



HOSPICE *Happenings*

Building on more than four decades of hospice experience and generous community support, VHOCC provides industry-standard hospice care at no cost to the patient or to government programs. Our services include professional 24-7 nursing availability, grief support, medical equipment lending, and education.

Medical Director Role Provides Big Benefits

Since June of 2025, Volunteer Hospice has been slowly integrating a Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP)/Medical Director role into our care team. The goal of adding the DNP was not to replace or supplant the existing provider community, but rather to enhance and strengthen collaborative care and to help ease demand during periods of high need. Our patients consistently express how much they value maintaining relationships with their primary care providers and specialists, and VHOCC remains deeply committed to a partnership-based model that supports those trusted connections.

Historically, VHOCC has operated with a limited interdisciplinary team, relying heavily on nursing expertise, strong community partnerships, and a highly collaborative culture to meet patient needs. As our organization grows, we are intentionally integrating additional disciplines that not only move us closer to industry standards of practice, but also strengthen the quality, responsiveness, and continuity of care we provide.

The DNP role has evolved over the past several months and will continue to adapt to achieve the best possible patient care. Our DNP now carries a small caseload of patients who require more urgent, ongoing, or complex medication management — particularly when symptoms are rapidly changing or when primary care providers are unavailable. This added continuity has supported quicker medication adjustments, reduced delays in symptom relief, and improved care during critical transitions.

At the same time, nursing staff are increasingly consulting the DNP for clinical guidance. Nurses seek support around pain and symptom management, medication appropriateness, and complex care planning, all of which strengthens bedside decision-making and reinforces shared clinical accountability.

The addition of a Doctor of Nursing Practice adds hospice-specific clinical depth to a historically lean team, helping bridge gaps and support staff as VHOCC continues to move toward a more robust, interdisciplinary model of care, while remaining grounded in the community-based, relationship-driven approach that has defined our organization for decades.



Annual Remembrance Ceremony Is a Spirit-Filled Community Gathering

Our 8th annual Remembrance Ceremony, held on February 7, was a comforting, inspiring gathering. It was a chance to honor beloved friends and family members who have died, and celebrate them with music, candle lightings, and poetry. Thanks to all who attended!

This annual gathering is part of VHOCC's 'Soul Care' community-outreach program.

Special thanks to all those who made it possible, including poet laureate Nellie Bridge, Clallam County Threshold Singers, pianist Mark Johnson, photographer Gwo Lin, sound technician Steve Noland, guitarist Jim Wadington, and the staff and volunteers of VHOCC. And big thanks to Trinity United Methodist Church in Sequim for hosting this spirit-filled celebration again this year.





VHOCC Resources & Program Calendar

All programs are free of charge. Registration is required for all except Follow-Up Grief Support Groups. All programs are subject to cancellation. Call 360-452-1511 or email reception@vhocc.org.

COMMUNITY ORIENTATIONS

In-Person: Port Angeles

First Wednesday of each month, 11 a.m.–noon.
VHOCC office, 829 E. 8th Street, Port Angeles.

In-Person: Sequim

First Tuesday of each month, 11 a.m.–noon.
Location given at time of registration.

GRIEF SUPPORT GROUPS

In-Person: Port Angeles Fridays, May 15–June 12, 2–4 p.m.

In-Person: Sequim Mondays, Mar. 16–Apr. 13, 1–3 p.m.
Mondays, July 13–Aug. 10, 1–3 p.m.

FOLLOW-UP GRIEF SUPPORT GROUPS

Drop-in groups open to those who have attended a VHOCC grief support group.

In-Person: Port Angeles

First Thursday of each month, 4:15–5:15 p.m.

In-Person: Sequim

Fourth Monday of each month, 1–2:30 p.m.

EMPOWER YOURSELF: ADVICE FOR LIVING ALONE

A practical, 4-week series on Home Maintenance, Cooking for One, Household Finances, and Self-Care. Tuesdays, Mar. 10–31, 2–4 p.m. in P.A. Come to one or all!

HEALING FROM GRIEF WORKSHOP

6-week series with images, words and sounds.
Wednesdays, Apr. 8–May 13, 1–3 p.m. in Sequim.

ONE-ON-ONE GRIEF SUPPORT

For anyone in the community grieving a loss. Call 360-406-4439 and ask for bereavement support.

SOUL CARE

SPEAKER SERIES

Offered every other month on the second Wednesday from noon –1:30 p.m. via Zoom.

Wednesday, May 13: 'What Matters at the End of Life' with Barbara Karnes, RN.

DEATH CAFÉ 'TEA TO DIE FOR'

Open, casual, freeform discussions relating to end of life, death, and dying.

Port Angeles: Third Thursday of each month, 5:30–7 p.m. at Studio Bob, 118½ E. Front Street.

Fourth Wednesday of each month, 4–5:30 p.m., VHOCC Conference Room, 829 E. 8th Street.

Sequim: Second Monday of each month, 4–5:30 p.m., at KSQM-FM, 609 Washington Street, #17.

Spring Reflections: Renewal, Gratitude, and the People Who Carry Our Mission

Spring is a season of renewal, a time for cleaning up, and making space for hope, intention, and new growth. Spring also comes with several meaningful dates that invite reflection on planning, care, and the people who make our mission possible.



April is Financial Planning Awareness Month, reminding us that planning ahead is an act of care. April 16 is National Healthcare Decisions Day, a day to think about our wishes and have conversations about the care we would want if we became unable to speak for ourselves. Thoughtful planning can reduce stress, support dignity, and bring peace of mind to patients and families.

April 20 is Volunteer Recognition Day, and throughout April, we at VHOCC honor all our volunteers with special treats and outings. Nearly 200 volunteers give their time, skills, and hearts to VHOCC, providing respite, offering grief support, delivering medical equipment, and supporting our operations in countless ways. Our work would not be possible without these amazing volunteers who provide the truest expression of neighbor-to-neighbor care.

In early May, we honor National Nurses Week, and in early June we honor National CNA Week. Our nurses and certified nursing assistants are the core of our mission. Daily, they step into complex and emotionally demanding situations with extraordinary skill, compassion, and resilience. The work they do is challenging, deeply human, and profoundly impactful.

As the days lengthen and the light returns, I am filled with gratitude for our volunteers, our nursing staff, and our community, and with hope for the continued strength of our shared work.

Priya Jayadev, Executive Director



Our annual holiday luncheon was held on December 10 at the Naval Elks Lodge in Port Angeles. A crowd of about 100 enjoyed festive décor, a delicious pasta lunch and beautiful music by volunteer Jim Wadington. Volunteers, staff, and board members were recognized for their contributions. We are so fortunate to have such a talented and dedicated team!

Volunteers of the Month

JANUARY: Big shout-out to **Denise Bennett**. She is a fantastic addition to our Lending Closet volunteers. She takes initiative (thank you for sweeping!) and is meticulous in cleaning equipment. She also willingly takes on small DIY tasks: installing coat racks, making small furniture repairs, and hanging pictures. Her warm and professional demeanor puts everyone at ease. We are glad to honor her with a gift certificate from Shirley's Café Thank you to Denise and to Shirley's Café for their generosity!



FEBRUARY: Occasionally, things do not happen quite like we envision. This was the case on a Friday afternoon: the delivery team had gone home, and we received an urgent request for a bed delivery for someone about to transition. Our delivery driver **Tom Herber** just came back and did it! Now entering his tenth year at VHOCC, Tom has been the most gentle, self-effacing delivery person, always willing to lend a hand. A gift certificate from Airport Garden Center is just a token of our deep appreciation for Tom!



MARCH: Several volunteers do essential work behind the scenes: **Al Frank** came to us with expertise in software programming, which made him ideal for our donation team. December and January are busy months, and Al worked relentlessly to complete all reports on time and took on extra duties when another volunteer was unavailable. And he does it all with a smile, regardless of last-minute modifications. We could not do it without Al and we're so grateful to have him on our team. Thank you to Al and to Oak Table Café for their generous support!



Each year, National Nurses Week is celebrated from May 6 to 12 to recognize the vital contributions of nurses to healthcare and society. The final day, May 12, is the birthday of Florence Nightingale, the founder of modern nursing. Thank you, nurses!

Notes to VHOCC from Grateful Families

"To all of you we had the pleasure of getting to know, and all of the behind-the-scenes folks who keep this wonderful organization running — a huge THANK YOU from our family for supporting and empowering us to assume the responsibility and honor of caring for our dear K. through this mysterious and unimaginable experience of dying. We could not be more grateful."

"You got me through the loss of my husband. He got to stay in his home as he wanted. Nurses are God's gift in a trying time. Hospice is simply Love and Care."

"The hospice nurses were superheroes. Thank you so very much for helping us through a very difficult time. You are angels!"

"We can't think of enough ways or words to thank you for everything you did for us. My husband is at peace now because of your caring hearts."

HOSPICE HUGS: Thank You to These Generous VHOCC Supporters!

General Fund

William M. Andersen
Diana Anderson
Leslie Andrews
Anonymous (2)
Mary Bailey
Deb Balsler
Wayne Barrett
Amanda Beitzel
Tawana Borden
David Brewer
Glenn Browning
Leslie Campbell
Karen Chadwick
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Dr. Dana Shaltry
Marion Shaw
Mike Shirley

Jeffrey E. Snell
Susan Sorensen
Rebecca Stewart
Mikki and Rich Stillman
Richard Stockard
Swain's Family Foundation
VFW Post 4760
Kathy Wagoner
Karen Ward
Dan Welden
George Wood

Community-Sponsored Fundraisers

Mighty Pine Brewing
Polar Bear Dip

Volunteer of the Month Program

Airport Garden Center
Oak Table Café
Shirley's Café

Volunteer Hospice

OF CLALLAM COUNTY

829 E. 8th Street, Port Angeles, WA 98362

Nonprofit Org
U.S. Postage
PAID
Olympic Mailing
& Printing Services

Clinical Staff

Haley, RN, BSN, Clinical Team Manager
Mary, DNP, FNP-C, Medical Director
Lynn, RN, BSN, MS, Lead Nurse
Shelby, Patient Navigator
Ashley, CNA
Becca W, RN, BSN
Deanna, RN
Deb, RN
Ellen, RN
Jeanette, CNA
Joe, RN
Molly, RN, BSN
Stephanie, RN

Mission Support Staff

Priya Jayadev, Executive Director
Astrid Raffinpeyloz, Volunteer Services Manager
Heather Loyd, Administrative Services Manager
Myrna Schaaf, Administrative Assistant

Board of Directors

Roger Oakes, President
Loriann Hamilton Ridgeway, Vice President
Karen McCormick, Secretary
Stuart Koop, Treasurer
Wendy Brown
Marca Davies
Thom Hightower
Suzanne Lockwood
Mike Milward
Tyrrell Prosser
Peter Raiswell
Ted Ripley
Sandra Tatro

Help us keep our printing and mailing costs low. Get this newsletter via email. Contact us at office@vhocc.org. Thank you!

6 Ways to Help Volunteer Hospice

- Volunteer.
- Donate at volunteerhospice.org.
- Add Volunteer Hospice to your will.
- Donate needed items to the Lending Closet.
- 'Like' our organization Facebook page.
- 'Follow' us on LinkedIn.



On New Year's Day, VHOCC marked another successful **Polar Bear Dip** thanks to generous support from our community. Thanks to all the brave dippers, who got plenty of support from the cheering crowd. We raised more than \$4,000 from donations, T-shirt sales, and quilt raffle tickets! *Photos by Gwo Lin.*