

AMAZING PEOPLE DOING AMAZING THINGS

This forum is designed to highlight *amazing efforts* by staff during our Covid-19 response, including the exceptional care and support that is being provided to our patients, community, and each other.

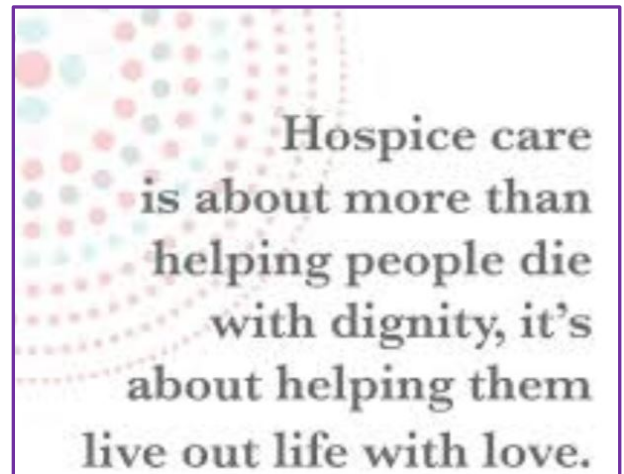


The Hospice team at Rockingham Visiting Nurse Association & Hospice is responding to the Covid-19 pandemic in a unique way to help families during their time of loss. “The need for social distancing and the ban on large gatherings complicates the grieving process,” says **Jane Oldfield-Spearman** (pictured at left), MSW, Bereavement Services Coordinator, Rockingham VNA & Hospice. “The loss of a loved one is compounded by the fact family and friends cannot gather to comfort one another and share memories. Expected rituals of grieving, such as wakes, funerals, and burials, are curtailed or delayed indefinitely. Even bereavement support groups and in-person grief counseling that would normally be available to help people through these difficult times are on hold.”

To help the families and friends of hospice patients who pass during this national public health crisis, Jane began assembling “Grief Kits” designed to help facilitate a simple ritual of remembrance in their own households. She saw the idea on a pastoral care post on the Unitarian Universalist Association website, and thought RVNA&H’s hospice families would welcome the gift. The kit contains a candle, homemade seed paper token, intention stone, and a poem. It also includes suggestions for personalizing the ritual with photographs, loving memories, spiritual readings, and music.

“This offering is meant to provide hope and healing to those who are suffering alone at home, awaiting a time when it is safe for them to gather with family and friends to acknowledge and publicly grieve the passing of their loved ones.”

Although right now the Grief Kits are only available to families of Hospice patients, Jane is happy to share the information about how to put a kit together with case managers and social workers at the Hospital and Core, if appropriate. Thank you to **Martha Carlson**, Program Coordinator, Rockingham VNA & Hospice, for submitting this story idea.



AMAZING PEOPLE DOING AMAZING THINGS – WORKING **TOGETHER AS ONE!**