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A way to grant wishes

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Ken Hendricks remembered with program

The fourth annual "Doves and Diamonds" fundraiser for Beloit Regional Hospice had all the usual fun and frills, with one major addition.

The highlight of the evening was the announcement that funding for a new program had been received. Thanks to the memorials made in the name of the late Ken Hendricks, a total of \$96,640 was given to Beloit Regional Hospice. Ken Hendricks was the founder and owner of ABC Supply Co., and numerous affiliated firms.



Mary Deem, executive director of Beloit Regional Hospice, stands with Diane and Kim Hendricks as she announces the news of the Ken Hendricks Granting Wishes Hospice Fund during Saturday evening's Doves and Diamonds Hospice charity event, held at the Eclipse Center in Beloit.

Staff photo by Kyle R. Morris

The board of directors and staff worked for several months on ways they could use the money for both a long term impact as well as a way to honor his memory.

Hospice Executive Director Mary Deem announced the new program available through Beloit Regional Hospice: The Ken Hendricks Granting Wishes Fund.

Diane and Kim Hendricks - Mr. Hendricks' wife and daughter - stood side by side as Deem made the announcement, and Diane gracefully took center stage.

"We all know how much Ken loved the microphone, so I decided to say a few things," she said with a smile.

She went on to explain Ken's love for Beloit Regional Hospice, and his respect for Deem when she decided to take a chance and make Hospice the first tenant in the Ironworks building.

The fund will be used for resources that hospice doesn't typically provide, like a last anniversary dinner for a couple, a plane ticket for a far-off family member to be with a loved one during the last days, or even music therapy for a patient.

"She believed in our vision, in Ken's vision," she stressed.

And like many, hospice was there for them when their close friend was dying.

"We became believers in these angels," she said softly.

"Ken will live in our hearts forever, and this fund will help ensure that his memory lives on," Deem said.

More than 300 people attended the event, held at the Eclipse Center, which included dancing, bidding on auction items, and of course, a diamond give away. They also shared their stories about hospice care.

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