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Havens begins 'God's work'

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Posted Aug 2, 2017 at 5:00 PM

Lenawee County native, new Hospice director finds his calling

ADRIAN TWP. — The role Hospice of Lenawee plays in the community is important.

New executive director Travis Havens said he understands this quite well, and that's why he's taking on his new role with a deep respect. He said this job is the one for him and he's fully committed to continuing its service to the community.

"I feel humbled and blessed," Havens said of his new role, taking over for the retiring Bill Kenyon.

Havens, 38, grew up in Lenawee County and graduated from Deerfield High School. He and his wife, Rachel, and their two daughters call the community home. He said Hospice of Lenawee holds a special place in his heart, which took hold 17 years ago when his late grandfather was a patient.

Since then he's had handful of family members, including most recently his wife's grandmother, spend the last season of their lives under Hospice of Lenawee care. Knowing the community and seeing the benefits of Hospice in a personalized way, Havens said the mission of the organization is at the core of his thinking as its new leader.

Hospice of Lenawee's mission is to provide compassionate, patient and family-centered care to the people of the community during and after the last season of life.

"I believe in Hospice of Lenawee," he said, "and I have for a very long time."

Havens said the organization can do what it does because of the community. One of the main goals of Hospice of Lenawee, he said, is to give back and serve the community, which has done so much for it.

Havens graduated from Central Michigan University with a bachelor's degree in journalism with a minor in gerontology. His work experience especially made him the ideal candidate for the position. His history includes time as district director of operations at Brookdale-Senior Living Solutions, overseeing 12 independent-living, assisted-living and secured memory-care communities. He's also served as a resident care assistant and activities director at a senior care living facility, on one of Hospice of Lenawee's boards and is a certified dementia practitioner.

These are just some of his qualifications. His time working with senior citizens, both in care-related and leadership roles, is where his love for working with this community grew.

Now at Hospice of Lenawee, Havens sees his professional experiences all coming together to help him with this new duties.

"This is a dream job for me," he said. "I feel called to do this and believe it's God's work."