

# New hospice unit opens at Sugar Creek Station in Franklin



Sugar Creek Station staff puts finishing touches on one of four new hospice rooms prior to the unit's opening

Hospice care has expanded to yet another level for area residents with the opening of the newly renovated suite of rooms at Sugar Creek Station Skilled Nursing Facility just outside of Franklin. Four private rooms are now available for patients and their families. The rooms are designed to accommodate overnight

stays by family members, with each room decorated in a different color and motif.

Patients with end-stage chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, congestive heart failure, heart disease, cancer, and other illnesses now can obtain end-of-life care in virtually any setting at UPMC Northwest where the patient and family

desires: at home (via VNA of Venango County), in the hospital in Seneca, or at Sugar Creek Station.

"Hospice is something more that we can provide to patients and families when cure is not an option," says Lynn Smith, RN, interim director, Oncology and Palliative Care Services at the UPMC Cancer Center at UPMC Northwest. "This type of collaborative effort by the VNA of Venango County and Sugar Creek Station offers patients and their families the extra-

special care needed at a time in their lives that can seem very overwhelming."

The project, which began over six months ago, was funded by the VNA

## In Home Solutions

and her family living out of the area, Leach has been able to continue to live in her own home thanks to the 24 hour care provided by In Home Solutions PLUS.

"The staff are very helpful and very caring. They cook and clean my house. Take me for walks. Go to the grocery store

Foundation. To learn more, arrange a free evaluation, or get answers to your questions about hospice care, call VNA of Venango County Hospice at 814-432-6555.

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for me. And once a week, a nurse comes to see me," said Leach.

It is due to the careful supervision of that nurse and her daily staff that Leach's health has actually improved and continues to be managed at home.

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