



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Estelle celebrates her 100th birthday with family and Hospice Northwest volunteers.

## A very special birthday celebration

For 70 years, Estelle and Joe have shared the bond of love, first as a couple and then as a loving family with three children.

Now, as Estelle celebrates the special milestone of her 100th birthday — Joe will soon join the centenarian club as well — they share another special bond, the companionship and support that comes with Hospice Northwest volunteers.

As aging parents become ill and begin to require additional care that their children, often far from home, are not able to provide, Hospice Northwest volunteers can help, by offering support to the parents and peace of mind to their families.

In 2012, Estelle's daughters Andrea and Anna, who both reside in B.C., received notice from their mother's doctor that Estelle's condition was declining, and that their mother might benefit from palliative care services.

Andrea contacted Hospice Northwest and volunteer support for their mom was soon in place. Since then, Estelle has been visited regularly in her residence at Bethammi Nursing Home by the caring team of Anne

and Betty, who provide companionship and assistance with daily activities.

Hospice Northwest was also able to offer assistance to Estelle's husband Joe when he moved from his apartment to Bethammi.

Such a transition can often be a difficult one, but Joe's volunteer Bob was able to encourage and support Joe through the move.

Now Estelle and Joe can spend their final days together, cared for by their devoted volunteers and by the nursing home's dedicated staff.

As Estelle and Joe's family gather to celebrate the joyous occasion of their mother's 100th birthday, they offer thanks to the organization that provides them with that extra peace of mind.

"I have appreciated all the time and help my parents have received since the visits began," Andrea states as she and her father, along with Ann, Betty and Bob, form a loving circle around the birthday girl.

— Submitted by Kathleen Buso, Hospice Northwest