

## Hospice of Hancock County celebrates 30 years of service

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*(Courtesy of: Hospice of Hancock County)*

Former Hospice of Hancock County Executive Director Barbara Clark shares a laugh with former Board President Jim Fernald at the organization's 30th anniversary celebration on Sept. 8.

**ELLSWORTH** — On Wednesday, Sept. 8, volunteers and supporters of Hospice of Hancock County gathered to celebrate the organization's 30 years of serving the local community with free, non-medical hospice support. The theme incorporated the 30th-anniversary "pearl" with the organization's lupines logo. Approximately 80 guests attended the dinner and program at the Atlantic Oceanside hotel in Bar Harbor. In attendance were four past presidents of the organization and several community colleagues representing medical hospice partners, including Charlie Therrien, new CEO of Maine Coast Memorial Hospital, and representatives of Eastern Maine Healthcare Systems and Community Health and Counseling Services. Maine's U.S. Sen. Susan Collins sent a representative, who read letter of congratulations.

The evening's agenda included recognition of the previous year's special programming, offered under the focus heading: "As Hospice of Hancock County recognizes our 30th year, we celebrate our gifts and grow into the future as a community voice for living well at the end of life.—In addition to the previous year's services and outreach, the organization's Strategic Planning process was highlighted, with special emphasis on the organization's name change to Hospice Volunteers of Hancock County.

Effective immediately, the name change emphasizes the importance of the volunteers who provide the organization's mission services: free volunteer support to individuals living at the end of life and their families, as well as those grieving the loss of a loved one.

Also presented at the anniversary celebration was a time-line of the organization's first five years, compiled by former executive director Barbara Clark. This presentation highlighted the contributions of pioneers in the local early hospice movement and the themes that presented challenges in those days provided some humorous reflections.

An individual award was presented to Clark, who was recognized for her extensive service to the organization. She received two standing ovations, a tribute was read, and a proclamation of her award as the Zeke Dennett Volunteer of the Year was presented.

Participating in the presentation of the award were staff members, board members, former board presidents and volunteers.

The celebration continued with the screening of a film, which is still in production by Dylan Howard, about Hospice of Hancock County. It will eventually be used as a training and public-awareness piece for the organization. The evening was concluded with two songs by the Evensong Hospice Singers.

For more information, visit [hospiceofhancock.org](http://hospiceofhancock.org).

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