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'Lights of Love' a tribute to those lost

By APRIL FEAGLEY Daily News Staff Writer



Home Nursing Agency Hospice social worker Piper Tanner leads attendees in a time of remembrance to honor loved ones lost at the "Lights of Love" ceremony Monday night at Home Nursing Agency, Smithfield Township. Photo by APRIL FEAGLEY Loss can make those left behind feel as if they are cloaked in darkness, especially during the holidays. A special ceremony held Monday night at Home Nursing Agency in Smithfield Township, "Lights of Love," began the season by allowing family members to pay tribute to those who have passed or honor a special loved one still living.



"This is our second annual tree lighting and while we are having our ceremony here, there are seven other ceremonies going on in the other counties we serve," said

Marianne Beyer, director of Home Nursing Agency's Huntingdon office. "At those ceremonies, there are groups of people gathered just like we are for the same purpose."

"Lights of Love" events were held in Altoona, Bedford, Ebensburg, State College, Chambersburg, Clymer, Lewistown and Huntingdon simultaneously and were sponsored by the Teeter Group, ABC23, Fox 8 and THIS TV Network.

"It is a beautiful night to celebrate the lives of the people we've been involved with," said Annie Wright, Home Nursing Agency patient care supervisor. "It is such a blessing to be able to give care and be with their loved ones."

Guests at "Lights of Love" enjoyed music performed by the youth group of Shavers Creek Christian Fellowship, Petersburg, and welcoming remarks and prayer lead by Hospice chaplain Joe Shawley.

"The Bible talks about God being the God of all mercy and all comfort. I think about comfort and Hospice, and I'm glad God put it in the minds of people to create something like Hospice," said Shawley. "I tell people I have one of the best jobs in the world, we help people be comfortable."

Each "Lights of Love" location featured decorations consisting of white and blue lights signifying different facets of the services provided.

"There are white lights and each of those lights represent a loved one who has already passed on or can also represent someone who is living, for those we would like to honor," said Beyer. "The blue lights represent our bereavement services. One of the things our agency does that we are very proud of is we offer bereavement services for adults, support groups led by social workers and the Healing Patch for children who have lost loved ones. There is a healing process that goes on when people come together."

Show



Lights could be sponsored by donations, which benefit Home Nursing Agency's charitable care program for those patients who do not have the means to pay for Hospice care and are also used for grief services. Dedications can be viewed online at <u>www.homenursingagency.com/LightsOfLove/</u> view-donations.php?tree_ id=15.

"Participants have talked about how the program was helpful to them," said Wright. "Whenever you turn the lights on, it is like they are still with you."

"Taking part in the ceremony can be a piece of the healing process," said Beyer.

The lights will remain lit through Friday, Jan. 10. Home Nursing Agency is a United Way participating agency.

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