Hospice of Western Kentucky

At Hospice, the care we provide our patients is so much more than just meeting their physical needs. From finding ways to bring families together when loved ones live far away, to honoring veterans for their service, we strive to meet all the needs of our patients. What matters to them, matters to us. Our Spiritual Counselors provide an invaluable service to our patients, but when one of them also has a guitar and loves to sing, the result can be countless smiles and uplifted days for those we're caring for. "I love playing music with our patients," says Spiritual Counselor Adam Bridgeman. "I've found that while much is stripped away from their lives, especially with dementia patients, music is lodged in their souls."

When the pandemic forced all of us to mask up and distance from one another, Adam would not be discouraged from sharing music with Miss JoAnn. Seated on a lawn chair outside her window, he would sing and play her favorite folk songs while the 93-year-old joined him from her bed inside. "Music was so important to her, Covid-19 wasn't going to keep us from singing together as we always had," he shared. Singing had also brought joy to 94-year-old Bud all his life, especially gospel music, so needless to say, Adam's visits to his home consisted of one song after another, with Bud teaching many an old tune to Adam. "Bud taught me songs I couldn't believe I'd never heard before," he said. And when Miss Theda celebrated her 100th birthday, Adam was there to serenade her with her favorite Elvis songs. He even threw in some Elvis dance moves, much to Miss Theda's delight. Adam said it was wonderful seeing her so happy, feet tapping and hands clapping.

Musician Stevie Wonder once said, "Music is a world within itself, with a language we all understand." Sometimes with our hospice patients, music communicates when nothing else will. "It soothes my own soul to have the opportunity to connect with patients and families in such a unique way," Adam admitted. "It is very rewarding work."