

February 2022

*Choose people you know and care you trust. Choose Iroquois Memorial Hospice.*

## Happy 26<sup>th</sup> Anniversary!



### February 14<sup>th</sup> is Iroquois Memorial Hospice's 26<sup>th</sup> anniversary of caring for patients and their families.

**A little history lesson:** Holistic hospice care for the dying was introduced in the United States in 1963. The first hospice was established in Connecticut in 1974. It took several years to get Federal support, approved by JCAHO, (Joint Commission on Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations) and Medicare. Finally in 1993, it became an accepted part of the healthcare continuum. One of our hospice volunteers, Mary Jane LaFond, felt there was a huge need in Iroquois County for the holistic approach to caring for people. Working with Iroquois Memorial Hospital and Carle Hospice, a collaborative agreement was reached to open Iroquois Memorial/Carle Hospice on February 14, 1996. February 14<sup>th</sup> was chosen because Valentine's Day is the day designated for love, and this hospice would care for patients and their families with love.

Mary Jane was the first Clinical Supervisor of the program, Mary Noonan was the first nurse, and Dr. Pat Johnson was the first Medical Director of Iroquois Memorial/Carle Hospice. The hospice team started with 4 volunteers and Prairieview Lutheran Home in Danforth, IL was the first nursing home to sign a contract. On August 17, 2004, our hospice program became Iroquois Memorial Hospice. The first newsletter appeared in 2009.

**26 years, 45 volunteers, 6 counties, and still caring for patients and their families with love.**



*Celebrating 26 years of caring for patients and their families*



*Iroquois Memorial Hospital was named the Watseka Area Chamber of Commerce's Business of the Month for January*



*"We Honor Our Veterans" honoring Mr. Emmett Berhern's military service to our country*