



Nicole & her beloved cats!

Cat Comforts

Nicole was distraught but thanks to you, now she is all smiles. The facility where she is living doesn't allow pets; her cats were her family, her security, and her joy in life. While nothing can replace her cats, her hospice team went to work to make a difficult situation a little easier.

They found a shop that could create a custom cat blanket and while it was heart-wrenching giving up her "babies," the blanket is bringing Nicole some comfort and joy.

It is through your support that gifts like this are possible—gifts that can make all the difference in a patient's life.

Memory Bears

In memory of loved ones, the Elara Caring Dexter, Missouri office makes a "memory bear" for each of their hospice families. What is a memory bear? It is a bear that is made with love out of a patient's favorite shirt, gown, or blanket and is presented to the family as a memorial gift.

Memory bears help ease the pain when families are missing their loved one and are a cuddly reminder of memories shared. Over the years, Ms. Viva, a volunteer sewer, has made hundreds of memory bears. When Soozie H., Elara Caring bereavement coordinator, visits bereaved families, she says that it is not uncommon to find the bears seated at the kitchen table, favorite chair in the living room, or on the nightstand next to the bed. Indeed, the memory bear program has been so successful that the Elara Caring Hospice Foundation is making plans to expand to additional locations next year.



Ms. Viva and some of her bears!

The Elara Caring Hospice Bereavement Team will provide a one-hour webinar on coping with grief during the holidays. This program is available to anyone who may be coping with loss or who may want some suggestions on how to help family members cope with loss during the holiday season.

Participants may register for one of the offered sessions:

- November 9 @7pm ET
- November 11@ 10amET
- November 13@3pm ET
- November 16@8pm ET
- November 18@6pm ET
- November 20@3pm ET



To attend by phone or video call, please RSVP to Cindy Lucas, LMSW at Clucas@elara.com or call/text 517-262-9668. To download the materials ahead of time, please visit the Elara Caring Hospice Foundation website: elarafoundation.org. Click on the Caregiver Support tab and select "What is Grief." Scroll to the bottom to find the participant packet.

Words cannot thank you enough. The Miller's propane gas tank was empty and colder weather was coming. Money is tight as Hillary's illness has progressed and her husband now is paying for a caregiver while he drives a school bus during the day.

Thank you for heating their home for a

few more months as they prepare for winter.

In the words of Mr. Miller,

"you are the answer to prayers...many prayers."



Sleeping Better, Thanks to You!

Good night, sleep tight, don't let the bed bugs bite! Unfortunately, bed bugs have been a big challenge for several hospice patients in the Midwest. Bed bugs are tricky pests to get rid of and most times require professional extermination. That's when you came in and saved the day!

"I want to say thank you (for paying for extermination services). It has allowed me to continue with the out-of-pocket expense for our independent caregivers who take care of my wife to give her the additional care she requires. The insect infestation was sudden and had to be dealt with quickly and the expense was not expected. We thank you so much for this help. It is greatly appreciated."

-Husband of Elara Caring hospice patient