

Spring 2017

35 celebration

CELEBRATING 35 YEARS OF EXTRAORDINARY CARE



Mrs. Evelyn Lake, center, with Junior League of Tyler volunteers. Left to right, Cindy Kidwell, Laura Collins Hays, Sandie Propst, Paula Bates, Janet Hills and D'Anna Wick in 1982.

We begin 2017 with great anticipation as we celebrate a milestone birthday for Hospice of East Texas – thirty five years of extraordinary end-of-life care for the people of east Texas.

In 1982, the founding volunteers of Hospice of East Texas had a dream of bringing the very best end-of-life care to their friends, families and neighbors. Today that dream is a reality for thousands of patients and their families who are cared for every day in a 23 county region.

Hospice of East Texas is not just any hospice. As a mission-driven nonprofit, we are guided by our founding commitment to serve every patient who needs our care, regardless of their financial circumstances or the complexity of their care. Our “above and beyond” programs and services are praised by those we serve as well as by our partners in the medical community and have been nationally recognized for excellence in patient care.

YOU, our friends and donors, and the charitable support you have given us, have been the bedrock and the heart of our mission from the beginning. We will take every opportunity this year to celebrate and say THANK YOU... to the families who have chosen us to care for their loved ones, to our dedicated board, staff and volunteers and to all of YOU whose support makes our extraordinary care possible.

Make plans now to join us at a birthday celebration on October 5, 2017 at 11:30 a.m. at Green Acres Baptist Church CrossWalk Center. Hospice of East Texas is our community’s hospice. It belongs to YOU!

Marji Ream
President/CEO



“ We begin 2017 with great anticipation as we celebrate a milestone birthday for Hospice of East Texas – thirty five years of extraordinary end-of-life care for the people of east Texas. ”



Martha Jo Price loved Nacogdoches, Texas, with all her heart.

Though she lived abroad in early adulthood, “Jo,” as she was affectionately known to her close friends and family, returned to Nacogdoches for most of her adult life. She enjoyed everything about life in her community. There was time to paint prodigiously in her home studio. The local golf courses allowed her to perfect her game and to compete often and fiercely. Most of all, she loved the company of her decades-long friendships.

It was her friends who introduced Ms. Price to the mission of Hospice of East Texas. She played golf with Jessica Henderson, Hospice’s Director of Operations in Nacogdoches, and Leah Brasher, RN and their husbands. Her friend, Sara Pennington, volunteered at the Hospice of East Texas Shop in Nacogdoches and shared stories about the shop and the mission of Hospice that the shop supported. Ms. Price liked

One of Martha Jo Price’s beautiful paintings.



Planned Giving A Gift from the Heart

what she heard and became a regular and generous annual donor to Hospice of East Texas.

When Ms. Price became ill, it was a privilege for Hospice of East Texas to care for her in her final days, returning to her the same extraordinary care and support her contributions as a donor had made possible for others. “We would not have chosen anyone but Hospice of East Texas to care for Jo,” said Pattie DeLamar, her close friend, golfing partner and executor of her estate. “We already knew them. We loved and trusted Jessica and Leah and knew Hospice of East Texas would provide the very best care. And they did!”

After her passing in 2015, Ms. Price’s love for her home town bloomed into life with the granting of six transformational gifts to local nonprofits from her estate. Hospice of East Texas was blessed to be among the recipients of Ms. Price’s ultimate generosity.

“Jo was an extraordinary woman,” said Mrs. DeLamar, “smart, accomplished and so much fun. She was not one for fanfare or fuss. She would never have wanted to see her name up in lights, but she did really love the Nacogdoches community. The gifts she made through her will are evidence of just how much she cared about her home town and its people, and how much good she wanted to do.”

When you provide for Hospice of East Texas in your estate plan, you will be leaving a legacy that is more than monetary – it’s a legacy of providing quality end-of-life care for people in our community. We encourage you to speak with your attorney, accountant or estate planning advisor about ways to meet your individual goals while helping to preserve and enhance hospice care for all people in need of our care.

The Evelyn Lake Society

Friends like you who decide to leave a legacy gift become members of the Evelyn Lake Society, named in honor of Hospice of East Texas’ very first friend and supporter. We would be honored to include you in this group, if you find that the decision to make a planned gift aligns with your financial and philanthropic plans.

Making a gift through your estate to Hospice of East Texas enables you to create a legacy of care for all East Texans. There are no membership fees or minimum gift amounts to join the society. The size of your gift is entirely your choice and is kept strictly confidential.

Influence the future

A commitment you make today can influence the future of Hospice of East Texas with no effect on your resources during your lifetime. For many friends of Hospice, a bequest is a simple and cost effective way to make a gift. You may designate a specific dollar amount, a particular asset, a fixed percentage of your entire estate, or leave your residuary estate after you have provided for loved ones.

If you would like more information about what a difference your legacy can make, please contact us. Visit our website (www.hospiceofeasttexas.org), email (nlamar@hospiceofeasttexas.org) or call us at 903-266-3402.

THANKYOU! Donors like you ensure that Hospice of East Texas can provide care for decades to come!

For many years, the lovely piece written by Henry Van Dyke has been a part of the culture at Hospice of East Texas. It is included in a booklet by Barbara Karnes entitled "Gone From My Sight: The Dying Experience" that was shared with patients and families, and we have often read it aloud at gatherings, taking comfort in its beautiful symbolic expression of the dying process. On the cover of Ms. Karnes book is a drawing of a ship in full sail.



When Pattie DeLamar, executor of Martha Jo Price's estate, offered Hospice a few of Ms. Price's paintings, what a delight it was to find this one, a ship in full sail, "an object of beauty and strength," sailing toward the other side.

Gone from My Sight

I am standing upon the seashore. A ship at my side spreads her white sails to the morning breeze and starts for the blue ocean. She is an object of beauty and strength. I stand and watch her until at length she hangs like a speck of white cloud just where the sea and sky come to mingle with each other.

Then someone at my side says:

"There, she is gone!"

"Gone where?"

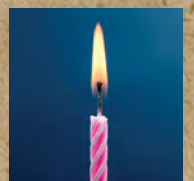
Gone from my sight. That is all. She is just as large in mast and hull and spar as she was when she left my side and she is just as able to bear the load of living freight to her destined port.

Her diminished size is in me, not in her. And just at the moment when someone at my side says:

"There, she is gone!" there are other eyes watching her coming and other voices ready to take up the glad shout: "Here she comes!"

And that is dying.

Henry Van Dyke



A few good men...

There's a crew of painters who work around the Robert M. Rogers Hospice Center quite regularly, painting walls when they are worn, touching up nicked spots and covering finger prints. So very many patients and their families come through those halls, and we depend on the painting crew to keep this very special place always looking its best. The guys are all firemen for the City of Tyler, and their painting business is a side-line they do on their days off. They are good people, good painters, always helpful, respectful and attentive to what is happening around them.

One of the firemen/painters, Brent Hale, noticed that the table in the staff break room was in serious need of repair. On his own time, without being asked and certainly without expecting to be paid, he made a beautiful new wooden table top, and left it with a note from Santa (see inset at right.)

So to our Santa fireman/
painter/good guy and
all the crew who work
with him: THANK YOU!
We are glad you are a
part of our Hospice family.



From: Santa
To: The People of Hospice

Well, it's been really busy at the North Pole this time of year. I have been really busy making my list and checking it twice. I came across the names of you who work for Hospice here, and something caught my eye. I want you to know that Santa sees what you are doing.

You are taking care of people and families who are at the end of their lives and YOU are doing a really great job at it. Santa knows that it breaks your heart to see people who are hurting. Santa sees the tears you cry because someone touched your heart.

So from the bottom of my heart I want to thank you for what you are doing here. You are making the transition easier for hundreds of people who are at the end of their lives. You will always have a special place in Santa's heart because you give so much of yours.

So I just wanted to give you a small token of my appreciation and hope that it will be useful to all of you. Remember, you are making a difference.

Well, I'm pretty busy right now so I must go. I hope you have a great holiday season, and remember that the real reason for the season is that there is someone that loves you more than you could ever know. Thanks for all you do!

Now get back to work!
Santa

P.S. You guys don't know how lucky you are to have such cool painters working there. I mean, they put the "C" in "Cool!" Go give them high fives and take coffee to them all the time and knuckle bump them and make sure the snack cart goes by them all the time and get the guitar guy to sing to them all the time and things like that. They really enjoy painting there and told me to thank you for allowing them to be a part of such a great group of people.

The Best Christmas Gift Ever

He thought it was lost.

The ring was precious to Steven Josephson, more because of the memories it held than because of the ring's value. It was his father's high school class ring from the class of 1943 in Pleasantville, New Jersey, and his father had worn it often. Mr. Josephson often shared fond memories of his high school days and enjoyed traveling back to New Jersey to high school reunions for many years.

After his father passed away, Steven inherited the ring and wore it often. For many years, its presence on his hand was a reminder of his father and the special relationship the two of them had. Then one day, the ring just wasn't there.

The family was on vacation, and they were swimming when Steven noticed that the ring was missing, but the truth was that, over time, his father's ring had become such a fixture on Steven's hand that he couldn't pinpoint exactly when it disappeared. He searched and searched in the water, but found nothing. He searched at home when the family returned from vacation, but the ring was nowhere to be found. "I just had to come to terms with the fact that my daily reminder of my father's memory was gone," Steven said.

This Christmas, for the first time in a long while, Steven and his wife chose to have a real Christmas tree in their home, rather than an artificial one, and they decided to donate the artificial tree they had used for many years to the Hospice Shop. Assistant shop manager, David Norton, chatted with Steven when he delivered the tree to the shop, and David took the tree straight to the shop floor, knowing it would sell soon in the Christmas season.

When David took the tree out of the box, something small fell to the floor.

"It was a high school class ring from 1943," said David, "and it was made of an unusual metal. 1943 was war time, and I guess rings were made of whatever they could be made of in that time." Remembering that it was Steven who had donated the tree to the shop, David made a phone call.

Steven was flooded with emotion when he got the call. "I guess the ring came off one year when I was getting the tree out or putting it back in the box. I would never have thought to look for it in the bottom of the Christmas tree box! Because we donated that tree, I have my father's ring back, and I want to thank the people at the Hospice Shop in Nacogdoches for that. It was the best Christmas gift ever."

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Front: Julie Brown, Cecil Ward, Bernie Ward
Back: Michael Ward, Tom Brown, Katie Butts, Adam Brown



Girl Scouts from Troop 735 conducted a flag raising ceremony



Flag Court Dedication



On a very warm September Saturday morning, Hospice of East Texas dedicated the flag court on the grounds of the Robert M. Rogers Hospice Center.

Launched with an inspirational gift from the family of Jim Brown, additional donors supported the creation of the project with gifts in honor or memory of loved ones. Engraved bricks, stones and brass plaques now bear witness to lives remembered and honored. The garden setting is a beautiful addition to an already extraordinary and beautiful place, with landscaping and benches and the American flag, the great symbol of our freedom, flying overhead.

Special thanks go to Julie and Tom Brown and their family for being the catalysts for this project, to Congressman Louie Gohmert for securing the flag, and to all the charter donors whose gifts made possible the construction of the flag court.

Spaces are still available to honor a friend, family member or loved one. For more information contact Nancy Lamar, Vice President of Community Relations at 903-266-3402.

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Pictured clockwise from top left:

Bullard FFA students and their teacher, Charlotte Main, brought Valentine's flowers for all staff and patients.

Johnna Fullen and her daughter, Kaela Young, delivered poinsettias to decorate the Robert M. Rogers Hospice facility during the holidays.

Santa's helpers, in the form of pet volunteers from Hearts N Harmony, visited patients and staff alike to spread their version of holiday cheer.

Bonnie Beall and her nieces have a holiday tradition of making wreaths for the doors of patient rooms at HomePlace.



Hospice patient, Mrs. Leonora Brumbelow, paints beautiful birdhouses which she shares with family, friends and neighbors in the assisted living facility in which she lives.

2017 EAST TEXAS GIVING DAY



On Tuesday, April 25, 2017, Hospice of East Texas and hundreds of area nonprofits will participate in the second East Texas Giving Day, organized by the East Texas Communities Foundation.

Mark your calendar and “Like” us on Facebook for all the up-to-the minute action. All donations are made online that day and 100% of your gift comes to Hospice of East Texas.



At the 2016 Annual Meeting volunteers and staff were recognized for their special contributions to Hospice of East Texas. Pictured are honorees Les Burkett, volunteer; Debora Gipson, CNA; Myanh Bui, Vice President of Finance; Donna Owen, Access Specialist; Richard Nulf, Medical Records Coordinator; Vince Piotet, volunteer.



Pierce's Chapel Assembly of God (far left) and St. Louis Baptist Church (left) brought meals for HomePlace families and guests.

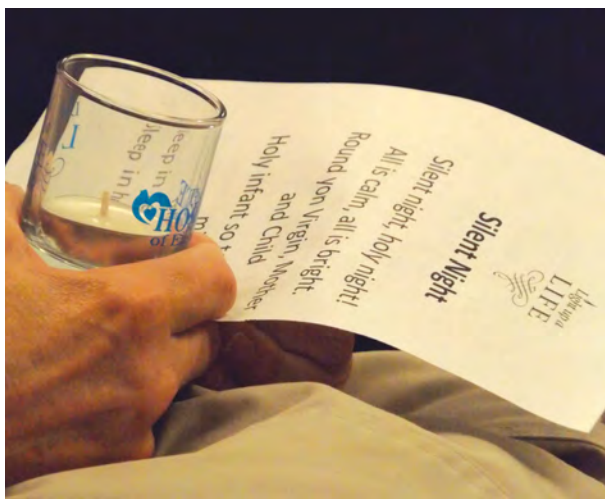


YOU Light Up Lives!

Many thanks to all of you, our friends and supporters, for another successful Light Up A Life season!

As a time of remembrance and reflection, more than 4,000 tributes “to light up a life” were sent “in honor” and “in memory” of those held dear, made possible by 553 gifts totaling \$100,135. Ceremonies throughout East Texas offered a time for those served by Hospice of East Texas and the public at large to make new holiday memories.

Proceeds from this signature fundraiser will go to support the extraordinary care, compassion and commitment of the Hospice of East Texas in the year ahead and will help to insure that this extraordinary care is available to all who need it, regardless of age, disease or financial circumstances.



Some ways you can help Hospice of East Texas serve patients and families.

BRING A MEAL OR SNACKS

Sometimes families at HomePlace can't leave their loved one's bedside, and a meal brought to the family kitchen is a great comfort. Churches, civic groups and families who enjoyed that same comfort in the past often bring meals, especially on the weekends when the Soda Shop is closed. Snacks for the snack cart are also greatly appreciated. For more information contact Kim Reel, HomePlace Volunteer Coordinator at 903-266-3496.

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 in the Tyler area. Call Wendy Frizzell at 903-266-3400 ext. 140 for information.

TRAVEL SIZE LOTION

Our staff and volunteers who care for patients with dementia find that rubbing their hands with lotion soothes and calms them and is a way to connect with some who may have been unreachable. We welcome unused bottles of travel size lotions, either from hotels or purchased at a local store.

CONSIDER A COFFEE DRIVE

Yes, a “coffee drive,” not a “food drive!” A little thing like free coffee can mean a lot when you're sitting by a loved one's bedside, 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?

Unique and Extraordinary Care

YOUR gift helps Hospice of East Texas continue its commitment to extraordinary care by offering “above and beyond” programs and services for patients, their families and for the communities

we serve. Unique to Hospice of East Texas, these programs reflect our commitment to care that is deep and wide, touching those we serve at a time when it is needed most.

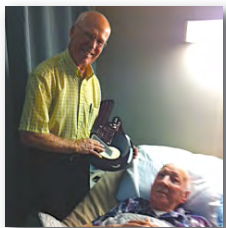


WE HONOR VETERANS

Staff and volunteers make contact with each patient who was a veteran of our country’s armed services, thanking them for their service, connecting them with resources and honoring them for their sacrifice.

DEMENTIA CARE PROGRAM

With funding provided by the Bobbie and Mel Lovelady Fund at The Hospice of East Texas Foundation, specially trained Hospice staff and volunteers use their skill and compassion to connect with dementia patients at the end of life.

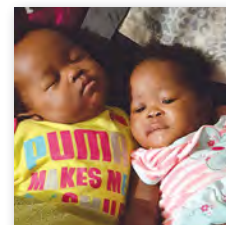


HOMEPLACE

Hospice of East Texas’ in-patient facility, HomePlace, is the only facility of its kind in East Texas.

PEDIATRIC HOSPICE CARE

Hospice of East Texas provides terminally ill children and their families the gift of compassionate care, thanks to the region’s only dedicated pediatric hospice team.

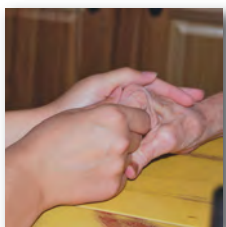


UNFUNDED CARE

Hospice of East Texas is committed to serving all who need our care, regardless of their financial circumstances. In 2016, \$755,000 in care was provided to those without a payer source. In the last five years, that commitment totaled more than \$5.5 million.

WINGS IN 3G

Through individual contacts, support groups and “Camp 3G: Grieve, Grow and Go Forward,” The Hospice of East Texas met the unique needs of grieving children. WINGS in 3G programs are offered to the entire community, free of charge, thanks to support from area foundations and individuals.



TEXAS PALLIATIVE CARE

The Texas Palliative Care consult service provides specialized consultations to patients with serious illnesses for which there is no cure, providing relief from symptoms, pain, and physical and emotional stress as well as help with decision-making for families.

Charitable support from friends like YOU makes these unique and extraordinary programs possible. No other hospice in our region offers them, but YOUR hospice does. Hospice of East Texas belongs to our communities, and to YOU.



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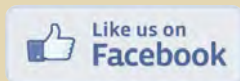
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