Joliet Area Community Hospice is celebrating our 35th year of providing care to our communities. Thank you for your continued love and support. 2016 was a year of tremendous growth.

Our number of admissions increased 22% over 2015. We admitted 1,418 patients in 2016. Our average daily census (number of patients we care for in a day) increased from 131 in 2015 to 186 in 2016, a 42% increase. Currently, we care for over 225 patients in their homes and facilities in addition to our Hospice Home. We hired over 60 staff and now have 140 employees in addition to over 250 volunteers.

Despite our growth, the National Hospice and Palliative Care Organization reported that 36% of hospice patients were with hospice less than 7 days. The Medicare (and Medicaid and insurance) Hospice Benefit is a 6 month benefit and yet patients are admitted so late. It is also interesting to note that only 35% of patients in hospice had cancer. The majority of patients are living with end stage heart and lung disease, dementia, end stage kidney disease and neurological conditions like Parkinson’s or stroke.

The conversation about hospice must start with each of us. Talking about end of life care will not hasten death. Hospice is NOT about giving up hope, but rather hoping for comfort and living every day.

Without question, it is a difficult conversation to start. Here are some things to discuss with your doctors:
Will you talk openly and candidly about my illness? Will you let me know when the treatment stops working so my family and I are aware? Will you share what decisions we need to make and recommend hospice when it is time?
And of course, share your wishes and a copy of your advanced directive with your family and medical team.
When should you call hospice for you or your loved one?
• If treatments and medications are less effective and causing suffering.
• If you or your loved one are becoming more bedbound and less able to care for yourself.
• Are you less hungry and eating less?
• Are you going to the doctor or emergency room more without much relief or improvement?
• Are you having pain or other symptoms?
• Do you want to avoid being in the hospital?
I encourage you to call anytime you may wonder about hospice care for yourself or your family. Chances are if you are thinking about hospice care, it is probably time. We are here for you 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

Mary K. Sheehan
RN, MSN, MBA, CEO

Legacy Planned Giving Society

Planned gifts carry on one’s legacy of support for causes near and dear to their heart. Over the years, gifts to Joliet Area Community Hospice of bequests from wills and trusts, insurance proceeds, and other estate planning gifts have funded capital improvements on the Hospice Home, provided specialized equipment for our hospice patients, supported important initiatives such as our new palliative care program, and helped JACH provide charitable services for those unable to pay. Thank you for considering a planned gift to Joliet Area Community Hospice. If you’ve remembered JACH in your estate plan, please contact our Development Office at 815-531-3553.
A number of groups, organizations and individuals support JACH through donations or fundraisers they hosted in 2016. We are so appreciative of these efforts. Each one makes an impact in helping us provide quality patient care regardless of economic status.

**The Eastside Association** presented a check for $10,710.

**The Grainger Foundation** donated $5,000.

**The Illinois Licensed Beverage Association** donated $1,000.

**Shorewood Police Dept.** presented a check for $4,000 from their golf outing.

**Shorewood Kiwanis Club** donated $500 toward pediatric supplies.

**Meridian Medical Foundation** - $10,000

**Joliet Area Association** - $3,368

**DaVita Renal Center West Joliet** - $1,000

**Jones Elementary School children (Minooka)** raised $460 for the JACH Veteran’s Memorial Garden.

**The Brad Staab Family** donated items for the pediatric program and holiday party.

**Joliet Area Community Hospice Emerald Dinner**

D’Arcy Buick GMC, The Horton Group, and Kurtz Ambulance present

**Joliet Area Community Hospice Emerald Dinner**

Monday, April 24, 2017

176 West Banquets, 1100 NE Frontage Road, Joliet, IL

5 p.m. social hour/ 6 p.m. Dinner/Program

Cash Bar/Silent Auction

$75 per guest/ $750 Table of 10

Honoring

John & Jean Roach & Carl, Nannette and Max Labus

To reserve space, call 815-460-3257 or visit www.joliethospice.org by April 14, 2017.

Reservations held at door; no tickets issued.

Sponsorship opportunities are available.
Joliet Area Community Hospice is offering a two-day training for people interested in supporting the JACH mission to provide comprehensive, holistic, community based support services and care for terminally ill persons, their caregivers and loved ones. Training will be held on Saturday, April 22 and April 29 at its offices located at 250 Water Stone Circle, Joliet. For more information please contact: Denise Payton at 815/740-4104 or dpayton@joliethospice.org or visit the JACH website at www.joliethospice.org.

JACH welcomes Denise Payton as the new Volunteer Manager. Denise enjoyed meeting with more than 40 volunteers at the Coffee and Conversation breakfast January 30.

The JACH Volunteer Bakery Angels packed donated baked goods that staff delivered to our patients and families for the holidays.

Joliet Area Community Hospice, in partnership with the C. W. Avery Family YMCA, and Ira Jones Middle School PSD 202 is happy to invite your child(ren) to our Journey Children’s Day Camp. This camp is available for children between the ages of 7 and 13 who have experienced the loss of a loved one. The camp will serve our hospice families, as well as families in the community, who have experienced the loss of a loved one. The camp will provide activities that are structured to help children through the natural grieving process, as well as participating in regular camp activities such as arts, crafts, swimming, sports and games. This will be a safe place where children can bond and share experiences at play and grief. Registration is limited to 25 children. Transportation is the responsibility of the family. For further information or a registration form contact Mary Ann Burns, Bereavement Coordinator, 815-460-3282 or mburns@joliethospice.org.

The Bereavement Department offers weekly group support sessions to anyone in the community who has suffered from a recent loss. The dates are listed below:

**AFTERNOON ADULT SUPPORT GROUP**
Meets 1 Friday per month
April 7, May 12, June 9 / 1:30 pm - 3:00 pm

**EVENING ADULT SUPPORT GROUP**
Meets the third Thursday of the month
April 20, May 18, June 15 / 6:00 pm - 7:30 pm

Individual counseling is also available for adults, children, teens, couples, and families. Contact Mary Ann Burns at 815-460-3282 for more information or to schedule an appointment.

Members of our Volunteer Dept. participate in a number of expos each year to educate the community.

*Pictured are Darlene Fagan and Shirley Tollis*
JACH FUNDRAISERS AND EVENTS

More than 325 people remembered loved ones at our annual Memorial Balloon Launch August 6, 2016.

The 29th annual Hospice Guild Fashion Show, “Puttin’ on the Glitz” took place at The Bolingbrook Golf Club, a new venue for this event.

Participants hung ornaments on the tree during the annual Lights of Love Memorial Service and Tree Lighting Ceremony at the Rialto Square Theater November 23, 2016.

JACH hosted a Joliet Chamber Business Before Hours November 17. Members enjoyed a hot breakfast including biscuits and gravy while networking. Staff and volunteers from each department shared information from memorial bears, Veterans programs and Bereavement services to visits from one of our therapy dogs.

JACH staff enjoyed 2 weeks of fun activities for our annual United Way campaign. Staff were encouraged to make payroll deductions in support of United Way of Will County. A favorite activity among the staff was Turkey Bowling.