



# MATURE Living

July/August  
2013

*The Community Magazine for  
Active Seniors*

Bedford and Blair Counties

- **Marie Doyle**  
Dedicated to volunteering
- **Ingenious ways to  
use most anything**
- **Puzzles**
- **Southern Cove  
Bluegrass Festival**
- **Deep Dish Cherry Pie**





# Marie Doyle devoted to volunteering

By Cara Beemiller

After losing her husband in 2009, Marie Doyle said devoting her time to volunteering was the best thing that could have happened to her.

Marie's husband, Tom, passed away in the couple's Bedford home in November of 2009.

"He was just a good person," said

Detroit and moved back to Portage and started her relationship with Tom.

The couple were married August 14, 1948.

In 1952, the Doyles moved to Bedford County and had their only child, Deborah, soon after.

Tom was employed as a teacher at Bedford High School while Marie

Myrtle Beach, S.C., to visit Deborah and her family after they relocated to the warmer weather. Deborah had three sons: Todd, Brett and Ryan.

Marie and Tom also enjoyed spending time with their great-granddaughter, Cori.

In the years to follow, Marie proved her love for her husband as she cared for him through two open heart surgeries and a brain injury.

When Marie found that she needed help taking care of her husband, the Home Nursing Agency Hospice stepped in.

"The people from Hospice were a blessing," said Marie. "God has always guided us in the right way."

On Nov. 22, 2009, Tom passed away.

"It's because of Hospice that Tom passed away at our home that Sunday morning in my arms," said Marie.

Marie, who still has a hard time holding back the tears when talking about her husband, said she had a hard time after her husband passed.

Marie said right away her daughter started encouraging her to move to South Carolina to live with her.

"She thought there wasn't any reason for me to stay here," said Marie. "But it's my home and I just don't want to leave. I have my friends and my church."

In 2010, Marie wanted to do more and decided to become a Hospice volunteer after seeing how well Hospice treated her husband.

"A year after Tom died, I took the course to become a Hospice volunteer," said Doyle. "I've never been sorry about signing up. Hospice is the best thing that could have happened to me."

Marie stays busy as a Hospice volunteer in homes, hospitals and nursing homes whenever she is needed.

Marie said she works every Thursday making telephone calls to Hospice patients to see what supplies they need, and on top of that, said she can work anywhere from two to 10 hours per week.

According to Marie, the Hospice employees and volunteers are a close group.

"The coordinators are so wonderful," said Marie. "I can tell they care as much about their volunteers as

—Continued on Page 11



—Photo by Cara Beemiller

Marie sorts through some Hospice paperwork while sitting at her small desk that she said her late husband, Tom, made for her many years ago.

Marie. "He was my life."

According to Marie, she met her husband in 1946 during a street carnival in Portage.

"I was living in Detroit at the time and I came home to visit family," said Marie. "Me and my friend decided to go to the carnival and there we met Tom and his friend."

"Well, I thought Tom was very handsome," Marie laughed.

Marie said it was shortly after their first date when she knew she would marry Tom.

"During our first date, he asked if we could go check on his mom because his Dad was working in the mines and he wanted to make sure she was ok," said Marie. "Right away I thought that if anybody could be so good to his mom, he would be good to his wife. I think that's when I fell in love with him."

Marie said it was approximately two weeks later when she quit her job in

stayed home to take care of Deborah.

However, when Deborah was 11, Marie accepted a job with the Bedford Area School District as a cook.

"This was the only job Tom would let me have because I would be home by the time Deborah came home from school and I would be off with her in the summer," said Marie. "I'm telling you, he was a good man."

Although Marie enjoyed her job, she decided to retire in 1993 after 30 years on the job when her mother was diagnosed with terminal cancer.

"When my mother was diagnosed, I knew I couldn't work and take care of her both," said Marie. "It's just what I had to do."

Once they were both retired, the Doyles spent their free time being active with their church, Trinity Lutheran in Bedford, and taking long walks together everyday.

They also enjoyed traveling to



# Volunteer opportunities abound

By Bridgett Weaver

Bedford County has a lot of volunteer opportunities and it's not hard to get involved, but many don't know how to get started.

Home Nursing Agency offers many ways to volunteer in the Bedford County area, from doing clerical work in an office to assisting with daily challenges facing a patient to visiting patients in their homes to keep them company while their caregiver is busy, said Kimberly Helsel, who works in the Home Nursing Agency Public Relations department.

"If somebody only has an hour a week to give then we will find a role to give," Helsel said.

A few of the programs highlighted by Helsel that are in or near Bedford were Hospice, the Healing Patch and ACEL.

Hospice offers the most local volunteering opportunities.

"A lot of volunteers thought it would be scary or intimidating," Helsel said of going into people's homes," but they've found the opposite and that it's natural and easy to be there for someone."

Hospice is for patients coping with a chronic or life-limiting illness so hospice volunteers can do clerical work, help with the Tuck In program, visit patients at their homes or help families in their bereavement process.

For the Tuck In program, which is very active in Bedford, volunteers make phone calls every Thursday to make sure patients have what they need to make it through the week-end.

"If they do need a supply, they let the volunteer know that and they make sure it gets to the patient before the weekend," said Catherine Zimmerman,

Volunteers helping with bereavement support a grieving family for about 13 months after their loss by sending a card, making a phone call or even visiting.

The Healing Patch is a program to help children who have suffered the loss of somebody significant in their lives through the grieving process.

There is no Healing Patch program in Bedford, but there is one in both Altoona and Ebensburg.

Healing Patch volunteers help children in groups or one-on-one deal with their grief by playing games, talking or connecting them to other children dealing in similar circumstances.

Volunteers are not there to counsel the children, but rather to be a friend, Helsel said.

ACEL, which stands for Adult Center for Exceptional Learning, is a program for people over 18 who have a profound disability that makes it hard for caregivers to constantly be responsible for them.

The ACEL program offers relief for the caregivers by providing a safe environment during the day for adults with cognitive and physical disabilities.

ACEL's staff and volunteers work together to tailor the program to fit each family's needs, including offering in-home assistance when it is needed.

The ACEL program nearest to Bedford is in Altoona.

Volunteers for this program work in a hands-on environment, assisting patients in general daily activities.

All of the Home Nursing Agency's programs have a goal to offer a broad range of health and human services that improve the quality of life and enable people to remain in

For more information on volunteering or to find an application, go online to [www.homenursingagency.com](http://www.homenursingagency.com) or call the Home Nursing Agency at 1-800-992-2554. More volunteer opportunities can also be found online.

their homes and communities.

"All of our Home Nursing Agency volunteers have beautiful, compassionate hearts and they make a big difference," both in the lives of those they work with and in the community in general, Zimmerman said.

Signing up to volunteer is easy.

"People just have to fill out the application to get the ball rolling," Helsel said. The application is like a normal job application, she said.

Once an application is filled out, volunteers will have to go through a medical screening and a background check before beginning training. Training time and requirements are different for each program and it's typically offered on a demand basis.

## Marie Doyle . . .

—Continued from Page 12

they do their clients. They always stress for us to take care of ourselves and to not do any work that we aren't comfortable with."

In May, Marie was recognized as Hospice's 2013 Volunteer of the Year.

"I was very surprised," said Marie. "There are a lot of great volunteers and I feel that they all deserve the award."

Now, Marie still enjoys walking between three and five miles everyday, as well as tending to her garden and reading.

Also, Marie is getting ready to celebrate her 86th birthday this year, although she says she rarely feels her age.

"Some days I don't believe I'm that old and some days I feel like 105," laughed Marie. "I know I've had a very good life, but I would really like to stick around for a few more years."

### PENNWOOD OPHTHALMIC ASSOCIATES, PC

KATHERINE C. ERLICHMAN, D.O.  
SAMUEL L. GLASS, M.D. • BLAINE SHUKE, O.D.

Optical Shop

623-0596

814-623-1969

311 Hospital Drive, Everett, PA  
Office Hours By Appointment



OPHTHALMOLOGY

- ✓ No Stitch Cataract & Implant Surgery
- ✓ Laser Surgery
- ✓ Neurologic Ophthalmologic Problems
- ✓ Glaucoma & Cataract Exams
- ✓ Routine Eye Exams