

## What Stein Hospice Means For Nicole Howser

In a sense Nicole Howser was recruited to Stein Hospice a little over two years ago by her grandfather. More on that later.

Nicole Howser is the epitome of rural Southern Ohio. She grew up outside Russellville, graduated from Eastern Brown High School and Southern State Community College's nursing school.

Recently, she earned a BSN – a Bachelor of Science in Nursing degree – from the Ohio State University.

Nicole lives with her husband David, a self-employed contractor, in Georgetown. She has a four-year-old daughter, Laicee, and a 22-year-old stepson, also named David.

Nicole and husband David farm and raise show cattle.

After becoming a nurse she worked in nursing homes and had the opportunity to observe hospice companies "up close and personal."

"But," she said, "it didn't seem like anything that would interest me at all."

Then fate intervened. Nicole's Grandfather, Gene Kinder, became ill.

"To be completely honest," she said, "I never really envisioned myself as being a hospice nurse. It really wasn't something that interested me until I saw Stein take care of my Grandpa."

Gene Kinder was a Veteran. For the last few weeks of his life he was a resident of the Ohio Veterans



Home – Georgetown under the care of Stein Hospice.

After Mr. Kinder passed away, Nicole had a chance to reflect on the end-of-life experience. She was impressed with, not only the care, but the compassion.

Her previous contacts with hospice did not elicit the same feelings.

I thought," Nicole explains, "I want to try and be part of that."

She especially enjoys the teamwork aspect at Stein.

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## STEIN HOSPICE

**Mission Statement:** *To provide comfort, compassion and support during life's final journey.*

## LOCATIONS

**Administrative Office**  
Sandusky  
1200 Sycamore Line  
Sandusky, Ohio 44870  
419-625-5269  
1-800-625-5269

**Norwalk**  
257 Benedict Ave., Suite B  
Norwalk, Ohio 44857  
419-663-3222  
*Please note, this is the correct address for our Norwalk office. It is currently listed incorrectly in the Yellow Pages phone book and online at yp.com and 411.com*

**Port Clinton**  
1848 E. Harbor Road  
Port Clinton, Ohio 43452  
419-732-1787

**Stein Hospice Care Center**  
Firelands Regional Medical Center South Campus  
1912 Hayes Ave., 3rd Floor  
Sandusky, Ohio  
419-558-4164  
1-866-230-7597

**Tiffin**  
100 Madison St.  
Tiffin, Ohio 44883  
419-447-0475

**Lorain**  
4000 Oberlin Ave., Suite 4  
Lorain, Ohio 44053  
440-282-3939

**Stein South**  
100 Liming Farm Road  
Mount Orab, Ohio 45154  
937-444-2766

## EMAIL

**Volunteer info:** [volunteers@steinhospice.org](mailto:volunteers@steinhospice.org)  
**Donor/event info:** [development@steinhospice.org](mailto:development@steinhospice.org)  
**Referrals/questions:** [intake@steinhospice.org](mailto:intake@steinhospice.org)  
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## IN TOUCH IS PUBLISHED BY:

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## GO GREEN

Help Stein Hospice save money and care for the environment by receiving "In Touch" electronically. Just send an email to [newsletter@steinhospice.org](mailto:newsletter@steinhospice.org) and include both your email and mailing address. We will not distribute your email address or use it for any other purpose. "In Touch" is published quarterly and is also available online at [www.steinhospice.org](http://www.steinhospice.org).

# Volunteers make a difference

With all the celebration occurring at this time of year, we choose to also celebrate the work of all the dedicated volunteers who provide support, companionship and dignity to patients and families being served by Stein Hospice.

Nearly 300 volunteers will have provided 20 thousand hours this year to help care for patients and families and to support hospice programs in their mission to serve.

Hospice volunteers often serve patients and families at the bedside but they also assist in the office, help raise awareness, contribute to educational programs, and provide fundraising support, help in our thrift shop and more.

The National Hospice and Palliative Care Organization reports that every year, an estimated 1.6 million patients and their family caregivers receive the high-quality, compassionate care that hospice provides. That care is provided by highly trained clinical professional and volunteers.

"Hospice volunteers help the people they serve live every moment of life to the fullest and enable the organizations they work with to achieve their mission in the community," said J. Donald Schumacher, NHPKO president and CEO. "Most hospice volunteers choose to give their time helping others because of their own experience with the compassionate care hospice provided to a dying loved one."

As you look toward the New Year and the items on your to do list, please consider making a difference in someone's life by becoming a volunteer for Stein Hospice.

Please contact us at 800-625-5269 for more information and training schedule. Hospice volunteering will make a difference in your life too.

## Howser, continued from cover

"We all check our phones, even on our days off," she said. "If a patient calls we do what we can for them. If we can't get it done (ourselves) we communicate amongst each other to get their issue taken care of. There's not too much out there that we can't get accomplished in a pretty timely manner."

The general conception is that nurses, indeed the entire medical profession, is designed to help people get better – to save lives.

Hospice is about comfort and support for both the patients and their families.

"They need to know that somebody is there to help them get through this very, very difficult period in their life." Nicole said. "We are here to give them as much quality as we can through the end of their journey."





## Light Up A Life Celebrates 31 Years

When it comes to the holidays, many of us are gathering gifts, trimming trees, and looking forward to events with family and friends. Traditions are bountiful and people reflect on another year gone by. At Stein Hospice, it is also an occasion for fellowship, support, and most importantly, a time to celebrate the lives of others. Each December Stein Hospice hosts the Light Up A Life services meant as a way to commemorate the lives of others, many that have passed, and pay tribute to them through a meaningful inter-denominational service, tree lighting, and reception.

This December 2015, the Light Up A Life program reaches 31-years of helping others in honoring and remembering those they love and have loved. Started as a way to give people a safe and supportive venue for community and understanding, the programs also offer an opportunity for those who have experienced the loss of a love one to celebrate that person's "light" and life. "The program helped with the process of losing both my parents, grieving, and discovering a strength in myself," shared Sharon Lichtcsien. "It's also been great to volunteer and I feel very honored to be one of the people to do the readings at the service."

There since its inception, former employee and now Stein Hospice volunteer, Ann Voight, expressed how the event has become an annual pilgrimage for many families. "There have been some (families) that have come for the last 5, 10, even 15+ years. They know this is a safe place to talk about their loved one and it's where people understand about feeling and sharing emotions." So for many, Light Up A Life also serves as a restorative program for healing through the holidays.

Over the past 3 decades, more than 15,000 lights have cumulatively illuminated the night skies; each bulb a special recognition to honor or in memory of, a special person. Every fall, Stein Hospice offers the public an opportunity to participate in this event by purchasing a light(s) through the Light Up A Life campaign. Stein Hospice founder Rosalie Perry, expressed it best, "By ordering a light for a loved one, a friend, co-worker, etc., it is not just a tribute to that person, but it also goes to leave a legacy of helping other future patients and their families who may need Stein Hospice services."



*Brown County Fair Parade.*



*The Inaugural Harvest Hotcake Hustle 5K at the Brown County Fairgrounds took place on Saturday, November 14th.*



*Dr. Williams and Dr. McHenry presented Stein Hospice Staff with a plaque and basket for Honor Elite Deyta award*



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## SUPPORT GROUPS

All groups are free and available to anyone in the community whether or not they have had previous involvement with Stein Hospice. For more information contact Kathy Failor, Bereavement Care Liaison 800-625-5269 or [kfailor@steinhospice.org](mailto:kfailor@steinhospice.org)

*\*Participants purchase their meal.*

### **Brown, Clermont and Adams counties:**

- **Healing Hearts Lunch Bunch\*:**  
5 p.m., third Monday of month,  
at different restaurants.
- **Current Caregiver:** 3:30 p.m.,  
first Wednesday of month.
- **New Caregiver:** 3 p.m., fourth  
Wednesday of month.