

As assistant director of the Springvale Library for more than 19 years, Dawn Brown has long held an important role in the community. Over the past two years, however, Dawn took on one of the most important roles of her life - being a caregiver for her parents.

**“We had never been through this before and oh my gosh, we were not prepared! But Hospice of Southern Maine knew exactly how to help.”**

Dawn’s father, Thomas Coffey, was a family man known for his Irish singing, storytelling, quick-wit and sense of humor. His wife, Lynn, was a social butterfly who loved to make friends. She had a variety of hobbies and careers that included owning two businesses, The Dairy Hut and a New York style deli. To Dawn and her four siblings - Donna, Debbie, Danny and Darren, or “The 5 D’s,” - their parents were simply Mom and Pa. They were a close knit family, and as the end drew near for Lynn and Tom, Dawn and her siblings took turns caring for them. They visited and provided constant care and support. In March of 2017, Dawn accompanied Pa to an appointment with his doctor where they learned he had lung cancer. Nearing 91, Pa didn’t see the point in having a biopsy. The doctor recommended calling Hospice of Southern Maine, and, suddenly, the Coffey’s whole world shifted.



*L to R: Donna, Danny, Debbie, Mom, Dawn, and Danny*

Over the next few weeks the Coffeys received regular visits from their hospice care team, and Tom’s symptoms were managed at home, just as he wished. In late June, the family knew the end was near. They called Hospice of Southern Maine and a nurse came right over. She knelt down next to him and held his hand, and in a whisper explained that he was transitioning between two worlds. In Dawn’s words, “She was holding him so gently, talking to him and comforting him. I stood there just bawling my eyes out. She could not have come into our lives at a better time.”

**“Hospice of Southern Maine met us exactly where we were, and gave Mom and Pa the care they wanted and needed for a pain free and peaceful death.”**

After Pa died, Dawn and her siblings honored their father’s dying wish to care for their mom, who was in declining health. They visited her every day, but soon realized it was too much to do alone. Mom moved to a nearby facility and quickly made friends, got involved in activities and enjoyed her corner room overlooking the entire floor. Eventually, Mom’s health took a turn for the worse and the end-of-life signs were all too familiar. Dawn knew it was time to talk about going to Hospice of Southern Maine’s Gosnell Memorial Hospice House.

Once Mom understood that she would not be alone and that there would be a medical team available to take care of her 24/7, she was comfortable going to Gosnell. There, she found a beautiful room waiting for her. The skilled, caring and gentle staff made sure Mom was comfortable as they tucked her into bed with a beautiful handmade quilt. Extended family members came, ate pizza, drank coffee, and put together puzzles. And staff were there all through the day and night to check on Mom and support the family with answers to their many questions.

Mom died peacefully at Gosnell Memorial Hospice House. For the 5 D's, one of the most meaningful moments was being joined by the staff as Mom's body left through the front door.

Over the course of two years, Dawn and her siblings have experienced great loss, but Hospice of Southern Maine was there with the compassion, care, and comfort that Mom, Pa and the whole family needed.

Please consider making a tax-deductible gift so Hospice of Southern Maine can continue to care for others like Lynn and Tom Coffey. Your gift will go to work immediately helping anyone who needs Hospice of Southern Maine, regardless of insurance or ability to pay.

No matter the amount, every gift is appreciated. With sincere thanks and appreciation,

Daryl J. Cady  
Chief Executive Officer  
Hospice of Southern Maine



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*Inside... Hospice helps care at end of life.*  
**If your family needs support, please call  
(207) 289-3640 | (866) 621-7600**

**Hospice**  
of Southern Maine



*Lynn Coffey with daughter Dawn Brown*



*Lynn and Thomas Coffey*