

In 2014, I was working as a PSW on the patient floor when I met “Irene”. It was a time in my career at Bobby’s Hospice that I will never forget.

Irene was not able to speak clearly due to her illness, so to hear her you needed to be close and listen very carefully as she mumbled most of her words. Irene would love to sit in the hallway by our big window and look outside. It seemed to be her favorite spot and she appeared to be so peaceful there. Irene’s second favorite spot was sitting out by the nurse’s station. She loved to watch us work and chat and we loved having her there. It was a pleasure having her around. Irene did not have a lot of family so we became her family. Irene always made me smile and I tried to spend as much time with her as I could when I was working.

My weekend shift started and I went to look for Irene and found her in bed, she had suddenly taken a turn for the worst. I did not want Irene to be alone so I pulled up a chair and sat beside the bed and held her hand. Within moments I noticed that changes were happening. Her breathing pattern changed and became shallow. We as clinical staff knew what that meant.

I knew I could not leave Irene in her final moments. I sat by her bedside for quite a while holding her hand and leaning over to hug her from time to time. As I was holding her hand I noticed her pulse started to slow. I looked up and saw a peaceful look on her face as she took her last breath. I knew then all her pain was gone but it was hard to see her go. Although I knew what was going to happen I was saddened by the loss of Irene. We truly care about our patients and it is sometimes hard for us to see them go as they are part of our family.

I knew on that day, Bobby’s Hospice was the place for me. Currently I am the Executive Assistant to the CEO and Development Manager. Fundraising for this wonderful care facility in our community is part of my job and I could not be any happier. If you are looking to support a great community charity that makes a difference to people right here at home, donations to Bobby’s Hospice would be appreciated. We could not do it without you!

Vanessa McAleer  
Executive & Development Assistant

