Nelly Tafferelli came to this country from Argentina in 1992 and dreamed of becoming a U.S. citizen ever since. Her efforts, even when assisted by friends and family, weren’t enough. Thanks to the team from Karen Ann Quinlan Hospice: Jackie Shepard, Social Services, Marlina Schetting, Social Services Director and Nancy Lombreglia, RN, Nelly’s dream is now a reality. On her behalf they contacted Congressman Scott Garrett and with the help from his office some of the red tape got unstuck. She passed her citizenship test and attended her swearing in ceremony all while wearing pink pajamas!

Due to Nelly’s terminal illness, Officer Steve Sprinkler of the U.S. Citizen and Immigration Services administered the citizenship test to her at home where she was able to answer questions in comfort and confidence. Afterwards, she celebrated and blew out eighteen candles (one for each year here), ate some cheesecake, and sang “God Bless America”.

"Our citizenship in the United States is our national character. Our citizenship in any particular state is only our local distinction. By the latter we are known at home, by the former to the world... Our great title is AMERICANS..." -- Thomas Paine
“Dignity Counts”

Some days, as perhaps you do, I need to sit calmly and reflect upon the week’s events. What went right and what went wrong and how did we do in our attempt to fix, change or make a difference. I become mindful, philosophical, and, yes, perhaps a bit sappy! I came in today to help a fellow teammate out and organize the plethora of paper that has been sitting in my file drawer...growing.

Knee deep in my paperwork I happened upon an old project. It is our Mission Statement and the staff’s feedback to one important question: “Why am I here?” Translated: Why do we work for the Karen Ann Quinlan Memorial Foundation? Then I revisited an anonymous and nicely typed statement, years old, entitled “DIGNITY”. Dignity is what the Quinlan family fought so hard for Karen to have. Even the letters address who we are and what we stand for.

D- Devoted to providing the highest quality of care possible
I - Integrity
G- Guidance through Education
N- Not for Profit
I - Incredible Staff
T- Teamwork
Y- Your right to Life with Dignity

It is our legacy. It is what sets us apart and makes us so unique.

Then, a light bulb seemed to go off in my head and I know in my “heart of hearts” this is all true. That is why I am here. That is why, I would say, we are all here. We believe in upholding personal dignity in all that we do. This is seen in each gentle word, each hand held at the bedside, each affirmation given to a team member. We believe in the strength and good of others and try to bring it out in them. We don’t need to make ourselves big by making others feel small. We work for the best in others, regardless of who they are. Even when we feel frustrated, tired and at our worst, we consistently strive to do our best. We are the best. That is my belief. That is why we are here...Because dignity counts.

PS - I discovered our anonymous writer! She is none other than Nadine Balint, our former Finance Manager. Inspired by her words I called her up in North Carolina to thank her for her inspiration and wonderful work over the years. She sends her regards to everyone and is pleased to report that she is now working for a hospice in her area!
Social Services Blizzard Packs
In November the Social Services staff was busy with its annual Blizzard Pack Project. Thanks to the diligent efforts of Amy Florence, our Rutgers MSW student intern and two enthusiastic volunteers, Jo Ann Ruffino and Mary Finnegan, 80 Blizzard Packs were assembled and are being distributed to our homecare and hospice patients. The Blizzard Packs are “cuing devices” intended to alert patients and families with information and items that they might need in an emergency, e.g., flashlights with batteries, canned food and water. We’d like to thank all hospice team members who donated canned goods and helped in the delivery of the packs. Our gratitude also extends to the following Dental professionals for their generous donations of dental hygiene items for our Blizzard Packs:

Dr. Edward Tirpack, Dr. Darren Sacks, Dr. Scott Ruvo, Dr. Vergara, and Drs. Nancy Craddock & John Craddock.

Hospice recognizes dedicated employees.
Karen Ann Quinlan hospice founder Julia Quinlan, center, and to her left Hospice board member Louis Ruggiero congratulate ten year award recipients Laura Entwistle, MA, Social Services Counselor, and on the end Mary Bowden from Marketing.

Congratulations and Thank you!

NJHPCO NAMES CLAYTON TO TREASURER POST
Cecelia T. Clayton, Executive Director of Karen Ann Quinlan Hospice, Newton, NJ was voted into the office as Treasurer for the NJHPCO at its Nov. 29 Board of Trustees meeting. Clayton has served on the New Jersey Hospice and Palliative Care Organization Board of Trustees for the past three years, and has now been elected to serve a second three year term.

Founded in 1979, New Jersey Hospice and Palliative Care Organization is a nonprofit public service organization that promotes use of hospice and palliative care at the end of life. Their provider membership comprises 46 licensed and Medicare-certified New Jersey Hospices, or about 90% of the licensed hospices in New Jersey. Organization membership makes hospice services available in every community in New Jersey. Some of their events and activities include an annual Conference for hospice staff each November, Hospice Volunteer Conference each July, Key Issues Seminars for New Hospice Professionals each April and October, Advanced Hospice Nursing Seminars, Ethics Seminars and retreats each spring.

“I am pleased to be part of this supportive hospice organization and to assist in assuring that our northern areas of the state are well represented. Karen Ann Quinlan Hospice has been a leader in end of life care for over a quarter of a century, and for twenty years I have had the honor to witness those that work day after day in the taking care of our terminally ill as dedicated, loving, and caring individuals.”—Cecelia T Clayton, MPH.
Mary Pugliese, BSN, RN, CHPN, Education and QAPI (Quality Assessment Performance Improvement) Manager from Karen Ann Quinlan Hospice, has been invited by Dr. Gail Pearson, Rutgers College of Nursing, to join a consortium of experts on end-of-life care. This group represents collaborative efforts to provide current trends and issues in end of life and palliative care and to explore the role of the health professional in assisting clients to make these choices. The consortium will blend nursing academics and nursing research in a conference to disseminate the latest information to an interdisciplinary group of health care professionals. This effort is supported by Rutgers College of Nursing, the New Jersey Hospice and Palliative Care Organization, William Paterson University, and Thomas Jefferson University.

Pugliese’s hospice expertise was sought by the New Jersey End-of-Life Nursing Education Consortium (NJ-ELNEC) because of her years of hospice nursing, administration, education training, and managing quality experience for the comfort of patients throughout the state. She is a graduate of Rutgers College of Nursing and has served on The New Jersey Hospice & Palliative Board of Trustees. As an organization participant, Mary has initiated and served as Chairperson for the Nursing Education Committee and the Review Course for Hospice and Palliative Care Certification for Nurses. She was an active participant on a state committee to standardize and promote a curriculum of training for the certification of hospice home health aides and she continues to instruct in this course.

Presently and for the past seven years, Pugliese has been working at Karen Ann Quinlan Hospice in Newton responsible for clinical education, orientation, clinical staff development and QAPI. Her affiliation with the state consortium will keep her current with the latest trends, issues, and evidenced based practice to support patients/ families at the end of life.

Dian Antley PT MS has joined us on a per-diem basis. Dian is also a certified Pilates instructor as well as a personnel fitness trainer. Christa Akers ST MS is now a member of the team as well on per-diem.

The Karen Ann Quinlan Home Health Care staff donated holiday gifts to St.Jude’s Rest Home.

Truman made a visit to the Karen Ann Quinlan Newton office. He was a treat for everyone!

Pugliese joins a consortium of state experts on end-of-life-care.

Visit our website for more info: www.karenannquinlanhospice.org
Karen Ann Quinlan Hospice names two new Board members.

**Tammie Horsfield**, President of the Sussex County Chamber of Commerce and **Glen Vetrano**, former Sussex County Freeholder Director, have joined the Karen Ann Quinlan Memorial Foundation beginning January 2011.

Horsfield serves as President of the Sussex County Economic Development Partnership, Inc. and directs seven other local chamber councils. She serves as Vice Chair of the Newton Memorial Hospital Board of Trustees, Trustee and Immediate Past Chair on the Sussex County Community College Foundation, Executive Committee member and member of the Board of Directors of the New Jersey State Fair/The Sussex County Farm & Horse Show, Executive Board member of the High Point Regional High School Educational Foundation, Advisory Board member of High Point Regional High School, and a member of the In Home Health Advisory Board. Other committees include the Sussex County Strategic Growth Advisory Committee, Sussex County Economic Development Vision 20/20 Task Force, Sussex County Community College Board of Trustee Search Committee, Sussex County Domestic Preparedness Task Force, Local Emergency Planning Committee of the Office of Emergency Management, Pioneering Healthier Communities Task Force and she is the Chair of the Sussex County Underage Drinking Task Force. Over the past few years, Tammie has been presented with recognition awards including; 2008 Garden State Woman of the Year presented by Garden State Women’s Magazine, 2009 NJ Association of Women Business Owners Rose and Scroll Award, 2009 Boy Scouts of America Tribute to Women Award and in 2009 was honored at the Sussex County Community College Foundation Ball.

Vetrano began his service on the Sussex County Board of Chosen Freeholders February 2000 and served as both a Deputy Director in 2004 and Freeholder Director in 2005. He is an accomplished firefighter having risen from the ranks of inner city firefighters to Battalion Chief for the City of Paterson Fire Department.

His community achievements in addition to Sussex County Freeholder include President of the Paterson Firefighters Association, Highland Water Protection and Planning Council, Sussex County Farm and Horse Show, Director, Lusscroft Farm and Agricultural Association, Chairman of the John Cocula Memorial Scholarship Foundation, President and Chairman of the Boys and Girls Clubs of Paterson and Passaic, President and Chairman, Sparta Unico, and Passaic County 200 Club Trustee. Vetrano’s special recognitions include Sussex County Chamber of Commerce Volunteer of the Year, Red Cross of Sussex County Man of the Year, Sussex County St. Patrick’s Society Grand Marshal and Boys and Girls Club of Paterson and Passaic Man of the Year.

A resident of Sussex County, his ultimate objective as a rural citizen farmer is to advance the preservation of New Jersey’s agricultural roots.

“ It is my pleasure to welcome Tammie Horsfield and Glen Vetrano to the Karen Ann Quinlan Memorial Foundation Board. For the past two years they served on the Focus Group/Capital Campaign Committee with dedication and commitment. Their experience and knowledge will be beneficial in enabling hospice to reach our future goals.” -- Julia A. Quinlan Chairman, Founder of Karen Ann Quinlan Hospice.
If you wish to be removed from the Karen Ann Quinlan Memorial Foundation/Care Connections Mailing List please call (973)383-0115. We apologize for any inconvenience.

High Tea
Presented by Friends of Hospice
Join us for tea, goodies and friendship.

High Tea For Hospice
February 25 4-6 PM
Donation $37.50 Per Person
RSVP to Hospice by 2/18 at 973-383-0115
Please make checks payable to Friends of Hospice
99 Sparta Ave., Newton NJ 07860
Reservations for the first 70 guests.

2011 Shredding
Five Saturdays this year!
March 26 May 14
July 9 September 24
November 19
9-12 pm Hospice Office
99 Sparta Ave, Newton.
$6.00 p/paper box size.

Shred all your personal and business papers to protect you and your business.

2011 Harley-Davidson Road King
Price: $20.00 a ticket
Only 2000 Sold!
Drawing Jan 1, 2012
Call 800-882-1117 or visit our website.

Blue and Vivid Black

Also visit our website for the 2010 winner!

Visit our website for more info: www.karenannquinlanhospice.org