Organic Gardener Becomes Palliative Medicine Advocate

Dorothy Mullen was the picture of healthy living. The 64-year-old Princeton resident and mother of three had established herself as the area’s go-to organic gardener.

She helped grow local garden-based education, supported community gardening, and founded “The Suppers Programs,” a not-for-profit network of support groups for people looking to change their diet and lifestyle for better health.

“Until a few months ago, I was joyfully putting in 60 hours a week running workshops, teaching home cooking, raising money, developing new programs and acting as board president [of The Suppers],” says Dorothy. But sudden fatigue and labored breathing brought her life to a screeching halt. “I was full throttle one day and abed the next,” recalls Dorothy.

Doctors found a tumor, and Dorothy was diagnosed with stage IV lung cancer - a consequence of heavy metal exposure early in Dorothy’s life. “I took one look at the stats and knew what the diagnosis meant,” shares Dorothy.

She had one fear - unwanted medical care. “I was afraid the medical system would treat me unnecessarily, trying anything to save me while compromising my quality of life and eating up my life’s savings,” she says.

Fortunately, Dorothy’s oncologist connected her with Horizon Blue Cross Blue Shield’s Supportive Care Program and Stephen Goldfine, MD, a palliative medicine physician at Samaritan.

Dr. Goldfine helped Dorothy understand what hospice and palliative care really encompassed. He also provided care options to ease Dorothy’s pain and help sustain her quality of life as long as possible, like installing a catheter to drain fluid from her chest so she could breathe.

Her fears were relieved: Working with Dr. Goldfine, Dorothy had the freedom to decide what her care would look like. “The plan was to focus on my cognitive function and self-determination,” she says. “I’m still not medicating. But everything is lined up for the day when I choose comfort.”

Since her diagnosis, Dorothy has thrown herself into spreading the word about palliative care. She pulled out all the stops to produce a program on end-of-life planning in August that attracted 175 people.

“Learn what hospice and palliative care actually are, now, while you’re still well enough and before it becomes an urgent decision,” she urges. “Because I started palliative care early, I’ve enjoyed the full range of benefits.”

Samaritan Welcomes New Board Members

Samaritan’s Board is comprised of a group of dedicated community leaders who volunteer to provide their expertise and counsel to assure Samaritan’s continued success.

Thank you to all those who’ve completed their terms in 2019:

- Kevin Hook, DNP, MS, MA, CRNP, Samaritan Healthcare & Hospice
- Roy Fazio, Partner and Executive Vice President, Protocall Group
- Christine Stearns, Esq., Director Government Affairs, Gibbons P.C.
- Rhonda Cates, CPA, CGMA, CISA, Manager Benefits Finance, University of Pennsylvania

And welcome to those joining the Board:

- Mike Bozek, Controller, Railroad Construction Co. of South Jersey, Inc.
- Josh Crasner, DO, FACC, FACOI, Virtua Lourdes / South Jersey Heart Group

Your contribution is valued and appreciated. Thank you for all you do for Samaritan.
Samaritan celebrates 40 years of caring in 2020.

Thank you to the caring, expert staff, dedicated volunteers, generous donors, and community and clinical partners who’ve supported our mission for the last 40 years. Here’s to many more!

~ Mary Ann Boccolini, Samaritan President and CEO

Samaritan Honors Veterans

At Samaritan, we are honored and privileged to care for more than 500 Veterans and their families each year. We serve our Veterans with respectful inquiry about their military history, compassionate listening about their unique healthcare needs, and grateful acknowledgment of their service.

We do this as part of the We Honor Veterans program, a program of the National Hospice and Palliative Care Organization in collaboration with the Department of Veterans Affairs. Today, we are a Four-Star partner in pursuit of the Five-Star designation, the highest level achievable.

Help support our Veterans program:
- Assist in Veteran volunteer recruitment
- Financially support our program with a donation
- Refer Veterans to us when in need of palliative medicine or hospice care
- Introduce us to people or events through which we can reach and educate more Veterans

Camden County’s Vietnam 50th Anniversary Commemoration Event

Samaritan proudly sponsored and participated in Camden County’s Vietnam 50th Anniversary Commemoration event. Over the four-day event, Samaritan connected with Veterans, thanking them for their service and providing important healthcare information.

During this event, Samaritan staff connected with other organizations that serve Veterans and with government officials such as Freeholder Carmen Rodriguez (photo left with Joanne Rosen and Kim Rumaker).

Veterans Briefing

Approximately 20 individuals around the southern NJ Veteran community gathered at Samaritan. During the briefing, Samaritan shared its We Honor Veteran program and gathered the insights from those in attendance – all in an effort to enhance our Veteran program and the quality care we provide.

 Approximately 75 healthcare professionals and others who serve Veterans attended Samaritan’s Moral Injury and Veteran-Centric Care Conference in October.

We Honor Veterans
Annual Golf Outing a Success
Samaritan’s annual golf outing was a success, raising over $183,000 that will enable us to provide additional and expanded services and programs that are un- or under-reimbursed.

Thank you to our enthusiastic and generous volunteer golf committee. Thank you to all those who volunteered, sponsored or played. And lastly, a special word of thanks to Jim and Shirley Richardson (pictured center) of The Richardson Family Dealerships, whose support is instrumental in making our golf outing one of South Jersey’s favorites.

GOLF OUTING SPONSORS
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Pine Valley Investments, LLC
LunchBox Archer
Mulligan TD Ameritrade Institutional
Dinner Mount Laurel Home for Funerals
Sign Always A Good Sign

Religious Teachings and End-of-Life Considerations
At Samaritan, we are committed to honoring every person’s culture, values, and wishes by respecting who they are and what matters most to them. To honor, first one must understand. That’s why we provide opportunities for our employees to learn about other cultures, religions, lifestyles, etc.

Richard (Chimon) Simon, OGL, presented to more than 60 Samaritan employees about Buddhism, including the Buddha, four noble truths, noble eightfold path, and five precepts. He also discussed end-of-life considerations to empower our hospice professionals in caring for patients and families who practice this religion.

Shaykh Dr. Tahir Wyatt, director of Islamic education at the United Muslim Masjid and Trinka Klima, DNP, CNM, RN, nurse midwife and clinical ethicist, presented information about the Five Pillars of Islam, how they impact end-of-life choices, and how Samaritan’s employees can better support Muslim patients and their families.

Local Organizations Choose to Support Samaritan
Across South Jersey, there are leading corporate citizens that fundraise to support local not-for-profit organizations like Samaritan. Here are just two examples:

Friedman LLP’s held a fundraising event, Brave the Shave, through which $70,000 was raised, and one-third was donated to Samaritan.

Wolf Commercial Real Estate (WCRE) held its 4th Annual WCRE Celebrity Charity Hockey Event, which raised $80,000 for charitable causes in the Philadelphia & South Jersey region, including $10,000 for Samaritan Healthcare & Hospice.

Thank you to all the corporations, foundations, organizations, clubs and individuals who support Samaritan.

Year-End Tax and Estate Planning Opportunities
The coming New Year should serve as a timely reminder to consider your will, tax, estate, and charitable giving options, including:

Your Will - If you bought or sold a home or business, married or divorced, or lost or welcomed a new member to your family; your will should be reviewed and updated. Remember that a bequest in your will enables you to leave a lasting legacy, with a gift that costs you nothing during your lifetime.

Appreciated Stock - By gifting directly to Samaritan, you can avoid capital gains tax, and still earn a deduction for the stock’s current market value.

Charitable Gift Annuity - Our CGA pays you a guaranteed fixed income for life. Call for a confidential, free, no-obligation illustration.

Your IRA - If you are age 70-1/2 or older, you can reduce your taxable income by making a contribution from your IRA’s minimum required distribution.

Donor Advised Fund - Your donor advised fund (DAF) may allow you to sustain your vital and appreciated annual support. By “timing” or “bundling” gifts to your DAF in alternating years, you may also be able to earn back your charitable income-tax deduction.

Gifts of Cash - Your generous annual support acts as a living endowment, sustaining Samaritan’s life-enhancing care for our patients and their families. For those who itemize on their tax returns, your check, postmarked by December 31, may be eligible for a 2019 charitable deduction.

As always, we recommend consulting with your trusted financial advisor. To learn more about the potential advantages of charitable estate planning, and special donor recognition accorded through membership in The Legacy Society, please contact Chris Rollins, CFRE at (856) 552-3287 or CRollins@SamaritanNJ.org.
Enrich Your Life 
Beyond Measure: 
Become a Volunteer

More than 400 volunteers share their time and talent with Samaritan in patients’ homes, in the administrative office, or in the community.

Find out if it’s right for you by attending our monthly orientation. Thank you for all you do.

Thank You to our 
Generous Donors

There are many vital services that improve the quality of life for patients and families that are under- or un-reimbursed. One example is bereavement support. Because of your generous donations, we can provide support for up to 13 months after a loved one’s passing. We hope you’ll continue to support Samaritan in 2020 as we celebrate 40 years of caring.

To see a list of donors, please visit SamaritanNJ.org/Donors.

Samaritan Helps Rick Spend One More Day at the Shore

When Rick and his wife Theresa decided to call Samaritan, they were unsure and afraid, but shortly after arriving at the Samaritan Center in Voorhees, they knew they had made the right decision.

Within 24 hours of Rick’s arrival, with his pain and symptoms under control, he regained the ability to walk and feed himself – everyday things that he’d been unable to do for some time.

With a new focus on making the most of every day, Rick’s wish was to spend one more day at the shore with his family. Samaritan staff jumped into action and helped make it happen.

Hear about Rick’s trip to the shore in a touching video featuring him and his wife. To watch the video, visit SamaritanNJ.org and click on “What is Hospice Care.”