office building was once a broken-down workshop, and the guys knocked down the walls and took out all the electric wires to get it ready for Kinsley to rebuild. Then they moved on to the woods when weather permitted. This turned out to be a huge dumping grounds. They found old water heaters, part of a car, an old refrigerator, and other abandoned appliances. Altogether they hauled over 7,000 pounds of metal out of the woods to a recycling facility in Shrewsbury. Probably Craig's most gratifying contribution was the enlisting of students from The River Rock Academy. One day a week for 11 weeks, these 17 kids (boys and girls) from grades eight through 12 came to the farm and helped pick up the trash and do other tasks the Amigos oversaw. The kids were quick learners and excellent workers. It was a life-altering experience for the kids, and one of many that Craig and the other adults found fulfilling. As Craig said, "We do our best to define fulfillment with every day we set foot on the property."

According to **Greg Alban**, his job has consisted of "picking up loose ends and following Mike's orders." Nevertheless he can walk you around the Haven house and point out myriad contributions he has made, beginning in the garage which he helped paint to the house where he glued bannisters and installed bookcases in the library to more painting in the kitchen to staining and urethaning the pergola on the deck. And more. With Mike and Craig he has helped create four trails through the woods that are large and smooth enough to accommodate golf carts and, of course, walkers. And he is also part of the wood crew. Greg is the prototypical 'behind-the-scenes' guy and he's happiest "with a shovel and a broom."

Barb can't begin to put into words what the guys have meant to her and the realization of her dream. "They have made us laugh all the time and they're willing to do anything." Their presence has imbued the farm with warmth and character, and she expects them to still come around and check the 'honey-do' list that is hanging in the kitchen in the house.

As you can see by the 'headline,' our Three Amigos will be commemorated by a brick they purchased that will be part of the walk leading into the house. As if anyone needs a reminder of what they've done for us!

Tricia Seaman, Voices For Hope Speaker— Mother, Nurse, Author

Co-author Gwen Newman



*“Seeds of faith
are always
within us;
sometimes it
takes a crisis to
nourish and
encourage their
growth.”*

- Susan L. Taylor

Important Announcement

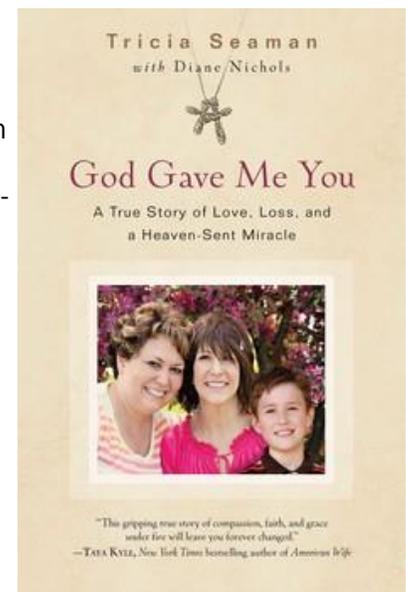
Due to insurance regulations, we can no longer keep walkers, wheelchairs, canes, potty chairs, or shower chairs on the premises.

For fourteen years Voices For Hope banquet attendees have been entertained and moved by different speakers with a common link to cancer. This year’s speaker, Tricia Seaman, is an inpatient oncology nurse with Pinnacle Health Community General Osteopathic Hospital and the author of a book titled “God Gave Me You: A True Story of Love, Loss, and a Heaven-Sent Miracle.”

Six years ago Tricia met a terminally ill patient with a rare liver cancer. The patient, coincidentally named Trish, was a single mom whose eight-year-old son “was her world.” Over the course of three weeks of near daily interactions, Trish made a very unexpected request of her nurse: Would Tricia agree to raise son after her death? Tricia said her reaction was shock. “I didn’t say yes or no, just that I wanted her to take some time with her decisions and that she had just had devastating news.”

With more time both women became comfortable with the prospect. In fact, with four children of their own, Tricia and her husband had been discussing the possibility of adopting another child. God works in mysterious ways, and six years later Wesley is now almost officially a part of their family. “Life is good, Tricia said. “Wesley is involved with theater and is a straight A student. He’s a great kid.”

If you’re interested in hearing more of Tricia’s story from Tricia herself, tickets to the banquet are still available. Admission includes a sit-down dinner, cash bar, silent auction, and presentation of the heart of Hope award to the Three Amigos (see previous page), all for the price of \$75. It’s an evening of fun and emotion and humor.



FYI

As things continue to unfold, we will bring you more information about events and office hours. The best way to keep up with developments is by checking our Facebook page, H.O.P.E., which is updated regularly. In the meantime, here are the latest changes:

- *Bingo. To be rescheduled.*
- *The Prom is rescheduled for September 5.*
- *Volunteers are no longer coming in and Carol and Barb will be working from home as much as possible. All services are suspended; we will continue to offer the food pantry until conditions prevent even that. Must call office to set up an appointment for Food Pantry.*

HELP!

Our food pantry is getting bare. A combination of families ‘shopping’ with us to avoid exposure to crowds of people in stores with our cancellation of Bingo, an event we use to replenish our pantry, has left our shelves nearly bare.

When conditions stabilize and people are no longer discouraged from venturing out, please keep us in mind. When you return to the grocery store, shop for H.O.P.E. All types of non-perishable foods will be gratefully appreciated and used.



Should you find it in your heart and pocketbook to help us, please call before coming by with your much-needed donations. Thank you!



Healthwell Foundation is a Maryland-based non-profit “dedicated to improving access to care for America’s underinsured. When health insurance is not enough, we fill in the gap by assisting with copays, premiums, deductibles and out-of-pocket expenses.” It provides financial assistance to help with prescription copays, health insurance premiums, deductibles, and coinsurance, pediatric treatment costs, and travel costs. Patients can apply for a grant online [<https://www.healthwellfoundation.org>] or through HealthWell’s toll-free automated phone system 800-675-8416.

Even if you’re not comfortable with or able to complete an online application, it is advisable to go to the website and read the information carefully, particularly in the section labeled Patients. There you will find specific eligibility requirements concerning the type of cancer you have, the type of health insurance you have (you must have some), whether your medication is covered by the organization, and your income. The variety of diseases covered is extensive, but forms of cancer are limited to acute myeloid leukemia, bone metastases, cancer-related behavioral health, chronic lymphocytic leukemia, mantle cell lymphoma, melanoma, multiple myeloma, and small-cell lung cancer. Still, even if your cancer isn’t currently listed among the Open Funds, patients are advised to fill out a form to let the foundation know what diseases they need to cover in the future.



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Upcoming Events

H.O.P.E.'s Support Group Meeting
2nd Wednesday of every month at 7pm

The Hope Haven Office

13275 Blymire Hollow Road, Stewartstown, PA

Everyone is Welcome!

(Cancer patients, care givers, families and friends)

For more information

Call 717-244-2174



"Of all the forces that make for a better world, none is so powerful as hope. With hope, one can think, one can work, one can dream. If you have hope, you have everything."

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