



David Weinburgh, with his niece, Ruthi Wurth, went to a Red Sox game and met Kevin Youkilis.

All Care hits a home run for hospice patients

BY MEAGHAN CASEY

David Weinburgh is a double amputee battling cancer and diabetes. Despite his adversities, he is living each day to the fullest with the help of All Care Hospice.

"I was originally afraid of the idea of hospice, thinking, 'Do I have to be bedridden?'" Weinburgh said. "The answer is no. They encourage me to continue to do what I can and want to do, and they've helped me to relax and have more confidence in myself."

That support has been a welcome relief for Weinburgh, a Lynn resident who can be seen driving his power wheelchair to Lynn Beach, cheering on his beloved Red Sox or collecting tickets at a North Shore Navigators game. A U.S. Army veteran, Weinburgh, 68, worked for 30 years at General Electric. He retired in 1999 to care for his younger brother, who was recuperating from a stroke. During that time, Weinburgh was also fighting his own battle with diabetes. After suffering a heart attack, he underwent bypass surgery and had both legs amputated. Four months later, he was managing to care for himself again.

In 2005, Weinburgh faced another challenge when he was diagnosed with kidney cancer. He again accessed the



services of All Care Visiting Nurse Association (VNA), while maintaining his independence at the Louis Barrett Residence, located on Washington Street.

"I told the physical therapist I wanted to do everything necessary to be independent, and I accomplished that," he said.

The cancer has since spread to his spine and lymph nodes. Within the last year, Weinburgh entered All Care's Bridge to Hospice program, which provides a continuum of care between VNA and Hospice. He entered All Care Hospice two months ago. The goal of hospice care is to enhance the quality of a person's life, while optimizing the time spent with family and friends. Hospice support empowers patients to live with dignity, grace and fulfillment. With a focus on caring, not curing, people receive services in their home, nursing

home, hospital or residential facility

"I didn't want to go to the hospital," Weinburgh said. "I preferred to stay at home. I feel very fortunate. I know hospice is just a phone call away and they'll come to me any time, 24 hours a day. It takes away all the stress."

As a result, Weinburgh has continued to do the things he loves. In September, he and his niece, Ruthi Wurth, traveled to Fenway Park to watch the Red Sox triumph over the Tampa Bay Rays. Thanks to the efforts of the All Care Hospice team, Weinburgh also had the opportunity to go onto the field before the game and meet first baseman Kevin Youkilis.

"He was awesome," said Weinburgh. "I was chatting and joking with him about his batting style. The whole experience was a dream come true."

To help patients such as Weinburgh stay in the community, All Care raises funds through special events and memorial gifts to provide much-needed home care and hospice services.

For nearly a century, All Care has remained dedicated to improving the quality of its patients' lives. The organization specializes in rehabilitation services, support for elders to maintain health and independence and compassionate end-of-life

care. All Care Hospice's interdisciplinary team of nurses, aides, social workers, chaplain and volunteers work with patients to provide physical, emotional and spiritual support. Hospice care is available 24 hours a day, and includes regular nursing and home health aide visits; medication; medical equipment and supplies; licensed social workers; spiritual care; bereavement support; and volunteer companionship.

A Matter of Taste

8th annual Charity Wine Tasting and Auction to benefit All Care Hospice
Sponsored by
Salem Five Charitable Foundation

Nov. 12, 2009 — 6-9:30 p.m.
Danversport Yacht Club, Danvers
Tickets: \$50 per person

Special guest auctioneer:
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Getaway of a Lifetime Raffle
Week's stay at Tryall Club's Trinity Village,
Montego Bay, Jamaica
\$13,000 value

Tickets: \$100 — only 175 will be sold

For tickets and information: 800-246-2449
x119 or jchamberlin@allcarehospice.org