



**National Hospice
Foundation**

Giving Matters

A newsletter of the National Hospice Foundation

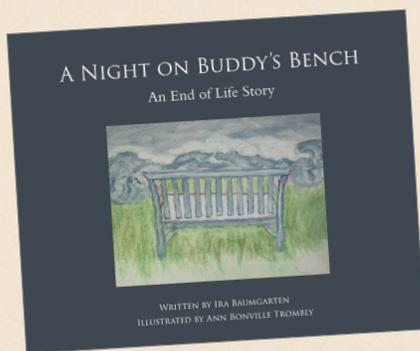
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About A Night on Buddy's Bench

In hope of resolving the unanswerable – Why did my friend die so young? What does it mean that we die? – an old man ventures out late at night to Buddy's bench, drawn by local rumors of its resident kind spirit. Unsure what he believes or where to begin, he experiences a profound realization that fills his heart with peace.

A Night on Buddy's Bench is a picture book and audio CD designed to help initiate end-of-life conversations that can comfort both the living and the dying. With its heart-felt words and beautiful watercolors, *A Night on Buddy's Bench* is perfect for sharing with family members or friends who are in hospice or dealing with loss, or for contemplative reading.

To learn more or purchase the book, go to: www.anightonbuddysbench.com



Pictured are illustrator Ann Bonville Trombly, and author Ira Baumgarten.

Book on Grief Helps Readers and Benefits NHF

A bench on a small island off the coast of Maine is the centerpiece of the book *A Night on Buddy's Bench: An End of Life Story*. In the story, the bench represents more than just a place of rest; it's a space for reflection, support, and peace. Author Ira Baumgarten wrote the book as a way to deal with the loss of three family members and he hopes that readers, who may be dealing with grief and loss, will find the content helpful.

Proceeds from the hardcover book, which includes beautiful watercolor illustrations by Ira's mother-in-law Ann Bonville Trombly and an audio book version, will be donated to the National Hospice Foundation. Ira chose NHF after doing research online about hospice. Both his mother and aunt received hospice care and as a thank you to caregivers nationwide, he chose to give on the national level.

"Hospice was so helpful to our family and inspired us to write the book and give back," says Ira.

"It's a beautiful way to give some credibility and visibility to what I want to do." He plans to use the book as an opportunity to reach out to bereavement counselors at hospice organizations to develop grief groups with facilitated discussions. "My long-term goal is to work with hospices and create a discussion guide," he says.

"Ira and his family have created a very helpful resource for people dealing with grief and loss," says NHF Vice President of Access and Philanthropy Sarah Meltzer. "We thank Ira for choosing NHF to benefit from book proceeds and for his commitment to supporting hospice care."



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*Committed to compassionate
care at the end of life*

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