

# RYE RISING PELHAM RISING YONKERS RISING HARRISON RISING SOUNDVIEW RISING EASTCHESTER RISING WESTCHESTER RISING NORTH CASTLE RISING MOUNT VERNON RISING

FRIDAY, JULY 6, 2012

## HPCW Celebrates Life with 2nd Annual Butterfly Release



L to r: HPCW Medical Director Mark A. Fialk, MD, Bereavement Coordinator Janice Sauer, LSCW-R, and Executive Director Mary K. Spengler

Hospice & Palliative Care of Westchester (HPCW) recently hosted its second annual Celebration of Life Memorial Butterfly Release at Rye Nature Center.

More than 250 families, friends and community members gathered for two memorial services, in which Monarch and Painted Lady butterflies were released. HPCW Executive Director Mary K. Spengler, MS, welcomed guests at the start of the program. HPCW staff offered spiritual readings relating to loss and bereavement and information about the journey of the Monarch butterfly.

Musicians Eleanor Dennis and David Devine provided musical interludes, lending to a soothing atmosphere. Throughout the event, children were invited to participate in crafts and activities relating to the Monarch butterfly.

Immediately following the program, families and friends were invited outside, where the names of those remembered were read aloud.

Guests then released the butterflies in memory of their deceased loved ones. Guests marveled at the beauty of the butterflies as they landed among the crowd.

"We wanted to provide our families with a meaningful opportunity to remember and acknowledge their loved ones with a beautiful tribute," said Spengler.

"Many of our butterfly release participants renewed connections with staff who served their loved ones or provided bereavement services," said HPCW Bereavement Coordinator Bruce Page, M.A.T., M.Div. "HPCW offers loss-specific support groups and workshops on bereavement throughout the year."

The event was made possible due to the generosity of The Edward M. Simas Fund.

HPCW is located at 311 North St., Suite 204, in White Plains. For more information, call 914-682-1484 or visit [HospiceOfWestchester.com](http://HospiceOfWestchester.com).