



# Profiles OF CARING

The care you need, the comfort you deserve.

**TOLL FREE: 877-275-7086**  
**TOLL FREE FAX: 877-275-7088**

## Omega Health Care

Lee's Summit, Missouri  
816-268-4130 | 816-268-4134 fax  
Springfield, Missouri  
417-886-6995 | 417-886-7129 fax  
Alpharetta, Georgia  
678-240-4190 | 678-240-4189 fax  
Cartersville, Georgia  
770-382-5055 | 770-382-7488 fax

## Sunflower Health Care

Lansing, Kansas  
913-680-0800 | 913-680-0804 fax  
Stilwell, Kansas  
913-897-1104 | 913-897-1103 fax

**Coming soon! Offices in Liberty,  
St. Joseph and Marionville,  
Missouri, and Topeka, Kansas**

*Find out more about how Omega and Sunflower Health Care can make life better for your patients. Call the office closest to you or visit our website at [www.omega-healthcare.com](http://www.omega-healthcare.com).*

3171 NE Carnegie Drive  
Lee's Summit, Missouri 64064



VOLUME 3

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NUMBER 1

## Sunflower helps hospice patient rekindle passion for Corvettes

When Don Kinney became a hospice patient last year, the Sunflower staff immediately set about getting to know him and his family. It didn't take long for Jill Le Manske, Sunflower Social Worker, to learn of his passion for cars and speculate, "Why couldn't we bring the cars to him?"

That was the beginning of a Corvette show, just for Don.

You see, Don loved cars so much that he bought the first one at the age of nine.

"His first Model T cost \$1.50 and a crystal radio set. He parked it a couple of streets away to hide it from his parents," said his son, Don Kinney, Jr.

It was the first of more than 50 cars he owned that included a variety of Fords, Pontiacs, Lincolns and Chevys, including several Corvettes. He even built a motorized car for his son when the younger Don was about 6 years old.

The elder Don's love for vehicles didn't stop with cars. He owned motorized lawn tractors before they were in vogue, as well as three Cessna airplanes, which he piloted to visit many of his small-town customers as a salesman for Aladdin Industries, a lunchbox and thermos manufacturer based in Murfreesboro, TN.

*(continued inside)*



*Christine Langford (right), Volunteer Coordinator at Sunflower Health Care, orchestrated a Corvette show expressly for Sunflower hospice patient Don Kinney, 91, a life-long lover of automobiles.*

## Omega expands to Georgia

*A letter from the president*

We are pleased to announce that Omega Health Care began offering hospice services to Cartersville and Alpharetta, Georgia and the surrounding areas on September 1. Omega purchased their new offices from SouthernCare, an Alabama-based hospice provider.

This follows the July opening of a new office in Springfield, Mo., where we will serve a 13-county area. All offices are staffed by registered nurses, social workers, licensed practical nurses, chaplains, home health aides, volunteers, marketing managers and secretaries.

During the next 12 months, we plan to open additional offices in Liberty, St. Joseph and Marionville, Missouri, as well as in Topeka, Kansas. These efforts will help us expand our mission of providing a deeper level of care and comfort to hospice patients and their families.

We credit our continuing growth to this special care and to our willingness to go "above and beyond" the call of duty in providing emotional support and medical attentiveness for patients and their families.

Feel free to call me personally with any questions you might have about our services or our additional locations. 1-877-275-7086. ■

## A Passion for 'Vettes, continued...



*At the request of Sunflower Health Care, members of the Kansas City Corvette Club brought their cars to Don Kinney at his senior living residence so the former car collector could "talk shop" and hear the roar of the pipes again.*

"There were a couple of small-town customers he knew so well that he would fly over and 'buzz' the store, and the owners would drive to the airport to pick him up," explained the younger Don.

When macular degeneration forced him to give up driving a few years ago, Don yearned for the days when he could be more active and engaged. It also precipitated a series of other health problems, which necessitated hospice care.

Wanting to rekindle Don's enthusiasm for cars and bring joy into his life, Jill mentioned her car show idea at a staff meeting. That was all it took. Sunflower Volunteer Coordinator Christine Langford took the idea and ran with it.

"My husband and I belong to a car club, so at our next car show, I made some contacts with Corvette owners," Christine explained. "The Corvette Club of Kansas City put the call out, and eight members gave up part of their Saturday recently to brighten Don's day with a Corvette show."

The show was set up in the circle drive of his senior living residence. When Don and his wife, Jean, arrived, he was driving

a scooter and thinking the show was for the entire facility.

"He got really choked up when he realized it was just for him," Christine said. "He drove his chair around for about an hour and talked shop with the Corvette owners, several of whom even remembered Don from the club back in the 60s. When they started up one of the cars, and he heard the roar of the pipes, he said, 'I think I'm in love.' It was the neatest thing to see his face light up like that. It made us feel like Santa Claus."

Efforts such as this are not unusual at Sunflower and Omega Health Care, where the staff members are encouraged to find unique and meaningful ways to bring comfort and joy into the lives of hospice patients. Those special deeds range from running an errand to bathing the dog to orchestrating a complete dinner for patients and their family.

Sunflower volunteers become very involved, as well. One volunteer rented portable oxygen equipment so her patient could spend time at his lake cottage. Another arranged an Amtrak ride for a patient

who had never ridden the train; then she met the patient and his wife at the train station, took them out to dinner and drove them home.

Don Jr. says the Sunflower philosophy has definitely benefited his father, who celebrated his 91st birthday in September.

**“Since Sunflower has been on the job, we’ve only made one trip to the ER; the year before, we had at least five.”**

“I was surprised, but not totally taken aback by the Corvette show, because over the past few months there have been other instances of

Sunflower going above and beyond,” he explained.

“They truly seem to care and listen. They figured out what was going on with Dad and put him on oxygen. They helped him obtain a motorized wheel chair, which restored some of the mobility he longed for. That, plus the daily care, has really made him feel better and seem sharper. Since Sunflower has been on the job, we’ve only made one trip to the ER; the year before, we had at least five.”

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## What our Clients are saying...

Dear Melissa,

*I can't thank you and the rest of the Omega team for everything you did to help my mother in her last days. I would have been helpless without you on the day she passed.*

*When you have tough days, remember that the work you do is indispensable and may be beyond what some may be able to express.*

Larry & Jan W

Read more about what our clients are saying at [www.omega-healthcare.com](http://www.omega-healthcare.com)

## It's a fact: Hospice care extends the life of patients

Often people have a misconception about hospice care. They think it means the end of hope. We believe just the opposite is true—and medical studies corroborate our opinion.

According to a study published in the Journal of Pain and Symptom Management (March 2007), terminally ill patients under hospice care live an average of 29 days longer than similar non-hospice patients.

Experts attribute the improved outcomes to reduced over-treatment; improved monitoring; and hospice's interdisciplinary approach, which addresses emotional, spiritual and physical needs, as well as family support and training.

At the same time, hospice has economic benefits—for patients and insurers. Because Medicare covers hospice care, patients incur no costs for Omega and Sunflower services. So, they are relieved that their savings are safe.

Likewise, Medicare saves money with hospice. The average hospice patient costs Medicare \$2,309 less than the average non-hospice patient, according to the Duke University Sanford Institute of Public Policy. No wonder the use of Medicare's hospice benefit has increased from 7 percent in 1990 to almost 30 percent in 2006.

At Omega and Sunflower Health Care we believe hospice does not mean giving up. Rather, it means in-home care focused on meeting a wide range of patient and family needs, as well as assisting physicians in caring for patients in their last phase of life. It's not only the right thing to do, but it's also an approach that clearly extends life and conserves resources. ■

Thank you ...