



## **Hospice & Palliative Care of Westchester Volunteer Inducted into Westchester County Senior Hall of Fame**

**White Plains, NY – (December 17, 2009)** – Lena Sjunnekmark, a Mamaroneck resident and volunteer for Hospice & Palliative Care of Westchester (HPCW), was recently inducted in the Westchester County Senior Citizen Hall of Fame. She was recognized for her volunteer efforts, which include visiting with HPCW patients at The Osborne Nursing Home and its private residence in Rye and serving as a mentor to new volunteers. The Hall of Fame was established in 1982 by the county's Department of Senior Programs and Services.

As she provides a new volunteer with the experience of visiting with hospice patients residing in a nursing home, Sjunnekmark also evaluates them for the Volunteer Coordinator to gauge their understanding of the hospice volunteer role and to determine whether they require additional training in a specific area.

HPCW volunteers are specially trained to provide comfort, support and companionship to patients and their families. They also assist with office administrative support, community outreach and fundraising events, and offer pet therapy for those who request that program. Other programs in which HPCW volunteers are involved include *Flowers for Life* and *Portraits of Love*.

According to Mary Jane Schaumann, Director of Volunteer Services for HPCW, Lena is a wonderful and caring person. "Throughout the course of her volunteer efforts at HPCW, Lena has made a difference in the lives of more than 70 patients and their family members. We couldn't be luckier to have her on our volunteer staff," Schaumann said.

Sjunnekmark is revered by families of the individuals in her care and has been invited by many families to memorial services in honor of their loved ones.

"I get more out of this work than I ever thought I would," said Sjunnekmark. "I spend time with all kinds of patients and just adore them. I am always so happy to be there and share this journey with them. It's really the most wonderful thing I could ever have done,"

For more information on volunteering for Hospice & Palliative Care of Westchester, call Mary Jane Schaumann at 914.682.1484 x116 or email her at [MJSchaumann@hospiceofwestchester.com](mailto:MJSchaumann@hospiceofwestchester.com).

Hospice & Palliative Care of Westchester is located at 311 North Street, Suite 204, White Plains, NY 10605, White Plains, NY. For additional information, visit [www.hospiceofwestchester.com](http://www.hospiceofwestchester.com) or call 914.682.1484.

**About Hospice & Palliative Care of Westchester:** Hospice & Palliative Care of Westchester is a private, not-for-profit agency that provides comprehensive health care services to people with advanced illnesses who live in Westchester County. Hospice & Palliative Care of Westchester offers programs and care that are intended to promote patient quality of life by addressing the medical, physical, emotional and spiritual needs of patients and their families.

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*From left:* Mary Jane Schaumann, Director of Volunteer Services for Hospice & Palliative Care of Westchester (HPCW); Lena Sjunneberg, Senior Hall of Fame inductee; Kate Colburn, M.A., Executive Director of HPCW; and Andrea Durkin, R.N., Director of Nursing of HPCW



*From left:* Mary Jane Schaumann, Director of Volunteer Services for Hospice & Palliative Care of Westchester (HPCW); Mae Carpenter, Commissioner of Westchester County's Department of Senior Programs and Services; and Lena Sjunneberg, Senior Hall of Fame inductee