



*Our Benton Hospice team gave the best care I have ever seen in my life and I have cared for many people. This team is family to me. The level of compassion, love and care they provided is to the highest degree and unexplainable. I have never in my life met a group of people so wonderful! Thank you Benton Hospice for the extraordinary love and care you provided!*

~ ANONYMOUS

## A Life Lost Too Soon:

### JESSIE'S STORY

Sherry and Warren Deglow lost their youngest child, their only daughter, the summer of 2013. Jessie was just 32 years old. Four years prior, during an annual visit to her gynecologist, a test identified an issue that required monitoring every three months. The Deglows thought Jessie was keeping up with the checkups. She was not.

When Jessie's stage 4 uterine cancer was diagnosed on March 1 of 2013, doctors told her that the illness would take her life, and that only 15% of patients with this diagnosis lived another five years. Jessie was determined to be one of the 15%. Jessie began chemo and radiation treatments.

Jessie's employer, Benton County, helped her remain insured through the illness. The Deglow's were moved by how supportive the County and Jessie's fellow employees were through Jessie's illness.

She had a way of making the nurses and doctors smile. One of her doctors observed that, no matter what was going on, Jessie always had a smile on her face. Her heart was huge. Jessie worked to cheer other patients in the chemo line, even knitting chemo hats for them. When she walked down the hall on her way to the next treatment her standard shout out was, "We're back!" She made jokes about the side effects of treatments, and brought movies to watch and share during treatments.

In the presence of cancer Jessie comforted her parents and gave them strength. She wanted to do as much on her own as possible, and Sherry and Warren were able to help Jessie realize those wishes by being there

to help and support as much or as little as Jessie needed. Jessie would talk her mom through how she needed help. "She taught me how to go through this with her," Sherry remembered.



SHERRY AND JESSIE DEGLOW SHARING A HUG

Sherry calls it a "blessing" that Jessie lived "at home" in an apartment on the Deglow's property. Throughout her illness, Jessie showed remarkable strength and grace. When her mother would cry, Jessie would comfort her, "You have to go on. You have to be strong." Sometimes even the doctors cried. Jessie, however, did not cry in front of others. She had her moments in private, though.

The illness began to take a toll on Sherry and Warren. Caring for Jessie through her illness was "absolutely exhausting," as Sherry put it. During the initial treatments an oncologist recommended contacting a hospice provider to learn more about the support hospice could

## Jessie's Story,

CONT. FROM PG 1

provide. Sherry and Warren didn't call. In her mind, Sherry thought if they called in hospice that would mean there was "no hope" and that hospice "would take Jessie away." Warren added, "We were so ignorant, so wrong." Sherry and Warren were "shocked" at how quickly Jessie's illness progressed. Finally, when Jessie began declining so rapidly that they didn't know how to keep up, they called Benton Hospice Service and Jessie was admitted that same day. Sherry and Warren said of their hospice team, "These are the nicest, kindest people on this earth."

Less than six months from Jessie's cancer diagnosis, on a Friday in August, doctors told the Deglow's the end was near. With support from a close friend, Nancy, and the hospice nurses, Karen and Cadie, Sherry and Warren spent the next three days by Jessie's side. With hospice's help, Jessie's wish to die at home with her parents by her side was fulfilled. Jessie died peacefully at home on Monday, August 26th.

Sherry and Warren were grateful for the last six months they had with Jessie. They talked with Jessie about "everything" and felt that nothing was left unsaid. If



JESSIE ENJOYING LIFE

they had it to do all over again, Sherry and Warren insisted that they "wouldn't change a thing, except," knowing what they know now, they would have brought in hospice to help much sooner. They now understand that accessing hospice doesn't mean "giving up." Warren stressed that, "It is so important for families to touch bases with hospice early in a terminal illness to learn what options and help are available."

Toward the end of her life, Jessie told her mother and father, "I had a good life. I wished it could have been longer." Her last spoken word was, "Mom."

*Sherry and Warren Deglow shared their story, in part, to stress to young women everywhere the importance of having annual exams and more frequent visits if the doctor recommends. Jessie may have had a very different outcome if she had taken this advice.*

## Introducing our new Executive Director: Kelly Beard



We are very pleased to announce the appointment of Kelly Beard as Executive Director. Kelly comes to Benton Hospice Service from Samaritan Health Services where she directed health information and case management divisions.

Kelly brings with her over twenty years of organizational leadership experience at Samaritan Health Services and Willamette Valley Hospice. As a seasoned healthcare executive she is uniquely suited to lead Benton Hospice Service with her expertise and experience in effectively developing, building and leading diverse, multi-disciplinary, healthcare teams to

achieve improved patient care, as well as fiscal stability.

"I'm excited to join an organization with such a clear and focused mission—to provide compassionate, patient-centered end-of-life care." Kelly shared, "I look forward to working with this amazing group of dedicated healthcare professionals and volunteers who strive to ease suffering, honor dignity, respect choices and support grieving."

"The breadth of experience Kelly brings to us really is quite remarkable. The commitment of our staff and the value they bring to interactions with families has always been outstanding. Kelly's leadership will help us to continue focusing those strengths and expanding Benton Hospice Service as a true community resource," said Gary DeLander, Benton Hospice Service board chair.

Please join us in welcoming Kelly to the Benton Hospice team!

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*Sincere thanks to all donors.  
Every gift of any size improves  
the end-of-life experience for  
someone in our community.  
We try hard to list each name  
correctly; if corrections are  
needed please contact us at  
541-757-9616.*



# EVENTS CALENDAR

## Give \$10... Give \$1,000

### GIFTS IN ANY AMOUNT HELP

Financial gifts provide services like massage and acupuncture therapies which are not covered by Medicare or insurance. Gifts also cover costs of providing grief and caregiver education and support groups free of charge to community members who are in need of such support. Donations also cover the cost of hospice care for patients with no insurance or other resources. Gifts of any amount help. Here are a few examples of how your gift can help:

- \$10 will purchase one fitted sheet for a hospital bed
- \$50 will allow us to offer one session of massage or acupuncture therapy
- \$100 will pay for three months of Lifeline service for a patient
- \$150 will pay for one person to attend a 6-week Powerful Tools for Caregivers Class
- \$500 will provide a laptop for administrative volunteers to use in the office
- A recurring monthly gift of \$15 will pay for one day of care for a hospice patient who has no insurance and can't afford to pay
- A recurring monthly gift of \$100 will pay for one week of care for a hospice patient who has no insurance and can't afford to pay

A monthly donation is simple to set up and allows you to spread your gift over the year. Make a secure donation any time at [www.bentonhospice.org](http://www.bentonhospice.org).

**ADULT GRIEF EDUCATION & SUPPORT GROUPS**  
Six-week sessions open to anyone who has experienced a loss. Pre-registration required. BHS meeting room.

Tues. evenings, 5:30 - 7:30 pm, beginning July 10 and Oct. 9  
**OR**

Fri. mornings, 11 am - 1 pm, beginning July 11 and Oct 10

### VOLUNTEER TRAINING

Quarterly two-day training. Pre-registration required.

Tuesday and Thursday, 8:30 am - 4:30 pm each day

June 17 and 19, 2014

### CAREGIVER SUPPORT GROUPS

For family caregivers to share and learn from each other. Drop-ins welcome.

*In Corvallis:* 2nd & last Tues. of each month, 1:30 - 3 pm  
BHS meeting room.

*In Lebanon:* 2nd Thurs. of each month, 10 - 11:30 am  
Lebanon Senior Center, 80 Tangent Street.

### POWERFUL TOOLS FOR CAREGIVERS

A six-week educational program designed to help family caregivers. Series location rotates between Corvallis, Albany, Philomath and Lebanon throughout the year. Next class will be held in the fall. Call for dates and locations.

### COMFORT CRAFTING CIRCLE

An afternoon of knitting, crocheting, and crafting for the benefit of hospice patients and families.

1st & 3rd Wed. of every month, 1 - 2 pm, BHS meeting room.

*For more information: 541.757.9616 or [bentonhospice.org](http://bentonhospice.org)*

*Benton Hospice Service was named 2014 Nonprofit of the Year by the Corvallis Chamber of Commerce at the annual Celebrate Corvallis gala in January. Thanks, Corvallis!*

CBT NUGGETS, EUGENE-BASED IT TRAINING COMPANY, MATCHED \$5,000 IN DONATIONS PLUS GAVE A PERCENT OF JANUARY PROFITS.



BENTON  
HOSPICE  
SERVICE



2350 NW PROFESSIONAL DR.  
CORVALLIS, OR 97330

[WWW.BENTONHOSPICE.ORG](http://WWW.BENTONHOSPICE.ORG)

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## Find us on Facebook!

Benton Hospice Service wants to be your friend. Facebook is a great place to keep up-to-date on Benton Hospice events, and to show your support or share your experience.

Find us at [www.facebook.com/bentonhospice](http://www.facebook.com/bentonhospice).

*"Fabulous class! I am so thankful I was able to take it!*

*Your kind facilitation was excellent. The demonstrating, role playing and constant review of information helped cement the idea, technique or thought in my mind. I'm realizing I am not alone and that there are people that can help. Just keep doing what you're doing! Bravo!"*

~ ANONYMOUS PARTICIPANT OF POWERFUL TOOLS FOR CAREGIVERS