



Experience an inspiring evening of art created through one-on-one collaborations between local artists and our patients. Scan the QR code to buy tickets now!

Celebrate 30 years of compassionate in-home medical care with us at Works of Heart

Thursday, October 9, 4 – 6:30 p.m., The Old Church, Portland, OR.

This fall, Housecall Providers invites you to an unforgettable evening honoring three decades of compassionate, in-home medical care. Works of Heart celebrates our 30th anniversary with original artwork created through artist-patient collaborations, transforming our patients' personal life stories into song, painting, dance, and video that reflect the spirit of our mission.

"We wanted our 30th anniversary to be a celebration with our patients, not just about them," says Rebecca Ramsay, CEO of Housecall Providers. "This collaboration with Portland's

creative community is a powerful reminder that even in aging, illness, or disability, people still have stories to tell and beauty to share."

(See "Works of Heart" Page 5)

Summer 2025

Inside this issue:

- P1** Celebrate 30 years of compassionate in-home medical care with us at Works of Heart
- P2** The gift of presence: A volunteer's story of love, loss, and purpose
- P3** Connections grow at second annual Community Day in the Park
- P4** Hospice team earns the trust of care home operator
- P5** Meet the Works of Heart artists
- P6** Flu season is coming: Get ready

**Improving lives
by bringing
health care home**

The gift of presence: A volunteer's story of love, loss, and purpose

When Vena Edwards attended Housecall Providers' annual butterfly release memorial, she came as a guest of a dear friend whose husband had passed the previous year. The two of them shared a special bond as Vena was also grieving the recent loss of her husband. But what she experienced that day changed the course of her life. "I saw this monarch take flight and I thought that was him," she recalls. "At that moment, I just said, I want to volunteer for this company."

For Vena, that butterfly was more than a symbol; it was a turning point. She had already known about Housecall Providers from her years as a nurse, witnessing firsthand how deeply needed the service was. But now, as a grieving spouse, she felt the personal impact of compassionate care. Volunteering became her way of giving back.

Today, Vena serves as a quality call volunteer, checking in with patients' families and caregivers, listening with empathy and offering a steady presence. "I'm just a listening ear," she says. "But that listening means everything. Most of them say they've never experienced this kind of care."

Volunteering for hospice, she explains, gives her a sense of purpose, a way to align her own values with the kind of world she wants to live in. It also gives her clarity: "Knowing how it feels, helping others, helping Housecall [Providers] Hospice, it affects how I want to live my own life."

She speaks candidly about what she's learned from families navigating hospice. "You don't want to waste time," she says. "These folks were something else in their lives - teachers, artists, doctors, homemakers — and they deserve to be seen as full people, not just bodies in beds."



Vena Edwards sharing the spirit of service at Housecall Providers' volunteer appreciation night dinner last spring.

Every volunteer brings something unique to Housecall Providers, and Vena brings a rare combination of professional knowledge, personal experience and spiritual reflection. "Now, every time I see a white butterfly, I think of him," she says of her husband. "There is no end, just a transition. I believe there are many happy souls out there, in the parks and places they loved."

Through her work and her story, Vena reminds us that hospice isn't about death — it's about living fully, right up to the end. And volunteers like her make that possible. ■

Become a hospice volunteer

Make a difference in someone's life.



To find out more, contact Todd Lawrence at tlawrence@housecallproviders.org or 971-202-5515



Food, music, local brews, cornhole, and a vibrant resource fair brought neighbors together for a joyful afternoon of community connection.

Connections grow at second annual Community Day in the Park

On a sunny Saturday afternoon, Sellwood Park came alive with music, laughter and meaningful connections during Housecall Providers' second annual Community Day in the Park. Community members gathered to celebrate and learn about the incredible network of nonprofits supporting elders, adults with disabilities and those facing serious illness. There was a family fun area, food trucks, a beer garden and plenty of picnickers, making it a picture-perfect summer day.

This year's event featured a vibrant Nonprofit Row, which saw a steady stream of visitors engaging with over 20 organizations, including Community for Positive Aging, Friendly House, Ride Connection and Urban League of Portland. The popular "Toss for a Cause" cornhole tournament returned with spirited competition too. Congratulations to Gifted Wishes for taking home the trophy, dethroning last year's winner, Do Good Multnomah.

Local musician Robert Meade of Portland Swan Song filled the air with classic tunes and popular hits, keeping spirits high and positive energy flowing.

"Being together in community like this in such a beautiful park was the perfect way to spend the afternoon," said Rebecca Ramsay, CEO of Housecall Providers and one of the organization's tournament competitors. "Engaging with all of the community-based organizations and seeing colleagues and friends made it an extra special day for everyone."

The event's success was made possible by the generous support of our sponsors. A heartfelt thank you to our gold sponsors: CareOregon, Dragonfly Health, NW Natural and Threadgill's Memorial Services, for believing in this vision and providing financial support. We also extend our gratitude to our silver and bronze sponsors, beer garden and raffle donors, and especially to the 20+ volunteers who gave their time and talents to make the day run smoothly.

As we reflect on this fun-filled gathering, we're already looking ahead to next year with plans to refresh the format and introduce new elements that will attract even more people to learn, connect and enjoy a meaningful day in the park. Thank you to everyone who made this day so memorable; we can't wait to do it again! ■

Thank you to our Gold Sponsors:





Ella Shepherd greets a visitor at one of her adult care homes in the metro area..

Hospice team earns the trust of care home operator

Ella Shepherd and her family own/operate five adult care homes (ACHs) across the metro area so she's no stranger to working with hospice agencies. But when it comes to providing truly compassionate, collaborative end-of-life care, only one agency earns her highest praise. "Housecall Providers Hospice is at the top of my list," she says without hesitation. "From admissions to nurses to chaplains, they are in a league of their own."

What sets Housecall Providers apart isn't just attentive hospice care. It's the model of seamless, in-home primary care available to every eligible resident too, ensuring continuity and stability long before and after a hospice referral.

"Their primary care team is incredible. When a resident qualifies, they get a provider who comes to them, who knows them, who checks in regularly," Ella explains. "And when the time comes for hospice, it's not a handoff to

strangers. It's a continuation of care from people who already understand the patient."

Ella's ACHs are known for high standards. That is no surprise considering she is a registered nurse. Most care home operators are not also licensed nurses. Weekly medication reconciliations, detailed care planning and staff trained far beyond state requirements are the norm. She is quick to say though that none of it would work without partners who match that same level of excellence.

"With Housecall Providers, everything just clicks. They respect our insight as caregivers and they collaborate with us, not just tell us what to do."

She shares a story of a hospice patient who found joy in the little things: mashed potatoes, gravy, ice cream and hot chocolate.

"Not a balanced diet," she laughs. "But it brought him joy. And Housecall [Providers] never tried to take that away. They got it that hospice isn't about rules. It's about comfort."

More than just a clinical service, Ella says Housecall Providers Hospice treats each person as a whole human being and includes the care home staff and the family in that circle of compassion.

For Ella, that means fewer communication errors, fewer stressful transitions and a lot more peace of mind.

"Nobody dies alone in my homes," she says. "We hold hands. We sing their favorite songs. And with Housecall Providers, we're never doing that alone." ■

Support nonprofit hospice care

**Now, more than ever,
donate today.**



housecallproviders.org/donate-now

("Works of Heart" from page 1)

Enjoy hosted beer, wine and hearty appetizers beginning at 4 p.m., followed by the full Works of Heart program from 4:45 to 6 p.m.—a rich and moving experience not to be missed. After the program, connect with artists and fellow attendees during a casual reception from 6 to 6:30 p.m.

Tickets are \$50, and \$20 of that is tax deductible. Only 150 will be sold. Get yours today by scanning the QR code, visiting housecallproviders.org/worksofheart, or calling 971-202-5518 to speak with a member of our development team.

The event will also be livestreamed so our patients, caregivers and other community members can join in the celebration from home. You will be able to access the livestream from our event page at housecallproviders.org/worksofheart.

Starting Friday, September 26, the online platform will also host a silent auction filled with unique experiences and items with bidding closing Friday, October 10 at 5 p.m. ■

Meet the Works of Heart artists



Marianna Thielen is a songwriter, vocalist, band leader, and percussionist. Her band The Bylines, formed with pianist Reece Marshburn, plays regular concerts and events in the Northwest and has taken them to New York City, Los Angeles, onboard a ship in Italy, and to the Edinburgh Fringe Festival in Scotland.



Latoya Lovely is a professional dancer and educator and has known since she was a child that she wanted to color for the rest of her life. She has created several murals and commissions throughout the Pacific Northwest and her work was also featured in the Black Artists of Oregon Exhibition at the Portland Art Museum.



Jordan Henline is a photographer and videographer based in the Pacific Northwest who's been documenting life since he could hold a camera. He loves working with musicians and small businesses, telling their stories in a way that feels honest and full of life.



Susannah Mars has been a performing artist and singer for over 50 years. Among other stints, she's been an Arts Envoy to Cairo, Egypt, a resident artist at Artists Repertory Theater and is currently on the board at Portland Center Stage.



Leah Kohlenberg has been painting for 25 years, having studied art in the US and in Eastern Europe. Her paintings are in private and public collections worldwide, and she is represented by Cambium Gallery in Astoria, Oregon, and co-runs The Residency, an art studio/gallery/events space, with Pippa Arend in Portland, Oregon.



Jessica Wallenfels is a director/choreographer, educator and Artistic Director of Many Hats Collaboration. She creates original, music and movement based work and works as a freelancer.



**Housecall
Providers**

Part of the CareOregon Family

5100 S Macadam Ave, Ste 200
Portland, OR 97239

Nonprofit Org
U.S. Postage
PAID
Portland, OR
Permit No. 865



Flu season is coming: Get ready!

Housecall Providers patients can call us at 971-202-5563 to schedule a flu shot at home.

Nearly everyone six months or older should get a flu vaccine every year. Even if you've never gotten sick from the flu, you can protect young children and older people in your life by getting vaccinated.

Need other vaccines?

Your local pharmacy can help with vaccines like COVID-19, shingles, or pneumonia. Call us at 971-202-5563 if you need assistance finding a local pharmacy.