

**UNITED WAY OF THE OHIO VALLEY
OWENSBORO-DAVISS COUNTY
PARTNER AGENCY: HOSPICE OF WESTERN KENTUCKY**

Our goal as hospice caregivers is to make the patient's final stage of life as full and rewarding as possible, and one of our ways of accomplishing this is with a "Wish" program we created specifically to grant last wishes when possible for patients who haven't the financial or other means to make the wish happen themselves. Not every wish is big, some may even seem simple, but each one has special meaning for the patient, and creates lasting, heart-warming memories for the families left behind and our staff. As an example, Hospice employees are often thanked by patients, families and friends for the care we provide to their loved ones. What the community may not see, though, is how much our patients bless us in return day after day. One such blessing occurred for Hospice's Spiritual Counselor, Mary Shultz, when a patient's only wish was to sing once again with the choir from his church. Arrangements were made to surprise him, and on a day everyone shall remember for a long time to come, his friends from the choir came for an afternoon of fellowship and singing with him at the Heartford House. "Working with Hospice, I have had so many rewarding times with patients and their families," Mary said, "but hearing Mr. Purdy sing with his church choir rates right up there at the top. When Mr. Purdy sang with his friends, Mary said she saw "a group of people who loved our patient, and our patient who loved a group of people," adding, "there were some very tender moments between them, and each received a blessing and was so appreciative for Hospice allowing it to happen." "Mr. Purdy sang his little heart out," Mary said, "and at the end, he said the most precious prayer that went straight to God's ears I am sure."

WHAT DIFFERENCE WILL YOUR INVESTMENT MAKE?

With your investment of \$100 **Hospice of Western Kentucky** can:

- Provide six "Comfort Care Kits" -- a 24-hour stock of emergency medications provided for hospice home-care patients
- Provide two weeks of oxygen for one patient at the Heartford House
- Purchase 15 gait safety belts for hospice staff and caregivers to assist patients with walking/mobility

