

## How the Hospice Home T-shirt Drive Was Born

The “I Helped Build the Ogle County Hospice Home” T-shirts were a product of a challenge one Ogle County educator made to a group of Rochelle summer school students.

Bob Farlik of Monroe Center is one of those educators who really put a lesson into context for his students. During the RTHS Problems of Democracy class, Farlik challenged the kids to find a way they can make a difference in the world.

He wisely brought Lorrie Bearrows of Ogle County Hospice into his classroom to talk about palliative care and the end of life. Lorrie told the kids about an exciting undertaking: creation of an Ogle County Hospice Home. Farlik himself served on the committee that helped create the design of the facility.

Before Bearrows had even left the RTHS campus, Farlik excused four enthusiastic students to the office to research ways in which RTHS kids could help.

Savannah Fletcher, Aseneth (ass-in-eth) Herrera, Sarah Hudson, Elise Maliszewski (mal-ish-shes-kee) hoped to host a weekly bake sale with the proceeds going to Hospice. But the reality of preparing breakfast snacks for 1100 hungry teenagers every week sent them down another path.

This feisty foursome revisited the high school office between every class break to brainstorm. What the staff noticed over the course of a week was that whenever the girls arrived, each was wearing a different T-shirt commemorating some sports program, concert, or event.

That’s when the Hospice Home T-shirt drive was born.

A call to Barb Feldhaus Eychaner, an alumna of RTHS and owner of Bee Designs in rural Rochelle, led to the design you see on the T-shirts today: a cartoon-like drawing of the Hospice Home next to a stick figure identified as “Me”.

The back of the design says it all. By purchasing and wearing the Hospice Home T-shirt you can boast, “I Helped Build the Ogle County Hospice Home.”

The girls’ enthusiasm was infectious. Barb invited them to her studio and the design was printed on sample T-shirts. That’s when Lorrie Bearrows and Jim Beardin were called in to approve.

Fletcher, Herrera, Hudson and Maliszewski (mal-ish-shes-kee) would oversee a RTHS T-shirt drive, so that all Rochelle area kids could help build the Hospice Home.

But the feisty foursome wasn’t satisfied. “It’s the Ogle County Hospice Home, right?” They asked. “So why can’t we challenge kids all over Ogle County to wear T-shirts?”

A list of all Ogle County high school principals was created. Beardin volunteered to contact each, hoping student councils or Key Clubs at each school will help.

Hudson wisely directed Eychaner to use every one of the Ogle County high schools’ colors in the design. “We want Hospice represented in Ogle County fall festival parades,” she said, “so our plan is for Rochelle kids to wear a long-sleeved purple shirt under the Hospice Home T; Oregon kids can wear blue underneath; etc.”

For a \$15 tax deductible donation to Ogle County Hospice, you can proudly wear a T-shirt that tells all who see you that “I Helped Build the Ogle County Hospice Home”.

T-shirts come in 6-8 Youth sizes to XXXL. For every T-shirt sold, \$9.50 goes directly to the Hospice Home fund.



## Ogle County Hospice Home T-shirt

\$15 per T-shirt

Circle size(s) & indicate quantity needed

Sizes: Children's: 6-8 \_\_\_\_ 10-12 \_\_\_\_ 12-14 \_\_\_\_ 14-16 \_\_\_\_  
Adult: Small \_\_\_\_ Medium \_\_\_\_ Large \_\_\_\_  
XL \_\_\_\_ XXL \_\_\_\_ XXXL \_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

**Make checks payable to: Ogle County Hospice Home**

**Mail to: Ogle County Hospice Association  
P.O. Box 462  
Oregon, IL 61061**

**Or call our office at (815) 732-2499**

**[hospice@oglecountyhospice.org](mailto:hospice@oglecountyhospice.org) • [www.oglecountyhospice.org](http://www.oglecountyhospice.org)**

For Office Use:

Date Received: \_\_\_\_\_ Check or Cash Amount: \$ \_\_\_\_\_