

Meet the Miracle Man

Ray Nordyke is a lifelong Beaver Believer. He attended his first OSU football game seventy years ago and was in the crowd for the first basketball game ever played in Gill Coliseum in 1949. A football and basketball season ticket holder for nearly fifty years, Ray has worn the black and orange through thick and thin.

Last fall, though, Ray had to stop going to football games because he was just too ill. Earlier in April he'd been admitted to Benton Hospice Service with a serious lung tumor and a deadly pneumonia infection. Even though by the time football season rolled around Ray was feeling a bit stronger, the cold weather and flights of stairs were just a little too much for him.

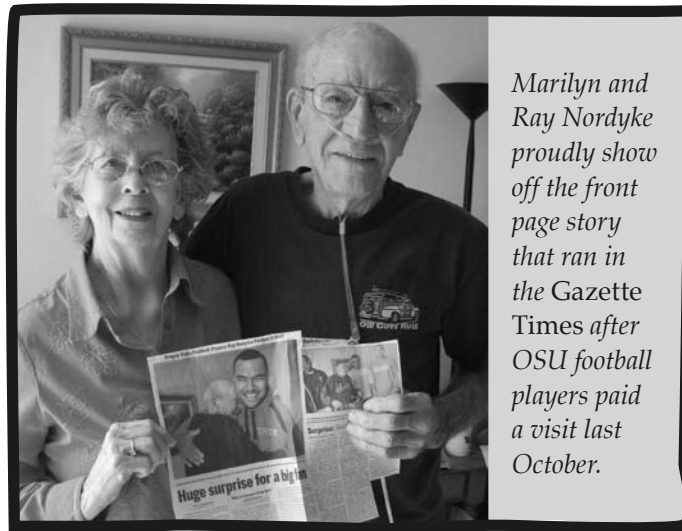
When one of our nurses heard that he wasn't able to be at the football game in person, she called the OSU athletic office, which arranged for OSU players Lyle Moevao, James Dockery, and Howard Croom to stop by and visit Ray.

"I was so flabbergasted!" remembers Ray. "It was just magic to have those guys walk through my door."

"That visit was the turning point," says Ray's wife, Marilyn. "It gave Ray a spark and he's been improving ever since."

That's a bit of an understatement. Ray's improved condition enabled him to attend the last two OSU home football games. By January of this year, his hospice team determined that he no longer had a life expectancy of less than six months, so Ray 'graduated' from hospice care and was discharged. In February, after a battery of tests, his pulmonologist, Dr. John Gotchall, proclaimed him 'The Miracle Man' because there was absolutely no trace of any infection and his tumor had shrunk to nothing.

Marilyn credits the weekly nursing visits as a big part of Ray's improvement. "Every week our nurse David was here checking Ray's heart and lungs, adjusting medications," she remembers.



Marilyn and Ray Nordyke proudly show off the front page story that ran in the Gazette Times after OSU football players paid a visit last October.

"In the beginning, I thought hospice was just for Ray's last couple weeks," recalls Marilyn, "but the care we had from everyone strengthened Ray physically and mentally."

"I know that Benton Hospice made the difference," says Ray. "Everyone was so nice and so compassionate; you can't help but feel better. If you can get on hospice, you should get on

it, even if you don't think you need it. Hospice can extend your life." He's quick to add, "But I'm hoping I don't need you again."

The way things are going, we don't expect to see this Miracle Man anytime soon. Ray accomplished his goals of going to a few basketball games this past season and celebrating his 79th birthday in March and his and Marilyn's 60th wedding anniversary in April. Ray is eagerly awaiting the opening day of fishing season, and he hopes to get in a couple of OSU baseball games, too.

Clearly, not all hospice patients have a miraculous outcome like Ray is enjoying. But often people who take early advantage of the services we provide do experience a higher quality of life for the time that remains. More than a few people's health improves to the point that they no longer need hospice care.

All of us at Benton Hospice Service are pleased to have played a part in Ray's miraculous story. Go Beavs!

A Legacy of Generosity

In life Rudi and Christel Engelbrecht attained excellence in their respective professions, and in death they provided generously to causes they honored. While their achievements were huge, they were warm, modest, deeply-caring people whose deaths were mourned by family, friends, neighbors, and colleagues. Benton Hospice Service is deeply appreciative to Rudi and Christel for making the largest bequest in our history—an incredible and wonderful surprise.

During his 'first' career at Bell Labs, Rudi's ground-breaking work in communications equipment resulted in 17 patents. Rather than retiring, Rudi went on to parallel in academia his extraordinary achievements in industry. He joined the engineering faculty at Oregon State, where he was named to the Engineering Hall of Fame and was honored as Outstanding Electrical Engineering Professor. Rudi also created the Engelbrecht Young Faculty Award, his way of encouraging the next generation of professors and instructors.

Christel was a nationally-known weaver and an early and long-time member of the Corvallis Weavers and Spinners Guild. She was particularly renowned for the complex and beautiful clothing and household textiles that she produced.

In addition to Benton Hospice Service, Rudi and Christel made significant donations to Oregon State University and several organizations supporting local land preservation. Their gift to hospice was an expression of appreciation for the support Christel received during her final illness, which enabled her to die at home surrounded by those she loved.

Along with their financial generosity, Rudi and Christel will be remembered for their exceptional generosity of spirit—their patience and kindness in nurturing the next generation. Rudi and Christel Engelbrecht enriched our community in many ways and are missed.



Christel and Rudi Engelbrecht, whose generous bequest is the largest single gift in Benton Hospice Service's history.



Meet the newest members of the Benton Hospice leadership team (left to right): Reenie Schwallie, Kevin Worley, Dana Evans, Kim Fuszek, and (inset) Joelle Osterhaus.

introducing...

We're excited to welcome the following new leaders to our hospice staff!

- Kevin Worley, RN, Patient Care Coordinator
- Reenie Schwallie, BSN, Asst. Patient Care Coordinator
- Dana Evans, LCSW, Social Services Coordinator
- Joelle Osterhaus, MSW, Bereavement Coordinator
- Kim Fuszek, Volunteer Coordinator

Each position contributes differently to care. They all work together to provide comfort and support to patients and family members.

"The beauty of hospice is that the patient comes first,"

Kevin says. "Our goal is to honor a person's wishes and to make things the best possible for however long that may be."

These great new folks join Shawn Foley, Medical Director, Lucy Noone, Executive Director, and Linda Bunch, Executive Assistant, who continue in their leadership roles.

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in memoriam

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Celebrating 30 Years of Compassion and Care

Thirty years ago Benton Hospice Service admitted its first patient. This simple event was the culmination of several years of work by a dedicated, forward-thinking group of community members who believed that the terminally ill deserved to die with comfort, compassion, and control.

The late David Kliewer, a local oncologist, and his wife Jean, a nurse, together with pharmacist George Constantine, attorney David Connell, and Senior Services director Betty Johnson made up the core group that developed a proposal to create Benton Hospice Service.

Providing a team of professionals to address the whole range of needs a dying person experiences was a revolutionary idea in the seventies. Up to that point, most terminally ill people died in hospitals, often without adequate pain medication or attention to non-physical needs.

This new approach to end-of-life care allows a person to die at home, surrounded and cared for by family and friends. Because hospice care focuses on comfort rather than a cure, pain and symptom control is of pre-eminent concern to the entire hospice team. But hospice is more than just dealing with medical issues: a person's social, emotional, and spiritual needs are considered and addressed as well.

With this vision in mind, our farsighted founders defined a mission and organizational structure for Benton Hospice Service that has guided us well for three decades.

Hospice nurse Mickey Klingler has been a part of BHS from its earliest days. She was one of the first volunteer nurses and the very first paid Patient Care Coordinator. Today Mickey is an admission nurse, often the first face a person sees when they become a hospice patient.

Mickey has seen a lot of changes from those first all-volunteer days when BHS cared for just a handful of patients.

"Having a full professional team to care for patients is a good change," says Mickey. "In the early days when we had such a small volunteer staff, nurses ended up doing more than just nursing—social work, spiritual care, even bereavement." Mickey recalls how relieved she was when a second part-time nurse was hired in the early eighties because it meant she didn't have to be on-call seven days a week, 24 hours a day. And she doesn't miss writing out every medical record by long hand, either.

Thirty years ago hospice was a new and virtually unknown approach to end-of-life care. In our first year of operation an all-volunteer team provided care for just three patients and their families. Since then BHS has provided support for over 3,500 terminally ill people and their families. Today we have a team of over 40 professionals and 125 trained volunteers who work together to support over 300 patients and families each year.

"Benton Hospice Service has been well-supported in this community because the work we do is valued and appreciated," notes Mickey.

Mickey recalls that when founder David Kliewer stepped down as BHS medical director, he said that Benton Hospice Service could measure its future success by continuing to flourish as those who began the organization stepped away from it.

Thirty years later we are still going strong. While some things have changed over time, one thing that remains the same is our dedication to the vision of compassionate end-of-life care that defines Benton Hospice Service.

Benton Hospice Timeline

1967	1974	1977	1978	1979	1980	1985	1991	1994	1999	2001	2004	2008	2010
Dame Cicely Saunders founds first modern hospice in England.	First U.S. hospice opens in Connecticut.	Founders David and Jean Kliewer, David Connell, George Constantine, and Betty Johnson begin hospice service feasibility study.	Founders finalize proposal for Benton Hospice Service.	BHS is incorporated and granted 501(c)(3) non-profit status.	First patient accepted. An all-volunteer staff serves three patients and families.	Oregon Hospice Association accredits BHS. 100th patient is admitted.	Medicare certifies BHS. Stable revenue stream allows BHS to hire professional staff.	500th patient is admitted.	1000th patient is admitted.	BHS moves into its own building.	Upstairs building expansion is finished. 2,000th patient is admitted.	3,000th patient is admitted.	3,507 patients and still counting...



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Fall session begins October 7/8

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Eight Thursdays beginning
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Coping with the Holidays

A short workshop to help survivors prepare for the holidays
November 10
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For information and registration, call 541-757-9616.

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