

Share a memory of your loved one this holiday season

During the holiday season, the memories of our loved ones and the wonderful times we spent with them become more vivid. We look back at the traditions we established and memories created. Often, we wish there was a special way to remember them.

With a gift to Rice Hospice, you can honor your loved one by helping to support hospice services in your own community. Rice Hospice offers free grief support through support groups and events, such as GK Bear and Share a Memory. These events are funded by the generous gifts of donors just like you.

If you wish to have your name removed from the list to receive fundraising requests supporting Rice Memorial Hospital in the future, please write to us at: Rice Health Foundation, 301 Becker Ave SW, Willmar, MN 56201. You may also email us at RMHfoundation@carrishhealth.com, or call our "opt-out" phone line and leave a clear message with your name and mailing address. Call 320.231.4847, or toll free 855.476.4500.

Rice Hospice invites you to

"Share a Memory"

by attending a memory tree lighting ceremony at one of our locations

Please join us for a special ceremony that celebrates the memory of your loved one. All hospice locations will light their trees at the same time, uniting us in strength and spirit. After the lighting, each family will have a chance to share a special memory of their loved one, and will be presented with a commemorative holiday ornament to take home and enjoy throughout the season.

Appleton

Apple Ridge Assisted Living

Benson

Living room of Scofield Place

Dawson

Johnson Memorial Care Center Lobby

Granite Falls

Community Room at Granite Falls Heath Care Center

Montevideo

Chippewa County Montevideo Oncology/Surgery Lobby

Ortonville

Ortonville Area Health Services Lobby

Willmar

Rice Memorial Hospital Garden Court

Each family will have a chance to share a special memory of their loved one and will be presented with a commemorative holiday ornament.



JOIN US FOR THE



TREE LIGHTING CEREMONY

Monday, December 3, 2018 • 5:00 pm

Appleton | Benson | Dawson | Granite Falls
Montevideo | Ortonville/Graceville | Willmar



301 SW Becker Ave. | Willmar, MN 56201
320.231.4450 | 800.336.7423
www.ricehospice.com



A Single Gift of Light Shines for Those Remembered

“A SPECIAL GIRL WITH A SPECIAL NAME”



When Trent and Emily Thompson were trying to pick a name for their new baby girl, they knew they wanted something unique... something special. They recalled a name they liked from a reality TV show they both watched. It had a certain ring to it, and they liked it even better when they added “Jo” as a middle name. And, so it came to be. Tenley Jo Thompson was born May 7, 2010. It was a unique and special name that was perfectly suited for their unique and special little girl.

Tenley was a bright and active baby who loved to smile, snuggle, and watch Mickey Mouse cartoons. In the summer of 2011, the Thompsons were on a family camping trip in the Black Hills when Emily noticed that Tenley seemed to be sitting funny. She couldn't quite put her finger on it, but something about her posture wasn't right.

In August, they were referred to Gillette Children's Hospital in St. Paul for an MRI. The results showed two pea-sized areas of damage on each side of Tenley's brain. The neurologist who saw Tenley considered it a mild case of cerebral palsy, but didn't expect it to limit her development.

Two months later, Tenley was getting progressively worse. Emily took her to St. Paul for another MRI and received the news no mother ever wants to hear. Her 18 month-old daughter was diagnosed with something called Krabbe disease, a severe form of leukodystrophy that affects the protective coating (myelin) around nerve cells. Because of the severity of the condition, most children diagnosed with Krabbe (krab-AY) do not survive beyond the age of two years.



Emily was devastated when the neurologist delivered the shocking news. She will never forget the date; it was 11/11/11.

From that moment on, Emily took on the role as Tenley's primary caregiver. She quit her job as a preschool teacher and learned as much as she could about Krabbe disease. She became involved with Hunter's Hope, a national non-profit organization, and began meeting and talking to other parents whose children also had Krabbe.

Together, Emily and Trent learned how to care for Tenley. They had a dedicated team of RNs and LPNs who taught them what they needed to know, and each time they faced a new symptom or challenge, they dug in and learned what to do.

When Tenley was 16 months old, her parents bought her a puppy and named her Hope. The two of them would cuddle for hours, with Hope rarely leaving Tenley's side.

Throughout 2012, Tenley continued to beat the odds... always smiling, laughing, and talking. Then, on Valentine's Day of 2013, Trent and Emily shared another special gift with their daughter. She was going to be a big sister.

Bryden Luke was born on October 22nd, 2013, when Tenley was 3 ½ years old. He brought a whole new level of energy and excitement to the Thompson household, and Tenley loved to snuggle and sing songs with her new baby brother.

As Tenley grew older, she remained a Mickey Mouse fan, and each year, the Thompsons would go on a family trip to Disneyland. Tenley loved all the rides, especially the big ones like Big Thunder Mountain. She wanted to go again and again, each time returning with a huge smile on her face.

By 2015, Tenley's symptoms had grown progressively worse, and it became clear to Trent and Emily that she needed more care than they were able to provide. Her primary care physician recommended Rice Hospice, and though it was a scary word, they were assured that hospice care would be a good fit for Tenley.

Tenley started with Rice Hospice in December 2015, and immediately, it became a huge positive for the whole family. “Shelly and Judie managed so much for us,” Emily said. “Every day, their main message was simply, ‘I'm here for you.’”

Rice Hospice was instrumental in getting Tenley back into warm water pool therapy, which she loved. She also enjoyed weekly massages from her hospice aides, and therapeutic music sessions with Donna Jo. Hospice was also extremely beneficial for Bryden, helping him to understand what was happening with his big sister so it wasn't a scary thing for him.



Tenley remained on hospice care for almost two years. She was 7 ½ years old when she passed away on October 30, 2017. Today, she remains in her family's hearts and conversations, and on the hard days, they try to keep busy, doing the things Tenley would want them to do. Next year, they hope to visit Disneyland again and ride Big Thunder Mountain together as a family.

“We fulfilled her life,” Emily said. “She was our gift.”



Your gift to Rice Hospice will help support hospice services in your community.

Name _____

Address _____

City _____

State _____ Zip _____

Telephone () _____

Please accept my / our donation of...

\$10 \$25 \$50 \$75 \$100

Other _____

In Memory of: In Honor of:

Please accept my donation for Rice Hospice in:

Appleton Montevideo

Benson Ortonville

Dawson Willmar

Granite Falls

Interested in becoming a Rice Hospice Volunteer?

You may call me to help with non-patient needs such as mailing, clerical work or public relations activities

I would like information on becoming a hospice patient volunteer

Please make checks payable to Rice Hospice. **Fold card in half and return in enclosed envelope.** Your contribution is tax deductible.

Thank you for your generosity!