



# *Annual Report*

February 2010 - January 2011



## From the Executive Director

Fox Valley Volunteer Hospice is a truly community-based and volunteer driven organization. We are governed by a highly qualified group of volunteer community leaders. Annually, we engage over 400 volunteers to provide hospice and bereavement services, at no cost, to the community.

Most significantly, we are funded by the community through the generous support of individual donors, foundations, civic organizations, mental health boards, and local businesses. As a volunteer hospice, we do not receive Medicare reimbursements from the federal government or insurance payments. Our service to the community is funded by local community and government funding, which makes local support vital and the generosity of our partners even more incredible.

Each year hundreds of committed volunteers help Fox Valley Volunteer Hospice meet the needs of individuals who face life-threatening illnesses. The FVVH approach encompasses services for the entire family. Whether it is hospice care at the end of life, bereavement services for those who have suffered a major loss, or the compassionate understanding of a friend, FVVH volunteers continue to make a significant impact on our community.

As we celebrate our 30th year of successful service to the community, we look forward to the future and building on our past success.

We would like to thank everyone who supports the FVVH mission with their time, talent and treasure. Thank you to the staff who provides the most compassionate and dedicated service to our clients. And thank you to those we serve for allowing us to be part of your lives.

Greg Weider  
Executive Director



Fox Valley Volunteer  
**HOSPICE**

200 Whitfield Drive, Geneva, Illinois 60134  
(630) 232-2233  
[www.fvvh.org](http://www.fvvh.org)

# Mission

The mission of Fox Valley Volunteer Hospice is to enhance the quality of life by providing the best in compassionate services to persons with life threatening illnesses and the bereaved.

# Vision

The vision of Fox Valley Volunteer Hospice is to be recognized as the leading provider of hospice and bereavement support.

# Values

FVVH recognizes these values and their roles in fulfilling our mission:

- **Committed to quality hospice care.**  
FVVH will strive to provide state-of-the art volunteer hospice care and bereavement services by recognizing the unique emotional, psychological, physical and spiritual needs of each individual we serve.
- **Committed to organizational Excellence.**  
FVVH seeks to create an environment of teamwork and participation, where health care professionals and volunteers pursue excellence and take pride in their work, the organization and their personal development.
- **Committed to responsible stewardship.**  
FVVH maintains financial viability through the generous support of our community and a cost-effective operation in order to wisely utilize the resources our community has given us.
- **Committed to community leadership.**  
FVVH provides a wide range of continuing education for staff and volunteers as well as end-of-life educational programming for the public.

## How It All Began

While at a hearing in Springfield in the late 1970's, Senator John Grotberg was introduced to the hospice concept. Wanting to know more about this aspect of care, he contacted Donna Kruger, a local nurse who had background working with terminally ill patients. Knowing the Fox Valley community was in need of a local hospice, Ms. Kruger and Senator Grotberg formed a task force consisting of Jack Taft, a hospital administrator, Don Hetzler, a Lutheran pastor, Bruce Conley, a funeral director and Melissa Hayes, a local nurse at historic Hotel Baker in St. Charles.

As word spread about the possibility of beginning a local hospice, other volunteers stepped forward and began to raise community awareness of the program. A symposium attended by more than one hundred people was held at Pheasant Run where Clarice Schultz, a local nurse, and Ms. Kruger spoke about the potential of a hospice in the Fox Valley community. With strong community support and growing volunteer help, FVVH became a reality.

In the beginning, Baker Memorial United Methodist Church offered office space in an empty room in the church's lower level. As more volunteers offered their help and FVVH's patient list grew, space became an issue. Hospital equipment, food and medical supplies were stored off site. FVVH moved to an office in Batavia but soon outgrew even that building.

In the mid 1990's, the FVVH Board of Directors and volunteers began a Capital Fund Campaign to purchase property and finance the construction of a building to house all of FVVH's needs in. A lot was purchased at 200 Whitfield Drive in Geneva and the state-of-the art building was constructed, now housing 14 staff members, as well as meeting rooms, lending library and the medical equipment lending program.

## Additional Services

### Informational Library

The informational library at FVVH is open to the public and contains books, periodicals, and videos on a range of topics including cancer, suicide, grief and a variety of other topics related to the end of life. In addition, books and tapes in Spanish are available.

### Community Equipment Loan Closet

Fox Valley Volunteer Hospice has wheelchairs, walkers, canes, commodes, shower benches and tub transfer benches available to borrow, free of charge, for short-term use. These items are available to anyone in the community.

### Community Education

Fox Valley Volunteer Hospice is a leader in community education in the areas of palliative care, coping with loss, and individual well-being. All sessions are open to our corps of trained volunteers; most are open to all community members, free of charge. Schedule changes quarterly.

## Programs

Fox Valley Volunteer Hospice is a community-based, nonprofit organization dedicated to serving those with life-threatening illnesses and the bereaved. We were founded in 1981, and have served more than 15,000 clients and their families. Our healthcare professionals and network of extensively trained volunteers provide the best in compassionate services for those with life-threatening illnesses and the bereaved.

### Hospice/We Care Supportive Services

Fox Valley Volunteer Hospice provides support and short-term counseling for those with life-threatening illnesses and their families. Our teams of healthcare professionals and extensively trained volunteers provide personalized, in-home family-centered care, that includes social, emotional and spiritual support. While working with We Care Supportive Services, clients may choose to continue to receive, delay, or stop treatment.

### Bereavement

**One-on-One Counseling.** The death of a loved one can be a devastating experience. To help the bereaved cope with the pain of grief and put control back into their lives, Fox Valley Volunteer Hospice offers a range of services, including an individual care program that is managed by a licensed clinician and implemented by a trained volunteer. In addition, assessment, short-term one-on-one counseling, referral to resources, and support groups are also available.

**Support Groups.** FVVH offers a comprehensive range of support groups to help those who have lost loved ones, including Pathways for those who have lost a life partner; Next Step, a monthly meeting for those who need continuing support; Herbie's Friends for families with children ages 5 to 18 who have experienced a loss; Footprints for parents and adult family members who are coping with a miscarriage, ectopic pregnancy, stillbirth or newborn death; Young Adult Grief Journey for young adults age 18 to 28 who have lost a loved one or friend; M.A.L.E.S. (Men After a Loss Expressing themselves Safely) for men of all ages who have lost a loved one; Memories of Mom, for daughters who have lost their mothers; Our Grief Journey for those who have lost someone close; and Light Finders, for survivors of suicide loss. Groups meet on a regular basis, with new schedules starting quarterly.

**Grief Takes a Hike.** Grief Takes a Hike is a weekend adventure for families who have experienced the death of a loved one — grandparents, parent, child or other significant person. Families come together in a supportive setting to experience the therapeutic value of nature while sharing and processing feelings. Indoor and outdoor activities include hiking, swimming, art, story sharing, relaxing and singing by a campfire.

Through art projects, games, stories and a memorial service, families are taught to identify positive coping skills, to understand the differences between adult and child grief, and to understand the value of processing feelings as a family. There is no charge to families.

## Hands of Hope

Receiving chemotherapy and radiation treatments is often a frightening and unpleasant experience. FVVH's Hands of Hope program works to comfort and support patients receiving these treatments at Dreyer Medical Clinic in Aurora and at Provena Regional Cancer Care Center in Elgin.

Because emotional health plays a significant role in a person's ability to heal, volunteers provide a healing presence to patients during their infusion treatments. Patients of all ages receive fleece blankets, comfort pillows, listen to music of their choice and enjoy refreshments as well.

In addition to hospice, bereavement and Hands of Hope, we offer the following to the community, free of charge:

## Cuenta Conmigo (Lean on Me)

In order to serve the ever-growing Spanish-speaking population in our communities, FVVH created a parallel volunteer program to the one that currently exists by recruiting, training and sustaining a corps of Spanish-speaking volunteers and translating training materials. Cuenta Conmigo (Lean on Me) gives staff the opportunity to support individuals and their families in the Latino community in ways they have never been able to before because of the language barrier. Spanish-speaking volunteers assigned to a Latino family are able to communicate directly with the family members instead of through an interpreter. Spanish interpretation is also available for all bereavement support groups and community education classes.

## Extensive Volunteer Training

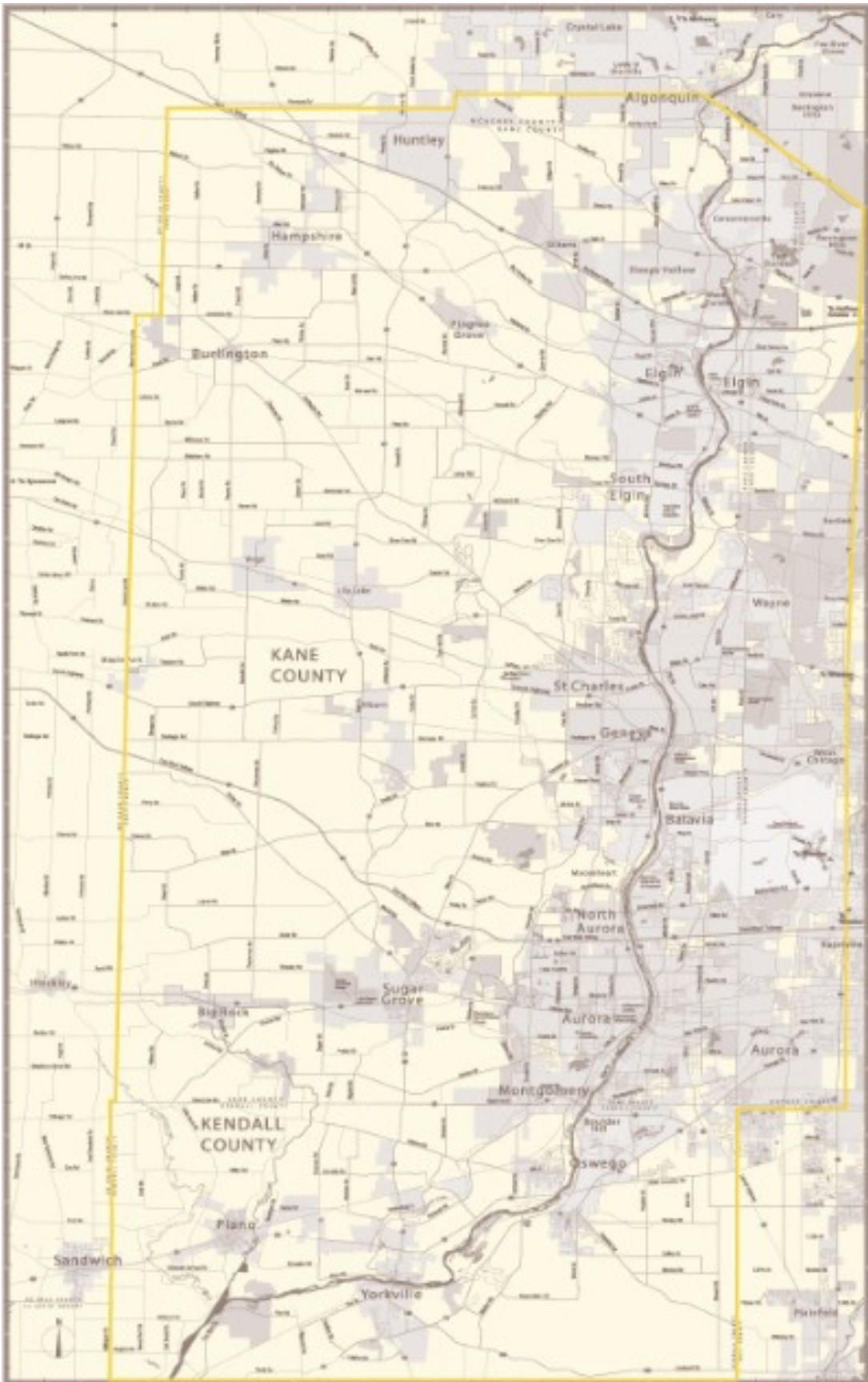
Volunteers are an integral part of Fox Valley Volunteer Hospice and the true heart of the organization. Each volunteer is valued and respected for the gifts they bring to the work of hospice. They make a difference in the lives of those they serve and make a valuable contribution to the community, all while enhancing their own well-being.

FVVH provides extensive training in patient care, adult bereavement, and child bereavement. Group facilitator training is available for experienced volunteers. In addition, all volunteers are required to attend two continuing education classes annually.

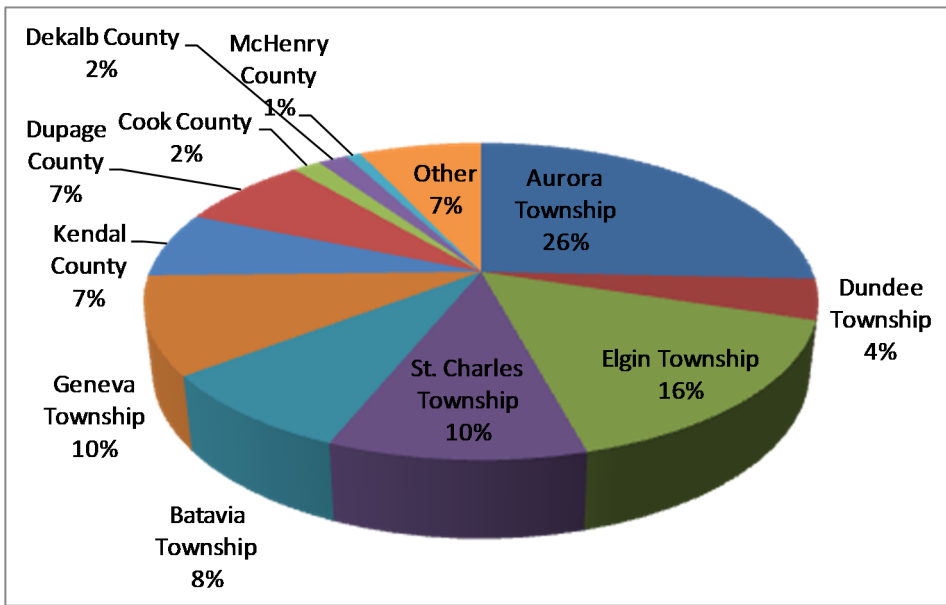


# Our Service Area

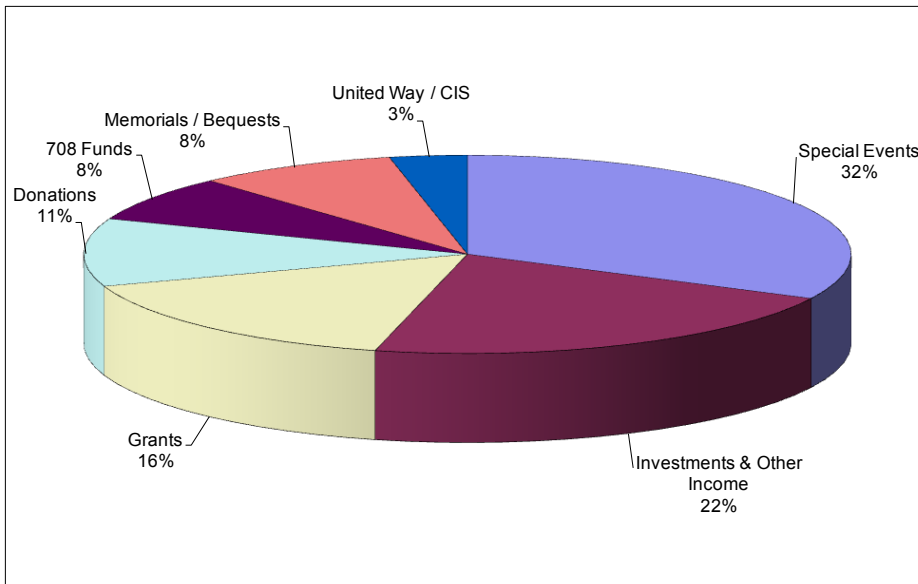
The Fox Valley Volunteer Hospice service area includes all of Kane and Kendall counties as well as parts of DuPage, Cook and McHenry counties.



## A Glimpse at our Service Area



## FVVH Funding



## Special Events

Income from special events is important to FVVH, bringing in 30% of our annual funding. Special events give community members an opportunity to support our mission while having a good time.

### Garden Party

Garden Party is FVVH's signature fund-raising event, raising about one-quarter of FVVH's annual operating budget. Contributing to the event are a dedicated committee of more than 40, friends and associates, scores of area businesses and professionals, and over 700 guests who attend annually.

Held each spring, Garden Party highlights are lunch and entertainment; the sale of raffle tickets with a chance to win one of the expansive "baskets," which aren't baskets at all, but groupings of items, gift certificates, and services, all focused on a theme; a large silent auction; and a live auction.

### Hike for Hospice

Held in the fall, Hike for Hospice is a 5K loop along the Fox River, starting in Batavia. It is an opportunity for the entire family to support FVVH. Participants are asked to solicit pledges from friends and family, and can dedicate a portion of the course to a loved one.

### Villa Verone

The generous folks at Villa Verone restaurant in Geneva open their doors to FVVH supporters each winter, and serve a delicious Italian buffet, including appetizers and desserts. We add a little entertainment, and it's a great way to beat the winter blues.

### Ride for Hospice

An annual Motorcycle Poker Run held in the summer, where motorcycle riders — and some in cars — tour the area, supporting our cause and having a lot of fun along the way.

# Financial Statement

Balance Sheet for Year Ending January 31, 2011

## Assets

### Assets/Current

Cash & Equivalents	\$ 135,585	
Prepaid Expenses & Other Assets	14,707	
<b>Total Current Assets</b>		\$ 150,292

### Investments

\$ 3,596,876

### Property & Equipment

Land	\$ 320,684	
Building & Improvements	633,398	
Equipment & Furniture	303,914	
Less Accumulated Depreciation	(603,178)	
<b>Net Property &amp; Equipment</b>		\$ 654,818

### Total Assets

\$ 4,401,986

## Liabilities & Net Assets

### Current Liabilities

Accounts Payable & Accrued Expenses	\$ 46,199	
Deferred Revenue	39,157	
<b>Total Current Liabilities</b>		\$ 85,356

### Net Assets

Unrestricted:		
Operating	\$ 532,984	
Quasi Endowment	3,057,344	
Net Investment in Property & Equipment	<u>654,818</u>	
Total Unrestricted Net Assets	4,245,146	
Temporarily Restricted	71,484	
<b>Total Net Assets</b>		\$ 4,316,630
<b>Total Liabilities &amp; Net Assets</b>		<u>\$ 4,401,986</u>

## Revenue

Contributions	\$ 163,641	
Foundations & Grants	178,760	
United Way	25,024	
Special Events:		
Sponsorships & Donations	62,335	
Event Revenue	185,376	
Interest Income	228	
Miscellaneous Income	0	
Investment Return Designated for Operations	181,257	
Net Assets Released from Restrictions	0	
<b>Total Revenue</b>		\$ 796,621

## Expenses

Program	\$ 561,359	
Supporting Services	106,839	
Cost of Special Event	68,540	
Fundraising	52,075	
<b>Total Expenses</b>		\$ 788,813

Increase (Decrease) in Net Assets Before Other Changes	7,808	
Other Changes		
Investment Return, Net Amount Designated for Operation	275,747	

### Increase (Decrease) in Net Assets

\$ 283,555

### Net Assets, Beginning of Year

\$ 4,033,075

### Net Assets, End of Year

\$ 4,316,630

# Our Generous Donors

## Founder's Circle \$10,000 & more

City Of St. Charles  
Fred J. Brunner  
Foundation  
Mental Health & Mental  
Retardation Services,  
Inc.  
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### \$1,000-\$4,999

36 Foundation, Inc.  
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Linda Murphy  
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### \$100-\$499

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Kenneth Wood  
Shirley Wuerstl

Ken and Terri Zivic  
Zonta West - Illinois

## In Honor and Memory of

### **In Honor of Don Dompke**

Ken and Terri Zivic

### **In Honor of Grief Takes a Hike**

Fideliter Club of Elgin  
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Provena Saint  
Joseph Hospital  
St. Charles Kiwanis  
Foundation

### **In Honor of Hands of Hope**

Oswegoland  
Women's Civic  
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Ruth Morgano  
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Antonio Garcia

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Wilma Hauer

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Leona and Jim Breede  
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