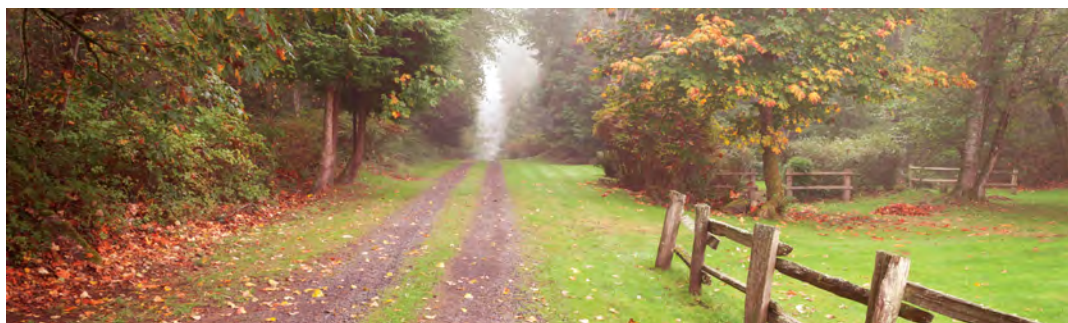


*Sometimes you don't know the value of a moment until it becomes a memory.*

## Down A Long Dirt Road



Let's call him Joe.

Joe had lived alone, very alone, for a long time. His home, if you could call it that, was down a long, dirt road, down a long dirt driveway, behind a gate he kept locked at all times.

Joe's history of erratic behavior, his flashing anger and his unkempt ways had alienated his family long ago and had driven away anyone who tried to help.

When Joe was referred to hospice care, he was reluctant to accept the help, to say the least. Literally no one had been near him or in his home for a very long time. It took a while for the staff to earn his trust, to get him to unlock the gate so that they could drive to his house, to get him to agree to their help with his pain and symptoms. Because they never knew what they might find at Joe's, and for their own safety, the Hospice staff always went in pairs, usually two nurses, sometimes a nurse and a chaplain, always one of them a male. Very gradually, Joe softened a bit,

and most of the time he was receptive and cooperative. The staff knew that living alone like that wasn't the best situation for Joe, but it was okay for now, the best anyone could do.

One day when nurses Alice and Brian arrived at Joe's locked gate for their regularly scheduled visit, they honked the car horn as they always did, signaling their arrival so that Joe would come down the drive and let them in. No one came out of the house. They honked again and then again, and finally Joe came onto the porch, keys to the gate in hand, but very unsteady on his feet. He reached to steady himself, and then he fell.

Brian climbed the fence and ran to Joe, got him comfortable, then ran back to open the gate for Alice and the medicines and supplies they had in the car. Joe was conscious, but suddenly he began to have a seizure, then another, then another. Brian called the Hospice office, reached Stacy, the chaplain, and asked him to get a doctor's order and bring medicines that

*Continued on next page.*

*“Because of you,  
we can provide  
our unique brand  
of extraordinary  
end-of-life care  
to everyone who  
needs it.”*

*Continued from front page.*

could stop the seizures. Recognizing that Joe could not stay alone any longer, Brian called for an ambulance to transport him to HomePlace, Hospice of East Texas' in-patient facility.

Alice and Brian and Stacy stayed with Joe, administering the medicines Stacy brought, doing what they could to comfort and soothe him while they waited for the ambulance. It took a long time, because medical transport of a hospice patient is not an emergency. Brian found Joe's daughter's phone number in his records and she came to his home, reluctantly. The Hospice nurses were able to explain to her that her father had a brain tumor. Maybe he had had it for a long time. Maybe it might explain the violence and anger that had alienated him from everyone, even from those who once loved him. Maybe.

Once at HomePlace, the staff bathed and shaved Joe and he was clean, for the first time in a long while. They nestled him in a clean room, in clean pajamas, in a bed with clean sheets. Though he never regained consciousness, Joe was quiet and comfortable, pain free and at peace. He passed away that night with his daughter by his side.

At Hospice of East Texas, one of our core beliefs is that every person deserves a peaceful, dignified death, as free of pain and distress as modern medicine and deeply compassionate people can make possible. With your help, we give that gift to thousands of patients every year, to people in all kinds of circumstances. People whose Sunday dinner tables are filled with family, people with not one friend. People who live in lavish homes and in travel trailers, to people who will not be remembered and people who will forever be mourned and missed.

With your help, Hospice of East Texas was able to give the gift of a peaceful, dignified death to Joe. With your help, we hope we also provided some closure and healing for his daughter.

Thank you.

## Have We Got A Job For You!

When you think of the term "Hospice volunteer," what comes to mind? Probably you envision someone visiting a hospice patient in their home or in a nursing home, providing companionship and support to the patient and their family. At Hospice of East Texas, we have many volunteers who provide that valuable service. It can be a Godsend to patients and families, and it is a joy to those volunteers who serve in this way.

We also have volunteers who serve in ways you might not imagine!

The "pick up crew" (top 2 photos) picks up donated items for the Hospice shops in Henderson and Nacogdoches. Their strong backs and hard work make it easy for donors to contribute to the shops and help make sure we have lots of quality merchandise for sale.

Gin Ables (pictured at right) has volunteered for 13 years, doing much-needed paperwork in Human Resources. Logging about 16 hours each week, she gives the equivalent of a part-time salary to Hospice of East Texas.

Allen Riley and Ellen Wallace (pictured at right) lead the Loss of Spouse Support Group each month (they were having a "beach" party when we took this fun photo!), and Pam Ramsey (pictured at bottom right) puts together mailings for the Bereavement Department.

Hospice of East Texas' resale shops in Henderson and Nacogdoches are staffed primarily by volunteers, keeping overhead low so that net proceeds can contribute to our mission.

*If you have a heart to serve Hospice of East Texas, give us a call. Have we got a job for YOU!*





## A Letter From Marji

*From long ago and far away*

*I could never put in words for  
all you ~~did~~ did for my husband  
May the Lord bless all of you,  
Susan was so good to my husband  
He passed away 20 years ago the 24  
of June*

“I could never put in words for all you did for my husband. May the Lord bless all of you. Susan was so good to my husband. He passed away 20 years ago the 24th of June.”

At Hospice of East Texas we don't always know what our care means to a family. This dear note reminded us that even with the passing of many years, our unique brand of extraordinary care is not forgotten.

For twenty years, Mrs. M has sent donations to Hospice of East Texas in appreciation for the care her husband received, small gifts, and not every year, but gifts that obviously come from her heart and touch ours. Mrs. M lives far away from East Texas now, and her connection with us was long ago, but she will never forget her husband, and she will never forget Hospice of East Texas.

I am so proud of the incredible staff and volunteers who make Hospice of East Texas' unique brand of extraordinary care possible, and grateful to the boards of directors of Hospice and the Hospice of East Texas Foundation who inspire us. As a nonprofit organization, we depend on your financial contributions to help us fulfill our mission, and we are very grateful for the many ways you support our work.

Thank you!  
**Marji Ream**  
President/CEO

## A Good Match

Felicia Reese was so excited to become a volunteer for Hospice of East Texas, but she was a little nervous when she received her first volunteer assignment. Could she do this? Would she be helpful in any way?

Felicia needn't have worried. When she walked in the door of her patient's home for the first time, the two recognized each other right away! Patient Doris Dorsey's mother and Felicia's great aunt had been best friends for years and years. Felicia and Doris knew many of each other's friends and relatives and shared the same deep faith.

The two ladies soon settled into a comfortable routine. Each week, Felicia shares the Bible study from the weekly Sunday School lesson at church with Doris. As Doris is no longer able to attend church services, this is a special blessing for her and a connection to the community of faith she misses. From time to time, Felicia also paints Doris's nails, something perhaps not as meaningful as the Sunday School lesson, but important for a lady, nonetheless.

Felicia and Doris are a good match, indeed!



## Take advantage of the IRA Charitable Rollover today!

If you own an IRA and are at least 70 1/2 years of age, the law requires you to take a minimum distribution from your IRA each year and pay income tax on the distribution.

If you want to support Hospice of East Texas, you may now do so through a gift that will satisfy this minimum income distribution and not be counted as taxable income.

You can give all or part of the distribution from your IRA to Hospice of East Texas, tax-free, and have it count as all or part of your required minimum distribution for the year.

Consult with your professional advisor or call us at Hospice of East Texas to see if these benefits might be helpful to you:

- The amount of your gift is counted towards your required minimum distribution for the year
- The amount of your gift is excluded from your reported income for federal tax purposes – your gift is 100% tax free!
- Most importantly – your gift may be used immediately to support Hospice of East Texas' patients and their families.

Contact Nancy Lamar, Vice President of Community Relations, for more information: 903-266-3402  
nlamar@hospiceofeasttexas.org



The  
**HOSPICE**  
of East Texas Foundation

## Light Up A Life...

**In loving memory of a friend or relative**

**As a holiday gift in honor of family, friends  
or business associates**

**In honor of someone who lights up your life**

Each year, proceeds from Light Up A Life, Hospice of East Texas' signature fundraiser, help to ensure that our staff and volunteers are able to serve each and every patient who needs the extraordinary care, compassion and commitment for which Hospice of East Texas has always been known.

We hope you will consider a gift to Light Up A Life. What better way to give than to make a contribution that will directly touch the lives of patients and their families at a time when they need it most?

*Watch your mail for Light Up A Life materials, arriving in late October or visit our website at [www.hospiceofeasttexas.org](http://www.hospiceofeasttexas.org).*

THE HOSPICE OF EAST TEXAS FOUNDATION

# The Martha Jo Price Walk of Friends



It is a great honor for Hospice of East Texas to re-dedicate the Walk of Friends in Nacogdoches in memory of one of Hospice's dearest friends and supporters, Martha Jo Price.

Partnering with the City of Nacogdoches and the Nacogdoches County Master Gardeners, Hospice of East Texas created the walkway as a way to offer a space to remember friends and loved ones. Bricks on the walkway are etched with

lasting memories, joyful tributes and fond farewells.

At the recent dedication ceremony, family and friends of Martha Jo Price, and families who had purchased a brick on the walkway, gathered for a time of remembrance and celebration.

**For information on purchasing a brick, visit our website at [www.hospiceofeasttexas.org](http://www.hospiceofeasttexas.org).**

## We Honor Veterans

**It doesn't seem like a big thing.**

As a part of Hospice of East Texas' We Honor Veterans Program, every veteran of our country's armed services who becomes a patient of Hospice of East Texas is given a certificate of appreciation for their service to our country.

It doesn't seem like a big thing, but more often than not, it IS a big thing. A very big thing.

The day after "Steve" was admitted to HomePlace, Kim Reel, the volunteer coordinator, went to his room to present his certificate. When she explained that honoring veterans is important to Hospice and that she was going to put a special marker on the door to his room so that everyone would know an honored veteran was inside, "Steve" began to cry.

"You don't understand," he said. "Vietnam was my war. No one has ever honored me." Kim and Steve had a long talk and a long cry while he shared his memories and the pain of all those turbulent and troubled years. He was so pleased and so very, very grateful, saying he couldn't wait to share his certificate with his family.

Two days later, Steve passed away. What didn't seem like a big thing, just a piece of paper and a word of appreciation, was indeed a very big thing. On behalf of a grateful nation, Hospice of East Texas was able to thank a man for his service and his sacrifice and bring a little healing to the wounds of war which still lingered, decades later. Steve's "We Honor Veterans" certificate is now a treasure to his family, tangible evidence of what he meant to his country, a remembrance of the gift of his service.

# The Ultimate Gift...

## With Gratitude to “Team Blue”



“  
*For Mr. Kennedy, this gift is the “ultimate” gift, not only because it is the last financial gift he will be able to make, but because it is a gift that is very important to him.*

”

Mr. Kennedy is very grateful to Hospice of East Texas for the care Hospice provided to his beloved wife, June. With the help of what he calls “Team Blue,” Mr. Kennedy was able to honor his promise to June that she remain in their home until she died. Those last months, in the beloved retirement home they built together, were very special to the couple who had shared more than 60 years of marriage. Since June’s passing in 2015, Mr. Kennedy has expressed his gratitude to Hospice of East Texas by being a regular and generous annual donor.

Recently Mr. Kennedy notified Hospice of East Texas that he plans to make a gift to our mission through his will. For Mr. Kennedy, this gift is the “ultimate” gift, not only because it is the last financial gift he will be able to make, but because it is a gift that is very important to him. It reflects his devotion to Hospice of East Texas’ mission and his desire that other patients and families receive the same extraordinary care that his wife received.

Mr. Kennedy has not told us the amount

of his gift, and that is just fine. He prefers that the other friends of Hospice of East Texas not know his real name, which is fine as well. (We made up a name for him for this article.) Mr. Kennedy is proud of what he is planning to do, but he is also a humble man and just wants to remain anonymous to most people.

Though we don’t know how much Mr. Kennedy’s gift will be one day, we do know something very important about it. We know that this “ultimate” gift means a great deal to him, and we also know that it means a great deal to Hospice of East Texas. We are so glad that he told us about his plans so that we can thank him in person now and can share with him the ways gifts like his will help us provide extraordinary care for years and years to come.

Thank you, Mr. Kennedy, and many thanks to others of you who have made similar plans to include a gift to Hospice of East Texas in your wills. We understand if you wish to remain anonymous at this time, but if you would like to share your plans with us, we would be so honored.

## The Ultimate Gifts

When you make a gift to Hospice of East Texas in your will, like Mr. Kennedy is planning to do, you will be leaving a legacy that is more than monetary. You will be creating a legacy of providing extraordinary hospice care for people in our community for years and years to come.

Often families express their desire to “give back” to Hospice of East Texas in a meaningful way. A simple bequest to Hospice of East Texas in your will is a wonderful way to do that and could be the most important charitable gift you ever make. You may designate a specific dollar amount, a particular asset such as securities or real estate, a fixed percentage of your entire estate, or leave your residuary estate after you have provided for loved ones.

We encourage you to speak with your attorney, accountant or estate planning advisor about

ways to take care of your family and meet your individual goals while helping to support a cause you care about – the mission of Hospice of East Texas.

A commitment you make today can influence the future of Hospice of East Texas with no effect on your resources during your lifetime. You will be helping to ensure that East Texans in the future will have the same extraordinary care and compassionate support that Hospice of East Texas has provided for more than three decades.

**If you would like more information about what a difference your legacy can make, please contact us. Visit our website: [www.hospiceofeasttexas.org](http://www.hospiceofeasttexas.org), email: [nlamar@hospiceofeasttexas.org](mailto:nlamar@hospiceofeasttexas.org), or call us at 903.266.3402.**

## Looking for a way to help Hospice of East Texas serve patients and families? Here are some ideas!



**Provide supplies for WINGS camp for grieving children.** The WINGS program always needs craft supplies for its camps and workshops. Contact Chantel Longino, Childrens Bereavement Specialist, at 903-266-3400 to see what’s needed, or purchase a gift card at Walmart, Hobby Lobby or Michaels.

### Hold a “coffee drive.”

Yes, a “coffee drive,” not a “food drive!” One of the special touches at HomePlace is “the coffee that’s always there” for families and guests. A little thing like free coffee can mean a lot, but to have free coffee at HomePlace around-the-clock for thousands of families each year adds up to quite an expense. If your group

or organization is looking for a service project, why not host a “coffee drive” to help Hospice of East Texas provide this small gesture of comfort? Ground coffee, any brand, caffeinated or decaffeinated, all are welcome.

**Invite us to speak.** Just the word “hospice” can be frightening, until you know something about how extraordinary our care can be and what a blessing it is to patients and families. Perhaps your civic club or Sunday School class would like an interesting, informative, thought-provoking presentation about hospice care in general and Hospice of East Texas in particular. We are available to speak throughout East Texas!

**Remember the Hospice Shops.** The Hospice resale shops in Henderson and Nacogdoches are important sources of revenue for the mission of Hospice. You may drop items at the shops, bring them to the Tyler office, or if you have a large load, we can come and pick up. Call Wendy Frizzell at 903-266-3400 ext. 140 for information.

**To inquire about any of these opportunities, contact Jamie Benson at 903-266-3400.**



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