



Hospice Care of
VNA of Care New England



November 2013

Dear Friend,

As we enter this season of Thanksgiving, it is a natural time to give thanks for the people who have made an impact on our lives. For me, I am eternally grateful for my wonderful family, but I also warmly reflect on the angels from Hospice Care of VNA of Care New England who became a part of our family in 2012. I am tremendously honored to share my story with you and hope it will inspire you to give generously, as my family has done, to ensure that hospice care from VNA of Care New England is available for all in need.

My mother and father, Eunice and Samuel, were always the first on the dance floor. At parties, weddings, or nightclubs, if music was playing they would be dancing. They were the couple that everyone watched move effortlessly across the floor, a perfect pair. So when my father's health began to rapidly decline, I knew that we needed to figure out how my mother could remain with him, side-by-side, as they had done on the dance floor and in life through so many years together.

In his final months, providing round-the-clock care to dad became overwhelming. As the dementia and Parkinson's took him further and further away from us, our family struggled with guilt, frustration, and hopelessness. It wasn't until the caregivers from Hospice Care of VNA of Care New England offered us their knowledge, expertise, and compassion, that we were able to provide my father with the best possible care in our home and my mother with the luxury of a truly loving goodbye.

The Hospice team from VNA of Care New England came into our home as total strangers and rapidly earned a special place in our family, exhibiting nothing but genuine and unwavering dedication to caring for dad. Their tenderness made it easy to relinquish some of the daily and difficult caregiving tasks we faced and their understanding provided much needed support. In fact, the Hospice team from VNA of Care New England worked diligently to support our entire family—not just my father. Mom would sit and read a Bible passage with Reverend Paula and look so relieved and at peace.

I wish more of our neighbors, friends, and loved ones could experience the layers of healing that we gained through hospice. After almost 90 days of devoted care, Samuel Rios, loyal husband, loving father, and terrific dancer, passed away. As a family, we later attended a support group offered by Hospice Care of VNA of Care New England and found ourselves to be far less alone in our grief and in our esteem of these incredible caregivers.

Thank you for considering a gift to support the vital work of Hospice Care of VNA of Care New England and best wishes for a happy and healthy holiday season to you and yours!

Hector I. Rios
Registered Architect from Barrington, Rhode Island

P.S. I hope you will join my family at the Hospice Care of VNA of Care New England's Circle of Love & Light event and hospice tree lighting ceremony on Monday, December 2. To RSVP or learn more call 401.921.7626.