



## Hospice With Heart

Lillian Jeppsen spoke at the Treynor Optimist Club on November 8. She works for Hospice With Heart, which provides Hospice care for terminally ill people with a life expectancy of six months or less.

Hospice With Heart helps the patient and the family. Hospice offers a positive perspective and response to dying. People are authorized for service through a referral. The people need to want comfort care, not healing care. The average support is 16-17 days.

Hospice tries to keep people as independent as possible. Hospice With Heart has a music therapist and nine volunteers who are pet therapists.

Hospice care can be provided in the home, in a Nursing Home, or in the Hospice House facility in Glenwood. Patients need to have a primary care giver in the home or a plan for care.

The Hospice House, which is connected to the Glenwood Resource Center, has individual residences for eight patients. They have a waiting list.

Hospice With Heart provides umbrella coverage to assist the terminally ill and helps coordinate their care. They also provide beds, oxygen concentrators, and other equipment. There is no cost for care, since Medicare covers 100% of the care cost and Medicaid pays 95% of room and board.

Hospice With Heart began in 2004. Dawn Stane is the director. An interdisciplinary team meets weekly to review care for each patient. They typically serve 50-55 people with 30 volunteers.

Continuous care is available for the last day of life. Respite care is also available to give caregivers a break with up to five days of help.

Lillian said that they don't judge people. People also need permission to die. They want to know that the people they love will be OK.

More information about Hospice With Heart is available at <http://www.hospicewithheart.org/>