



**MEADOWLARK
HOSPICE**

**Our Mission is to
provide loving,
compassionate care
for those living with a
life-limiting illness.**

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Meadowlark Notes

Issue 73

Summer 2016

Blessed Be the Tie that Binds

By Dawn Phelps, RN/LMSW

My husband Ralph died at 10:40 a.m. on Tuesday, February 28, 2006. After his death, our family said our good-byes to him, and the funeral director came. About 1:00 p.m., someone asked, "Where's Daisy?" Daisy was our St. Bernard, my husband's dog that lived outside.

The grandchildren started looking for Daisy and found her in a very unusual place—alongside the back of the house; she was unresponsive. We called our veterinarian who came, and our family

again said our good-byes—this time to Daisy.

After my husband's long battle with cancer, his death was expected, but Daisy's death caught my family off guard. I have wondered if Daisy sensed that my husband had died. Perhaps Daisy's death was a response to her loss of my husband. I will never know for certain.

One thing is for sure—pets grieve after the death of the ones they love. There are many documented stories to

verify the fact. One of the best known stories is of a dog named Hachiko in Japan. Every day Hachiko waited at the local train station for his owner to return from work. After Hachiko's owner died suddenly, the dog continued to return to the train station daily for nine years until the dog died in 1935.

There is another documented story of a German Shepherd in Argentina. In 2005, Miguel Guzman brought home a German Shepherd puppy and named him

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Director Notes

The Dynamic Duo

Praline and Charlie were the most dynamic miniature dachshund duo one could ever imagine. Praline was as sweet as her name—a precious puppy that

stole our hearts the first day we saw her. I actually tricked my husband into getting a puppy. I knew if he saw a puppy he would not be able to say no. I was right. That sweet little puppy instantly melted his

heart. As we were driving home, we were discussing a name for this little puppy. We said "let's not name her something like brownie or praline." Then we looked at each other and said "Praline—that's

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Blessed Be the Tie that Binds...cont'd from pg 1

Capitan. Guzman died suddenly one year later in a hospital in the city. His body was taken to a funeral home a distance from Guzman's house, then to the cemetery for burial. No one in the family recalled the dog following them to the cemetery.

After the burial, Guzman's wife could not find Capitan. Then about a week later, when the wife went to the cemetery, she found Capitan whimpering, lying atop his owner's grave. Capitan lived at the cemetery for the next six years until the dog's death.

So grief goes both ways: the owner of a pet experiences grief when their pet dies, and pets grieve when their owners die. There is a tie that binds pets and owners together, a bond that scientists refer to as the "human-animal bond," a bond that can be intense and lasting.

Scientists have studied the positive interactions between humans and their pets, mostly with dogs and cats, and have found there are benefits to owning a pet. Even a fish can be beneficial—watching fish can help lower blood pressure.

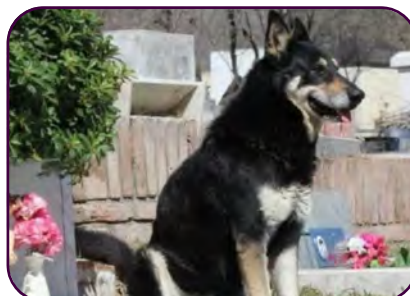
Autistic children showed improvement in a program in Florida which involved dolphins. Pet therapy is becoming more common with children with mental challenges and with the elderly in nursing homes.

The benefits of having a pet are widely accepted for those who have experienced a loss. A dog, for instance, can help give someone who is grieving a reason to get out of bed in the morning and someone to come home to at night. Dogs love unconditionally and can help decrease the loneliness one experiences after a death.

Conversely, if you have a pet and someone close to your pet dies, it would be a good idea to pay special attention to your pet. After a loss, a pet can become restless, anxious and depressed. Like humans, pets can develop sleep and eating disorders. So keep an eye on your pet and offer extra attention. If you have concerns, ask your local veterinarian for advice.

Yes, there is a lasting bond between pets and humans. *Blessed be the tie that binds.*

*"He is your friend, your partner, your defender, your dog.
You are his life, his love, his leader.
He will be yours, faithful and true,
to the last beat of his heart."
(author unknown)*



Director Notes ...cont'd from pg 1

it!" Praline was the perfect name for this puppy that would spend the next 14 years in our family. Dear Praline passed in April.

The loss of Praline was felt by all in our family. Our boys were suffering their first loss of a pet. My husband had just lost his first puppy. Then there was Charlie. Poor Charlie was feeling the loss more than any of us. Charlie had spent almost every day of his life with Praline. They had been inseparable ever since we brought him home at 8 weeks old. They spent one night apart about 1 month before Praline passed when they escaped from our fenced-in yard. Praline was caught by animal control and spent the night being spoiled in the animal shelter. Charlie spent the night roaming the town, undoubtedly looking for Praline. When he found his way home the next morning, he quickly searched their room looking for her. He looked at me and his eyes seemed to say "there was a man, with a net, and he has Praline".

These two dogs were quite the team. Each had their own bark that we were able to interpret. One night, Charlie had a bark that I had not heard before. It was a cry for help. I went to determine the problem and discovered Praline was not doing well. She had had a seizure and was quite disoriented to her surroundings. The next two days were the hardest days I've had in quite some time. I spent the time essentially providing hospice care to my sweet girl. We were able to get some medicines that helped with the seizures. Every time a seizure would start, Charlie would stay near and cry as well. Charlie and I sat with Miss Praline all night as she slowly slipped away. The bond between these two furry kids in our family was incredible.

Since Praline passed, we have taken extraordinary steps to help Charlie through his grief. He has become more of a house dog. He has taken up sleeping quarters in our bed. For the first week he would only eat "people" food. Now he is slowly transitioning back to a few bites of dog food. There is still a sadness that remains in this little guy. I have had several pets in my lifetime, but this is the first time I have had to help an animal that is grieving. Even in the animal world, it seems there is a struggle with secondary losses that come with losing someone you spent every moment with. So for now, we take it one day at a time. We all get excited when we do something that gets a wag from his tail.

The boys are each different in how they are coping as well. Our oldest is very tender and there are still a lot of tears shed. He likes to draw pictures and look at pictures we have of Praline. He took her collar and put it on one of his stuffed puppies. Our youngest is acting very stoic about the situation. He is very matter of fact and tells almost everyone he sees that Praline died. He cried a lot that day and now his tears are subsiding. He also wants pictures of Praline. Almost every day he asks "Do you miss Praline?" He asks in a way as if he is validating that it is ok to miss her.

When we have a loss, it is important that we are allowed to grieve. It is also important that we grieve in a way that is therapeutic to us as an individual. Every person's grief looks a little different. Our animals also grieve when they lose a pet friend or an owner. We must be sensitive to allow a person to grieve in their way and not judge because they don't grieve like us. Take some time to offer support to people that have lost a loved one. In my experience, the gift of a listening ear is the best support a person can give.

Amy Burr, RN BSN
Meadowlark Hospice Program Director



Calendar of Events

Jul 7	4:30 pm	Clay Center Bereavement Support Group—Meadowlark Hospice office
Jul 11	1:00 pm	Concordia Volunteer Continuing Education
Jul 11	3:00 pm	Belleville and Republic Volunteer Continuing Education at Belleville
Jul 11	6:30 pm	Concordia Bereavement Group (community-sponsored) - Episcopal Parish Hall, 117 W 8th Call Judy Lambert 785-243-4454
Jul 14	7:00 pm	The Grief Support Group (community-sponsored) - 214 W 2nd, Washington - Call Terri Clark 785-325-3200
Jul 18	11:00 am	Clay Center Volunteer Continuing Education
Jul 19	9:30 am	Washington Volunteer Continuing Education
Jul 19	Noon	Marysville Volunteer Continuing Education
Jul 19	2:00 pm	Frankfort Volunteer Continuing Education
Jul 21	5:30 pm	Belleville Bereavement Support Group – Library, 1327 19 th Street
Jul 28	4:30 pm	Marysville Bereavement Support Group – South Plaza of CMH – use N door
Aug 8	1:00 pm	Concordia Volunteer Continuing Education
Aug 8	3:00 pm	Belleville and Republic Volunteer Continuing Education at Republic
Aug 8	6:30 pm	Concordia Bereavement Group (community-sponsored) - Episcopal Parish Hall, 117 W 8th Call Judy Lambert 785-243-4454
Aug 11	4:30 pm	Clay Center Bereavement Support Group - Meadowlark Hospice office
Aug 11	7:00 pm	The Grief Support Group (community-sponsored) - 214 W 2nd, Washington - Call Terri Clark 785-325-3200
Aug 15	11:00 am	Clay Center Volunteer Continuing Education
Aug 16	9:30 am	Washington Volunteer Continuing Education
Aug 16	Noon	Marysville Volunteer Continuing Education
Aug 16	2:00 pm	Frankfort Volunteer Continuing Education
Aug 18	5:30 pm	Belleville Bereavement Support Group – Library, 1327 19 th Street
Aug 25	4:30 pm	Marysville Bereavement Support Group – South Plaza of CMH – use N door
Sep 8	4:30 pm	Clay Center Bereavement Support Group - Group will eat together, place TBA
Sep 8	7:00 pm	The Grief Support Group (community-sponsored) - 214 W 2nd, Washington - Call Terri Clark 785-325-3200
Sep 12	1:00 pm	Concordia Volunteer Continuing Education
Sep 12	3:00 pm	Belleville and Republic Volunteer Continuing Education at Belleville
Sep 12	6:30 pm	Concordia Bereavement Group (community-sponsored) - Episcopal Parish Hall, 117 W 8th - Call Judy Lambert 785-243-4454
Sep 15	5:30 pm	Belleville Bereavement Support Group - Group will eat together, Place TBA
Sep 19	11:00 am	Clay Center Volunteer Continuing Education
Sep 20	9:30 am	Washington Volunteer Continuing Education
Sep 20	Noon	Marysville Volunteer Continuing Education
Sep 20	2:00 pm	Frankfort Volunteer Continuing Education
Sep 22	4:30 pm	Marysville Bereavement Support Group – South Plaza of CMH – use N door

Hospice Gifts & Memorials

Your memorial gifts honor your loved ones and help others!

HOSPICE GIFTS

Country Place Senior Living-
Marysville

Dorothy Richardson

Dolores Wassenberg

MEMORIALS

MYRTLE BAXTER

George & Karen Blomberg

Mary Ann Sullivan

Pamela Willard

DONALD BECHARD

Wynn & JoAnn Bauer

Anthony & Vicki Bechard

Lavern & Audrey Bechard

TJ & Nancy Buchli

Theodore & Kelly Christensen

Jan & Patty Detrixhe

Donna & Bill Faidley

Dwight & Doris Ferguson

Financial Management, Inc.

Friends & Neighbors

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Clayton & JoAnn Kempton

Lincoln School Staff

Wilma Lyon

Jeffery Bechard & Laura Maddox

Lavern & Roxana Marcotte

Mellies Hog Farm/Charles Mellies

J.L. & M.L. Morris

Rolland Reed

Lynn & Patricia Wait

JOYCE BIGLER

David & Catherine Affolter

James & Brenda Bourne

Barbara Bromby

Stuart & Carolyn Buchmann

Charles & Denise Cyr

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Mildred Hadley

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David & Susan L'Ecuyer

Michael & Barbara Lehning

Gary & Doris Mulder

Nancy Ryan

Brad & Amy Jo Schick

Johnny Jr. & Geneva Thomas

Donald & Mary Beth VanRoekel

Ron & Donna Wichman

Sandra Wiemers

Mark & Patti Woodruff

VIRGINIA CAMERON

Doug & Patti Adams

Rex & Mary Kaye Blackwood

Laura & Ralph Blevins

Richard Brake

Richard & Mary Janet Brumfield

Jo Carson

Dennis & Marcia Gfeller

Monte & Emily Green

Mark & Sandra Greenough

Randy & Cathy Hafner

Kenneth Harton

Gail & Karen Hauserman

Betty R. Jones

Doyle & Dixie Jones

Elnora Jones

Kenton & Sharron Jones

Randy & Jeanette Kidwell

Rex & Cariie Kleiner

Larry & Eunice Kopfer & family

Greg & Dawn Langvardt

Bob & Jerrie Loader

...VIRGINIA CAMERON

Jerald & Audrey McClain

Carol Michaud

Dave & Lynda Reed

Gary Reed

Rose Anne & Ray Reed

Timothy & Tamela-Copeland Sharp

Ken & Bev Shivers

Betty Spellman

Mary Ann Sullivan

Mike & Patricia Walker

Peggy Weidman

Max & Mary Weir

Meta Wendelken

Myron & Lucille Wohler

Dennis & Jolene Wynn

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Clyde & Rita Wollenberg

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Beth Whisler

ILA FIELDER

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Carl & Loretta Meats

Mary Alice Pacey

Dianne Smith

Lawrence Stigge

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The Family of Edna Gee

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Jerry & Carolyn Rothfuss

Dail & Kathy Smith

RONALD HAMMEL

Mark & Carol Pfizenmaier

Pat & Maureen Pfizenmaier

Hospice Gifts & Memorials

Your memorial gifts honor your loved ones and help others!

SHIRLEY HANN

Arlene Baloun
Michelle Brickler
Stephanie Elhart
Friends & Neighbors
Holly Gourley
Melissa Haberzetti
Glen & Dian Haldorson
Larry & Sally Hansen
Douglas Hill
Glenn & Brenda Jagodzinske
Robert & Michelle Jensen
Kansas City Orthopaedic Institute
Rehab Department
Lela Knedlik
Jamie McFadden
Jerry & Linda Melton
Edwin & Karen Splichal
The Joyce Hansen Family Trust

WILLADENE HEBERT

Gertrude Breault
Central National Bank-Concordia
Tom & Missy Hager
Gary & Julie Lohse
The Family of Willadene Hebert
Eldon & Carolyn Woellhof

LYNN HERMESCH

Inez Hermesch
NEAL LORIMOR
Baton Rouge Flight Standards
District Office

DOROTHY MCCLURE

Central National Bank-Concordia
Darrell & Mary Dean Nelson
Richard & Janet Snyder
Dennis & Carol Wilson
Jim & Donna Wilson

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The Family of Eleanora Meier

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Paul & Mary Martin Buhl

WALTER MUGLER

Dewey & Carol Adams
PJ Beaudoin
Bolton & McNish LLC
Charles & Susan Brake
Delores Case
Kaye Chestnut
Derald & Debra Craig
Jerome & Jody Crimmins
Allen & Robin Elsasser
Dwight & Doris Ferguson
Gene Ferguson
Roger & Marla Forsyth
Leota Fowles

Bill & Sandy Fox

Friends & Neighbors

Reva Grater

Randy & Cathy Hafner
Merle & Jolene Hammond
Robert & Judith Kobetich
June Laha
Kevin & Mary Larson

Richard & Linda Llewelyn

Donna Lytle

John & Janice Machin

Deb Martin

Kathryne Martin

Jerald & Audrey McClain

Elsie Mugler

Harold Mugler

Herbert & L'Jeane Mugler

Mark & Carol Pfizenmaier

Pat & Maureen Pfizenmaier

...WALTER MUGLER

Ron Roth
Rosemary Smith
Betty Spellman
Kevin & Janeil Sullivan
Marilyn Thomas
Meta Wendelken
Sylvia Wohler
Brett & Marita Wolgast

TERRENCE "TERRY" O'NEIL

Tom & Anita O'Neil
JERRY PILLARD
Merril & Janelda Manor
Mary Armstrong Memorial Fund
Gary Pillard
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Elaine Scheele

LOIS PRELL

Allen & Velora Prell

Don Prell

LEAH RAMSEY

Marie Balfour
Robert & Janice Camerlinck
CCCHS Class of 1962
Friends & Neighbors
Dale & Deanna Hammond
Dusty & Deborah Hammond
Mary Mann
Jay & Allison Rasmussen
Wayne & Glenda Rasmussen
Rolland Reed
Nancy Ryan
Jane Sherbert
Frank & Joan Steenbock
Mary & Regan Stern
Nancy & Kenneth Van Duyne

Hospice Gifts & Memorials

Your memorial gifts honor your loved ones and help others!

PAUL REED

American Legion Post 101

Kelly & Cheryl Carpenter

Laverne Carpenter

Dixie Clemons

Elsie Mugler

Don & Twila Reed

Randy Shadle

Robert & Mary Taylor

DALE RYSER

Paul & Delores Blochlinger

Friends & Neighbors

Richard & Regina Loeffler

...DALE RYSER

Doris McCall

Gwen Miller

ALMA SIEBENGARTNER

The Family of Alma Siebengartner

JAMES "JIM" SJOGREN

Jim & Connie Reedy

ROY TAYLOR

Tim & Kathy Burger

CCCHS Class of 1949

Mark & Susan Meier

Dixie Sortor

Andrew & Patty Taylor

...ROY TAYLOR

Roger & Alice Wilcoxson

ROBERT WAGOR

Robert Wagor Memorial Fund



The Last Battle

If it should be that I grow frail and weak,
And pain should keep me from my sleep,
Then will you do what must be done,
For this, the last battle, can't be won.

You will be sad I understand,
But don't let grief then stay your hand,
For on this day, more than the rest,
Your love and friendship must stand the test.

We have had so many happy years,
You wouldn't want me to suffer so.
When the time comes, please, let me go.

Take me to where to my needs they'll tend,
Only, stay with me till the end

And hold me firm and speak to me,
Until my eyes no longer see.
I know in time you will agree,
It is a kindness you do to me.

Although my tail its last has waved,
From pain and suffering I have been saved.

Don't grieve that it must be you,
Who has to decide this thing to do;
We've been so close, we two, these years,
Don't let your heart hold any tears.

Author Unknown

Medical Director – John Ryan, MD

Assistant Medical Director – Randall Brown, MD

Nurse Practitioner - Michele Voelker, APRN

Program Director – Amy Burr, RN, BSN

Patient Care Coordinator – Deb Martin, RN, BSN

Hospice Staff Nurses – Stacy Behrends, RN, BSN; Debrah Bollig, RN; Debra Champlin, RN; Deb Hedke, RN, BSN; Kristin Kruse, RN; JoAnn Lips, RN; Pam Tremblay, RN; Sherry Wiese, RN

Director of Social Services – Dawn Phelps, RN/LMSW

Social Workers – Kathryn Benson, LBSW; Stephanie Garrison, LBSW; Joyce Nelson, LMSW

Bereavement Services Coordinator – Dawn Phelps, RN/LMSW

Chaplains – Kathy Ouellette; Al Paredes; Sr. Mary Savoie; Rev. Susan Sawyer; Sr. Marilyn Wall

Volunteer Coordinator – Darlene Melton

Billing/Insurance – Ronna Urban

Administrative Assistant – Lilly Hitsman; Charlotte Rundell; Lisa Seley

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programs to area organizations!

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