Cedar Valley Hospice Board and Executive Search Committee have selected Michaela Vandersee as Cedar Valley Hospice's new Executive Director.

Vandersee has been serving as Director of Finance for nearly 16 years and was appointed Interim Executive Director when Marvin Fagerlind retired from his position in January.

For Vandersee, the position is a natural fit. From an early age, she was immersed into the healthcare industry. Some of her earliest memories are hanging out around the hospital in Oelwein where both her parents were either on call or working. She credits them for instilling within her a strong work ethic, which continued through college as she propelled her way through by working in the accounting office at the UNI Foundation, Lawther Hall and also in food service.

After graduating from UNI with a bachelor’s degree in accounting, she began her professional career working at Bergan, Paulsen & Company PC as an auditor and also earned her CPA license.

Her connection to hospice began soon after college, when she had a close family member on the Cedar Valley Hospice program. The hospice staff “left a lasting mark” on her. Five years later, when the Director of Finance position came open, she was not actively seeking a job, but “felt called to apply.” She had already been working with non-profit organizations as an auditor and hoped the organization would see what a perfect fit she could be for them and they did. Since starting in May of 2000, Cedar Valley Hospice’s budget has quadrupled, allowing for growth and expansion of services for patients and families.

“Working at Cedar Valley Hospice is not just a job, it’s a way of life, a way of thinking, a way of doing.”

– Michaela Vandersee, Executive Director

Continued on the next page
Throughout her tenure, she has worked closely with Fagerlind, the management team, finance and IT staff and has developed a strong rapport with her fellow colleagues.

“She has stepped into her new role with compassion and confidence. In a very short time she has gathered staff input and is moving forward with a vision, putting goals and strategies in place to measure our progress,” said Cedar Valley Hospice Marketing Director Jennifer Siech. Working closely with Vandersee on the Executive Team, Siech has seen firsthand Vandersee’s extensive knowledge of the hospice industry and its business operations. She added, “This new zest has reenergized our organization which will mean good things for the patients, families and communities we serve.”

For Vandersee, sitting at the helm of a non-profit is so much more than attending to her daily tasks. “Working at Cedar Valley Hospice is not just a job, it’s a way of life, a way of thinking, a way of doing,” she said. “I have learned so many things from our staff, board members, patients, family members, volunteers and clients that have impacted the way I view life and the importance of working for an organization that serves a greater purpose.”

As Cedar Valley Hospice’s third full-time Executive Director in its 37-year history, Vandersee’s vision is that Cedar Valley Hospice thrives as an independent stand-alone not-for-profit organization. “I also plan to develop mutually beneficial relationships with healthcare providers in our service area to enhance the continuum of care for the patients in our communities,” she added.

As always, Cedar Valley Hospice will uphold the mission of providing the highest quality service to patients and families and being a leader in end-of-life care.

Vandersee lives in Waterloo with her husband, Greg, and three daughters.
Patriotic Nights Saluting the Mission of Cedar Valley Hospice was held on April 1 at the Park Place Event Centre in Cedar Falls. Nearly 300 attendees donned red, white and blue for a fun-filled, casual evening to support Cedar Valley Hospice’s mission. Thanks to the generosity of the community, the event raised over $60,000 and also provided an opportunity to honor the late Van Miller for his contributions to this annual event. The night highlighted our We Honor Veterans program and included a special visit from Retrievng Freedom. Other activities during the evening included: over 110 silent auction items; a $1,000 raffle prize going to Seila Hadzic of Waterloo; dueling pianos; and special speaker Kevin Dill from the Black Hawk County Commission of Veteran Affairs.

“The day my father passed, I could see in his eyes that he was at peace,” Dill said during the evening, “Just watching the unconditional love this group of people from Cedar Valley Hospice showed my father was amazing. They are really special.”

Thank you to everyone who attended or supported this fun event.

Above, Cedar Valley Hospice volunteers Joan Nanke and Mary Ingamells help with the silent auction during the night’s festivities. Left, Cedar Valley Hospice Assistant Medical Director Michael Deters and his son-in-law, Tony, fully embodied patriotism at this year’s event.
release & remember

Don’t miss this year’s Release & Remember fundraising event to be held on Sunday, August 28 at the Waterloo RiverLoop Amphitheatre from 1 – 3 p.m. This popular event brings hundreds of community supporters to the banks of the Cedar River for an afternoon of remembering loved ones with the release of 1000 monarch butterflies. We invite you to join staff, volunteers, families and friends of Cedar Valley Hospice for a fun filled afternoon and moving tribute that has become a tradition of celebrating loved ones in a special way.

Guests will enjoy a picnic lunch and an afternoon of family and children’s activities with The Cedar Valley Big Band bringing their talented musicians to provide a lively musical performance to entertain guests. The day will be highlighted by a short program and the release of 1000 butterflies, supported through the donations of individuals, churches and business partners.

T-shirts commemorating this year’s event will be available for sale mid-July and also at the event, but are sure to go quickly. Make sure and purchase yours while supplies last by visiting or contacting the Cedar Valley Hospice Waterloo office on the fourth floor of the Kimball Ridge building. Watch our Facebook page for the announcement of special Tribute Days prior to the event. We will keep you updated on additional dates and locations where you can support a butterfly and conveniently purchase T-shirts.

The Release & Remember event is an opportunity to remember and most importantly, celebrate, those we love in an extraordinary way. For each memorial or honorary gift of $25, a butterfly will be released. Those donating will in turn receive a keepsake certificate to personalize and keep as a reminder of the day.

We invite you to be a part of this meaningful celebration and remembrance by supporting one or a number of butterflies as a tribute to someone you love. To do so, please complete and return the registration form on the following page or visit us online at www.cvhospice.org. You may also contact your local Cedar Valley Hospice office for more information or call 800.617.1972.

See you on Sunday, August 28!
Please respond on or before Friday, August 15, 2016 by visiting our website at cvhospice.org or by mailing the form below along with your donation to: Cedar Valley Hospice, PO Box 2880 Waterloo, IA 50704-2880. For more information, call 800.617.1972.

EVENT DATE:
SUNDAY, AUGUST 28, 1-3 P.M.

Yes! I/we would like to celebrate life by donating to the Release & Remember event!

☐ _____ #butterflies @ $25 each = $ ________

In memory/honor of _______________________
In memory/honor of _______________________
In memory/honor of _______________________
In memory/honor of _______________________

AND/OR

☐ I/We would like to support the Release & Remember event with a contribution of: $ ________________

Total amount enclosed $ ________________

Please charge my Visa or Mastercard Amt: $ ______ Exp. Date ______ CVV/CVC Code ______

Card Number ________________________________________________________________

Signature ________________________________________________________________

Name ________________________________________________________________

Address ________________________________________________________________

City __________________________ State ________ Zip ____________

Phone __________________________ Email __________________________

For each memorial or honorary gift of $25:
- One butterfly will be released at our event
- One keepsake certificate will be included with your acknowledgement for you to personalize and keep
- You may include one name to be celebrated

Limited number of butterflies available after this date
Tribute name will be displayed at event if received by Aug. 15

* Please print clearly
summer parades

We will be participating in several parades again this year and would love to have you attend any or all of the following upcoming celebrations:
My Waterloo Days – participated, June 10.
La Porte City – Friday, June 17, 7 p.m.
Sturgis Falls – Saturday, June 25, 10 a.m.
Felix Grundy Days – Saturday, July 9, 4 p.m.
Waverly Heritage Days – Saturday, July 16, 10:30 a.m.

If you would like to walk in the parades with us, please call 319.272.2002 and ask for the marketing department.

serving veterans

Cedar Valley Hospice recently teamed up with the Black Hawk County Veterans Affairs Commission to serve lunch for homeless veterans. Every Wednesday this summer from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. in Waterloo’s Lincoln Park, homeless veterans can enjoy a free lunch. Each week a different agency sponsors the food and provides helping hands to pass out hot dogs, chips, soda and water. Cedar Valley Hospice sponsored the meal on June 8. As members of the National Hospice & Palliative Care Organization’s We Honor Veterans program, Cedar Valley Hospice continues to join forces with others to honor heroic Americans who deserve recognition for their military service.

event partnerships

We are proud to partner with area chambers to sponsor local events. It is a fun way to get involved and we hope to see you there! This summer we are sponsoring the following events:

Waverly Concerts in Kohlman – Thursday, June 30, 6:30 p.m.
Independence Friday Night Live – Friday, August 5, 5 p.m.
Taste of Grundy Center – Thursday, August 25, time TBD

If you would like to help us at any of these outings, please call 319.272.2002 and ask for the marketing department.
golf outing turns 15

On June 4, community golfers gathered for a great cause, the 15th Annual Cedar Valley Hospice Rabbit Donnelly Memorial Golf Tournament. This year golfers shot 18 holes at Three Elms Golf Course in Independence. The proceeds benefit Cedar Valley Hospice programs and services provided in and around Buchanan, Fayette and Benton counties. Many thanks to the Donnelly family for their many years of friendship, leadership and support; Three Elms for their support and assistance; Independence Walmart for donating the 48” Smart TV; and to the Eagle Sponsor, Medical Associates of Independence. Congratulations to John Evers Agency–American Family Insurance for taking home first place!

quilt raffle

Lovingly made by former nurse and current volunteer, Kathie Manfull along with friends, this beautiful 90” x 100” ZigZag9 quilt will be raffled off in November at the Soup, Salad & Shop fundraiser in Grundy Center. The quilt, adorned with butterflies and dragonflies symbolizing strength and new life, was made as a tribute to all Cedar Valley Hospice patients and in loving memory of Karen Link, a former Cedar Valley Hospice nurse and special friend to Kathie. The quilt will spend most of its time on display in the Grundy Center office; however tickets are available for $1 at both the Waterloo and Grundy Center offices. You do not need to be present at the event to win.

CASS marks success

Recently a team of four surveyors from the Iowa Department of Public Health (IDPH) came for its annual survey of our CASS (Cedar Aids Support System) program. Case managers Elizabeth and Karla consistently receive praise and acknowledgment from IDPH, but this year surpassed any other survey they have received. Comments from surveyors included, “Your documentation and process is extremely organized and you have perfected your system” as well as, “Assessments are well written and give us the most information of anyone doing this work in the state”. They also commented that care plans were “excellent.” CASS serves approximately 90 clients per year.
The 2016 Annual Campaign arrived in mailboxes the week of Memorial Day, which is a fitting time to remember those you’ve loved by making a financial gift to Cedar Valley Hospice.

These donations allow us to provide compassionate care for your family, friends and neighbors. This year’s campaign centers around the quality care given by members of our team:

"I spend quality time with patients and their families to help them understand what is happening and prepare them for their journey. Each patient and family is a priority and each receives a specialized care plan."

– Dr. David Hagedorn, Cedar Valley Hospice Medical Director

"I empower the family with knowledge to get through each day with confidence knowing they are doing all they can for their loved one."

– Marsy, Cedar Valley Hospice Nurse

"I do what I can to enrich patients’ lives — whether it’s doing their nails, hair or just sitting and talking with them. It often makes their day … and mine too."

– Amanda, Cedar Valley Hospice Aide

Please consider a gift to the 2016 Annual Campaign and help us to continue to offer a wide variety of quality services to many in need.

**Summer Grief Camp**

Tuesday, July 26 / 10:00 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.
UAW Hall - 2615 Washington St., Waterloo

- Summer Grief Camp is intended for children 6-12 who are grieving the death of a loved one.
- This camp is FREE and open to all kids in the community.

SAVE THE DATE

Call Kassidi Braby at (319) 272-2002.
Deadline to register: July 6, 2016
For more information, visit cvhospice.org
Describe your position with Cedar Valley Hospice.

As a Cedar Valley Hospice Social Worker, I have the privilege of being available to assist patients and their families with any number of practical or emotional needs that arise when they are going through the end-of-life journey. This is done as I meet with the patient and family by doing the following:

• Developing an individual care plan with the patient and family so we can identify and address comfort care needs in collaboration with the Interdisciplinary Team.
• Providing support with end-of-life decisions by assisting with Advanced Directives, Living Wills, Durable Power of Attorney for Health Care and funeral arrangements.
• Assessing and providing emotional support to the patient and their families as they cope with the illness.
• Assisting the patient and their family in utilizing community resources as needed.
• Upholding the dignity and privacy of patient and their family.

These support services are provided seven days a week as needed.

What are the most enjoyable aspects of your job? Why?

The most enjoyable aspect of my job is meeting the patients and their loved ones. I learn what is important to them and then go to work to help them however I can. I feel honored to be there for them at this time in their lives.

How does your job support the mission of Cedar Valley Hospice?

In the office, I’ve heard many people say, “You are what people see when Cedar Valley Hospice is present.” This means that we are the eyes people look into and the voices they hear on the phone or in their room when they are in pain or feeling down. My ears may be the only to hear their fears, pleas, questions, stories of loss and/or sadness. I provide the compassionate care that people hope to find. Working alongside an amazing Interdisciplinary Team that offers their expertise and support to our patients and families, I am able to uphold the quality of life my patients desire for their end of life. Every day, I strive to LIVE Cedar Valley Hospice.

Share a memorable story that has impacted you.

Each patient and family I have met has impacted, changed and touched me in a way that teaches me how to truly live, love and laugh – especially during tough times. I have a memory tree in my office where I leave little inspirational notes to myself, so I can remind myself who I am becoming and remember those times that have touched my life.

In your opinion, what makes Cedar Valley Hospice stand out above the other providers in the area?

As a not-for-profit agency, our focus is on meeting the needs of the patient and their family – we don’t turn anyone away. I have witnessed this compassion throughout the agency, regardless of role or job duty. ‘You are Cedar Valley Hospice!’ I often look at this phrase when I walk out of the office because it is so true and reminds me what an honor it is to be such a small part of people’s lives during difficult times. I always feel good as I walk out the door.
Every April, Cedar Valley Hospice takes the opportunity to honor our volunteers. Over 400 serve on our committees, help at the Hospice Home and visit patients and families. At each of our four sites, an appreciation dinner was held to acknowledge their important work. After the dinner, several volunteers shared why they enjoy being a Cedar Valley Hospice volunteer.

As a member of my church’s bereavement committee, it seemed to be a natural fit. I was nervous, but as soon as I began, I felt such warmth from my first family. I was able to come and stay with their loved one while they ran errands and remodeled their home. We became very close and developed a wonderful relationship. I am grateful to be a part of such a wonderful organization.”

– Marsha McGlaughlin, Independence volunteer since 2010

“I volunteer because it’s very rewarding to be able to make them laugh and talk with them. When we meet with other volunteers, we have great fellowship and fun together.”

– Irma Thede, Grundy Center volunteer since 2004
I volunteer because it’s a way to pay back the organization that once did a lot for me. Along the way, I’ve developed some lasting relationships and created so many memories.”

– Kathy McFarland, Waterloo volunteer since 1993

I enjoy volunteering because I like to provide emotional support for the patient and family. They let me into their lives and we share such wonderful conversations.”

– Carol Hadley, Grundy Center volunteer since 2002

For longtime volunteer Jeanette Gerrietts from Waverly, helping Cedar Valley Hospice patients and families has changed her life. “The people are at a spot in their lives when they need support,” she said. “Others don’t know what to do, so they do nothing. I try to find where there is a need and give families time off or a place to lean.”

Gerrietts trained to be a hospice volunteer in Calhoun County in the 80s, became a Cedar Valley Hospice volunteer in 1987, and served as a Volunteer Coordinator in Waverly for a short time. Over her tenure, she has accumulated a lifetime of wonderful experiences that have enriched her life.

To become a volunteer, call 319.272.2002.

Anyone familiar with Cedar Valley Hospice knows the significance of giving each of our patients a handmade quilt. What might not be so well known is the story behind them. As with many of the great programs, services and events at Cedar Valley Hospice, our volunteers play a starring role in the story.

Currently, we have volunteer quilters in all of our four service areas. In the Waterloo–Cedar Falls area, The Keepsake Quilters Guild has been donating quilts to Cedar Valley Hospice through their Quilts to Share program for over two decades. In that time, they have made 1,072 quilts for our patients, their loved ones and our hospice home beds. In 2015, this group put in 2,514 hours.

They’ve also created 185 one-of-a-kind patriotic lap quilts for those hospice patients who are military veterans.

It is often amazing how the perfect quilt makes its way into the hands of a Cedar Valley Hospice patient and how much joy those quilts bring to someone who is ill and to their families that care for them. Thanks to the many volunteers involved in the Keepsake Quilters Guild, when a patient dies the family is left with something special to remember their loved one.

quilters earn Mayor’s Award

Representatives of the Keepsake Quilters Guild accepted the Mayor’s Volunteer Award this spring for their Quilts to Share program. The entire group includes: Diane Olson, Janet O’Neil, Linda Parrott, Linda Vognsen, Sandie Nunemaker, Ellen Smith, Kathy Zeets, Norma Hager, Janet Drake, Laurel Northey, Kathy Napientek, Joyce Kienast, Judy Tyer, Sheryl Powell and Donna Hansen.
calendar of events

Mark your calendar for these upcoming Cedar Valley Hospice fundraising events. You can also stay up to date by visiting www=cvhospce.org or our Facebook page.

**Tuesday, July 26**
Summer Grief Camp – A Day at the Beach
UAW 838 Hall, Waterloo
10 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.

**Sunday, August 28**
Release & Remember
RiverLoop Amphitheatre, Waterloo
1 – 3 p.m.