

2014 Hospice Volunteer of the Year



“GIVING BACK”

By Paula Poel, Volunteer Coordinator for Harbor Hospice

Harbor Hospice is fortunate to have a dedicated team of volunteers who are always willing to help our agency fulfill our mission of providing empathy, expertise, and excellence to end of life care. Selecting one volunteer to be honored each year is always a hard task because all of them give us the gift of their time and talents.

After much thought and consideration, Francine Lessard has been named as our 2014 Volunteer of the Year. With us since January of 2013, Francine has given us over 750 hours of her time and driven over 2,600 miles to provide her volunteer services. In addition to regularly volunteering at our Poppen Hospice Residence, Francine has also provided respite visits for 18 different patients. If you aren't familiar with a respite visit, it is when a volunteer gives their time to a family by sitting with a patient while the primary caregiver takes a much needed break. These visits usually last for up to four hours to allow the primary caregiver to go out for lunch, run some errands, some shopping, go for a walk.....whatever will help them take care of themselves so that they are able to care for their loved one.

Francine is a volunteer that is always willing to take on a challenge. Her respite visits are very much appreciated by our patients and families, and we receive great comments from our patients about her. When she volunteers at the Poppen Hospice Residence reception desk, we know that things are going to go smoothly and she will take care of whatever issues might arise.

It is because of volunteers like Francine that we are able to provide an additional layer of care for our patients. We are truly fortunate to have her on our Volunteer Team, an essential part of Harbor Hospice.

Johnson Auto Sales

Johnson Truck and Equipment Sales was established in 1978 by Gary and Joy Johnson of Fruitport and still remains a family owned and operated business today! In 2006 the name changed to Johnson Auto Sales, LLC, which reflects a more current business plan.

At that time there were also some more changes in the business. After almost 30 years of ownership, Gary



and Joy Johnson stepped down and handed the torch to their three children, Brian Johnson; Gary Johnson, Jr.; and Angela PoePoe. All three are Fruitport graduates and live in the Fruitport community as well.

In addition to the three owners, there are four full-time employees: sales staff Jerry Stein and Jonathon Munson and service staff Andrew Peck and Kyle Morrow.

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We are your friends and neighbors, all volunteers, working to protect human life where it is threatened most – the unborn, the handicapped and the elderly.

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