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WINTER 2025



What's Behind the Dedication

Circle of Love Executive Director Chad Caldwell says the best part of his job is the people he works with. "It is common for someone to stop me and tell me what a great job our staff did with their loved ones," he commented. Caldwell is celebrating 15 years with Circle of Love. He took over as executive director when the organization's first full time employee, Cathy Graber, retired. Caldwell has lead the organization in a way that continues it's important mission of putting patients and families first. "Circle of Love has been in operation for over 40 years, and I am honored to have played a small role in furthering our mission. It is truly a privilege to be invited into our patients' lives during such a unique time for them and their families," he said. Caldwell was recognized for his years of service at the Circle of Love end of year staff party along with Margie Lovell, Donna Hicks and Nanielle Crites.

For 25 years, Margie Lovell has been keeping the books at Hospice Circle of Love. During that time, she has served under 2 directors and worked at 2 different office locations. What she likes most about her job is the support hospice provides. "I am proud to be part of a team that helps families through their most difficult time. I love the part that I play in providing this much needed service," she recently commented.

Staff Nurse Donna Hicks and Nurse Aide Nanielle Crites are each celebrating five years with Circle of Love. They are both compassionate caregivers who work hard to keep their patients comfortable. Circle of Love has a five star rating in Medicare's Family Caregiver Survey, setting it apart from the majority of hospices in the state. The employee's dedication plays a big part in that, but they would tell you the real stars are the patients and their families.



Margie Lovell (On R in L pic), pictured here at a YWCA Enid fundraiser, has worked at HCOL 25 years. Donna Hicks (R pic.), who has been at HCOL five years is a dedicated caregiver to her patients.



Nanielle Crites (On L in L pic.) who has been at HCOL five years, is pictured volunteering at a homeless shelter. Chad Caldwell (Middle in R pic.) has been leading HCOL for 15 years. He is pictured at Circle of Love's 2024 Mint Julep Jubilee event.

In this newsletter you will find:

We Remember, Making it Count, Upcoming Events, 2024 Highlights

We Remember...

Beautiful flute music floated through the air greeting family members as they entered the room where the 35th annual Tree of Life celebration was held December 13th at NOC Enid. Circle of Love patients who died in the last year, as well as many others in the community were celebrated at the event. The program featured a trio of lit Christmas trees adorned with the names of those being remembered. Circle of Love Chaplain Shelby Maddox sang two Christmas songs and shared a spiritual message about loss. In addition, all the names of those being remembered were read and the entire audience sang "Joy to The World". The event concluded with a cookie and punch reception, during which Circle of Love staff reconnected with families they had served. One participant who was attending for the first time, commented, "This is very nice. I want to come every year."

Tree of Life has been a meaningful way to remember loved ones since the first event was held in 1989. In its early days, Tree of Life took place in the lobby of Enid's Cherokee Strip Conference Center where all the ornaments bearing the names of those being remembered were placed on one 12 foot tall tree. Ornaments were wooden back then, whereas today they are ceramic and placed on three shorter trees.



Jeff Mullin and Chad Caldwell read names at Tree of Life.



Chaplain Shelby Maddox performed at Tree of Life.



Tree of Life participants searched for their loved one's ornaments.

Making Every Day Count

Gearld Rose is someone that puts you in a good mood. He wears the biggest grin, likes to have fun and is up for about anything. Gerald is on hospice services for cerebral palsy and he is a joy to care for.

As is the case with so many of their patients, Circle of Love staff who spend time with Gerald are enriched from the experience.



Hospice Circle of Love's Nanielle Crites and Alicia Hughs joined Gerald Rose and Greenbrier's Matt Price to play Connect 4 one recent afternoon.

Grief is Hard, Support Groups Can Help

Grief expert Rabbi Earl Grollman once said, "It is an emotional, physical and spiritual necessity, the price you pay for love. The only cure for grief is to grieve." While this is true, getting support can help ease that burden.

Hospice Circle of Love is hosting a community grief group the first four Tuesdays in April. The meetings are a way to learn about living with loss and a chance to meet others going through similar situations.

Another session will be offered in the fall. Meetings start at 5:00 PM and last about an hour. Anyone who is interested in signing up can call Chaplain Shelby Maddox at the Circle of Love office. The April meetings will be the 1st, 8th, 15th and 22nd.

Save The Date Spring Book Sale April 25th - 9 to 7 & April 26th - 9 to 5 Hospice Circle of Love

Mint Julep Jubilee May 3rd - 4:00 PM Oakwood Country Club





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- Circle of Love was the only hospice in Enid with a five star rating in Medicare's Family Caregiver Survey
- Circle of Love was named Best Hospice in the *Enid News and Eagle*'s Reader's Choice Survey
- Circle of Love was named Best Hospice in *Enid Monthly*'s Reader's Survey
- Two Book Sale fundraisers were held, along with the annual Mint Julep Jubilee on Kentucky Derby day and the 35th annual Tree of Life celebration
- Staff and volunteers raised money for the Alzheimer's Association and participated in their annual walk. The team was among the top 3 fundraising groups in 2024