

Shared Journeys



ALLINA HOME &
COMMUNITY SERVICES
Allina Hospitals & Clinics
Hospice Foundation

WELLS FARGO STEPS FORWARD TO AID HOSPICE CONSTRUCTION

After four years of fundraising and planning, the J.A. Wedum Residential Hospice has transformed from an idea, to a plan, to a beautiful home-like space where patients and loved ones will receive expert, loving care. Thanks to thousands of donors, the hospice will open its doors in February 2012. Many notable community members were key in the ongoing effort to raise the 5.1 million dollars needed for construction.

In October, Wells Fargo pledged \$425,000 towards the Wedum Hospice to demonstrate their support and recognition of the vital contribution Allina Hospice makes to health care in the area. Wells Fargo, a business leader in satisfying customers' financial needs, is also a recognized community leader in supporting solutions that enhance quality of life. "We share many things in common with Wells Fargo, including a commitment to exceptional service and a passion for the values that guide us," said Ken Paulus, president of Allina Hospitals & Clinics. "Now we share an even closer bond. We can't thank our community-minded partners enough for this generosity, which allows us to move forward with

construction plans and provide a home for patients." In appreciation for the major support provided by Wells Fargo, the family living and entry areas, dining and conference rooms, and administrative offices will be named the Wells Fargo Family Care Center.

"Little did I know at the beginning of our journey, how much our family would grow to depend on you. From the first day out of the hospital, when our lives were being tossed about in a whirlwind of confusion and fear, you held our hands and calmed the winds."

I haven't the words to express how we could have made it through this time without you. Thank you for making a connection with us as a family with your love, your tears, your kindness, your smiles and your strength."

– Hospice family

memory of Edward J. "Eddie" Phillips, a successful businessman and philanthropist, who passed away on April 8. The gift was initiated by his children, Tyler, Jay, Hutton, Dean and Karin, in appreciation for the compassionate care that Allina Hospice provided their father. In gratitude for the family's generosity, the arrival lounge of the Wedum Hospice will be named after Eddie Phillips.

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Construction of the Wedum Hospice will be complete in February 2012.



Each patient room will feature a personal outdoor patio.



Mary Beth Wedum, Jay Portz, and Dana Wedum Kennelly volunteering at the J.A. Wedum Foundation Golf Tournament.



This summer's golf tournament raised \$40,000 for the Wedum Hospice.

SHELTERING ALL THOSE WHO NEED IT

By Chris Downey, MD, hospice and palliative care physician and Allina Home Care medical director

In August, a Truss Raising Ceremony was held at the Wedum Hospice to put the building's final truss in place. Attendees were invited to write their wishes for the hospice on the truss before it was raised. One wish was particularly memorable for me: "Peace to all who enter here," it read. The word I focus on is: all. We all wish for a peaceful, comfortable death.

Unfortunately, during my career I've witnessed how a hospice house sometimes is inaccessible to those who probably need it the most. Families who can't afford a hospice house take time off work, further lowering their incomes in order to care for their loved ones themselves. When patients need care that family members can't provide, they make trips to and from medical facilities. In terminally ill patients, such a trip may exhaust their energy for the day or longer. Even worse, sometimes family members can't take the time off that's necessary to provide for more frequent care or transportation needs – and patients suffer for it.

But it doesn't have to be that way. In another hospice where I used to work, I remember a particular patient in the final stages of cancer. While she didn't have the funds to pay for her care, she did have an abundance of joy, warmth, and hospitality. When my therapy dog, Mr. Sox, and I visited during rounds, she would always ask Sox to climb into her bed. When he did, the two would hug like old friends. At the



Patient Jerry, Mr. Sox, and Dr. Downey



Mr. Sox, therapy dog

entrance to her room was a candy dish she meticulously tended to make sure it was full for her caregivers.

Shortly before her death, when the patient's family hosted a birthday party for her, the room overflowed with children, decorations, and jovial laughter that rang into the hallway. I remember thinking, This woman has such grace, warmth, and love—and it's clear that she has raised

children who give all that back to her.

I don't know for certain what that patient's experience would have been like without the donated funds that allowed her to stay in the hospice house, but I do know that such donations allow everyone involved in a death to be the best they can be. Such funds ease patients' worries about becoming a burden to their family members. Family members, for whom providing medical care can be overwhelming, can leave the medical care to the professionals and concentrate on just being a child, sibling, spouse or partner. I've witnessed that such a gift can make possible a completely different experience of life and death for a patient and his or her loved ones. I've also witnessed that sometimes families have small needs at critical times. For example, families may initially pay for hospice care and then experience a job layoff that affects their ability to continue paying the full cost of their loved one's care. In these situations, families turn to us.

Care at a hospice house costs approximately \$400 per day. This year, the ninth annual Allina Hospice Benefit will donate all proceeds to helping patients who cannot afford room and board costs at the Wedum Hospice. I invite you to celebrate with us on May 4 at the McNamara Alumni Center. Please call 651-241-5460 or email sarah.bretl@allina.com for more information.

HOSPICE CONSTRUCTION *(cont. from page 1)*

Another major gift to the hospice construction came on one of the hottest days of 2011. This year, the annual J.A. Wedum Foundation Golf Tournament chose the Allina Hospice Foundation as its beneficiary. On a 95-degree day in July, participants gathered to golf at the Midland Hills Country Club in Roseville. Despite what some golfers cheerfully described

as "jungle heat," the tournament raised \$40,000 for the Wedum Hospice.

Because of these donations, construction has continued on schedule for the 12-bed, 18,000-square-foot hospice, which will be the largest residential hospice in the Twin Cities. Patients will receive expert, round-the-clock care in spacious private rooms with personal patios and sleeping

accommodations for family members. Reflection rooms, living spaces, and common kitchen and dining areas will be available for family gatherings and meals. The three-acre site will provide a natural, quiet setting to help families find peace and comfort.

For more information and to see a webcam of the construction, visit allina.com/wedum.

Memorial bricks are currently being placed around the walkways and gardens at the Wedum Hospice. A gift of \$250 entitles you to an engraved brick in memory or celebration of a loved one. The bricks will be a permanent part of the landscaping of the hospice to be enjoyed by patients, and their families, friends, and visitors. Please call 651-241-5416 for more information.

PROFILE – JASON BRADSHAW

Allina Hospice Foundation board chair, Jason Bradshaw, is the vice president and chief operating officer of Bradshaw Funeral and Cremation Services. The business was started in 1972 by Jason's father, Jim Bradshaw, and now has seven locations throughout the metro area. Despite having two young children, Anika and Ford, and another child on the way, Bradshaw, along with his wife Brea, have donated countless hours to raise money to help hospice patients in the community. Bradshaw answered questions about his role with Allina Hospice Foundation and his personal experiences with hospice.



Jason Bradshaw with wife Brea, and children Anika and Ford.

Why did you choose to volunteer with hospice?

To our family, volunteerism has always been an important part of life, both personally and professionally. In our profession, we have the opportunity to work with families at one of the worst points in their lives and to try to make it a bit easier. There is a big difference in families who have gone through hospice. They tend to be much more at ease and prepared. They usually share wonderful stories about what their hospice nurse or hospice volunteer has done for them. It didn't take long for me to realize hospice was something very powerful.

During difficult economic times, the foundation has raised \$5 million for the J.A. Wedum Residential Hospice. How did you do it?

We have an amazing board and foundation staff, which made a strong core for the campaign, and most of our volunteers work professionally in hospice care or have been touched by it in some way during their lives. This is a very committed group that gives so generously of their time. What was really unbelievable was the significant financial support from families that had been through the program and the donations made from Allina employees. When you get that kind of support, it really means

you're on the right track and you're doing the right thing.

Your family's business has a reputation for excellent customer service. How can this same commitment be applied to the nonprofit world?

Excellent customer service is easy in principle: Always listen closely to what the customer wants and provide an experience that is beyond what they expect. It's the execution of this principle that separates the best from the rest. In many ways, we are already doing much of that at Allina Hospice. We find great staff and volunteers. We continue to expand our programs, such as music therapy. And we are building the Wedum Hospice. I think these kinds of things are why we continually receive such high marks from patients and families.

Why should I consider a gift to the foundation?

Many of the programs at Allina Hospice come from listening to the needs of our patient families, which means they do not always fit into the typical "box" of reimbursable medical expenses. When you give a gift, it goes directly to those programs – directly for what people going through the experience say they need the most.

Allina Home & Community Services Group Sessions

GRIEF SUPPORT GROUPS

Journaling your way through grief

Explore a creative process for grief support for any death-related loss.

- Six-week fall session
- St. Paul Midway location, \$25

Mother loss for adult daughters

For daughters of mothers who have died within the past two years.

- Six-week sessions
- February 20 – March 26, daytime
- April 23 – June 4, evening
- September 11 – October 16, daytime
- St. Paul Midway location, \$25

Spouse/partner loss

For death of a spouse/partner within the past two years.

- Six-week sessions
- February 13 – March 19, 2 – 3:30 p.m.
- April 3 – May 8, 10:30 a.m. – 12 p.m.
- St. Paul Midway location, \$25

Family night

For families where one parent has died in the past two years and the surviving parent has one or more children ages 5-18.

- Six weeks (dates to be determined)
- Family fee of \$60 includes light supper

ADVANCE CARE PLANNING

Make sure your family knows your goals and values for future health care needs in case illness or injury prevents you from telling them yourself.

- Free seminars are held from 6:30 – 8 p.m. on various dates and at multiple locations this winter.
- Learn more at allina.com/acp.
- Call 612-262-2224 for information or to register.

Space is limited in all grief support groups and early registration is recommended. Please call Allina Grief Resources at 651-628-1752 for information or to register.



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Hospice Foundation

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Now recruiting volunteers for the J.A. Wedum Residential Hospice

Volunteers at the J.A. Wedum Residential Hospice will play a special role with patients as well as caregivers and family members. This new and unique opportunity allows volunteers to give their time on-site at the Wedum Hospice while supporting the hospice mission. We are looking for friendly individuals to be the warm and welcoming faces for all who enter the hospice. Duties will include greeting and welcoming visitors, providing information about the hospice, answering phones, delivering food and other items to residents, light cleaning, and companionship for patients and their families.

For more information about becoming a hospice volunteer, please call 612-262-7108 or visit allina.com/hospice and click on volunteer opportunities.

Allina Hospice Foundation Staff

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Olivia Tise — development assistant

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