

Living out Hospice- Breaking Barriers



[April 15, 2016](#) by [Lauren Drew](#)

It's National Healthcare Decisions Day, and we've been soliciting stories from across the country about advance care planning, healthcare conversations, and fulfilling our own wishes for our end-of-life experience.

This one comes to us from Emily Hayes, Volunteer Coordinator at Hospice of Cumberland County in Crossville, TN:

When people hear the word hospice, hope and adventure are usually not associated with it in most minds. Breaking down this barrier and showing everyone what hospice really does is Mr. Joseph Bevan.

Mr. Bevan and his wife Cynthia at the Grand Canyon.

Mr. Bevan frequently enjoys driving to New Jersey to visit with his family (especially his grandkids) and/or to play a wonderful game of golf. He and his wife recently enjoyed a visit to the Grand Canyon and Hoover Dam.

With this exciting lifestyle it might come as a shock that Mr. Bevan has Liver Cell Carcinoma and has been in the care of Hospice of Cumberland County since February 19th 2015.

"When I was released from the hospital and told that I have weeks to months to live and would be going home with hospice care, I told them ok but don't be looking for me to lay around waiting to die. I decided right then that I would live one day at a time and do the things that felt capable at that moment." says Mr. Bevan.

Mr. Bevan's story shows the positives in hospice and what can be accomplished if we get our patients at an earlier time than we typically do in their journey. His success explains why Hospice of Cumberland County is proud to offer the services we do and why we are celebrating National Healthcare Decisions Day April 16.

Hospice of Cumberland County provides the services needed so our patients and their family members enjoy life comfortably! Our team and services include, doctors, nurse visits, volunteers, social workers, chaplain and home help aides.

Help us celebrate National Healthcare Decisions Day and have the conversation with yourself and your family about your wishes for your care during periods of illness or at the end of your life.

“I told them, ‘don’t be looking for me to lay around waiting to die.’”



National Hospice and Palliative Care
Organization



Hospice Action Network

“I don’t live in the past or the future, just in the moment. I have good days and I have bad days and it’s always reassuring that hospice is there for my care on the bad ones. They are very caring and professional in their work and when I can’t do anymore they are there for me and my family.” says Mr. Bevan.

His wife Cynthia sums it up nicely, “Every day is a blessing.”

For more information about National Healthcare Decisions Day or the services Hospice of Cumberland County offers call 931-484-4748, or visit www.nhdd.org.

