

THE HOSPICE
OF EAST TEXAS
FOUNDATION

Spring 2016

Seasons



No Greater Love than for God and for Each Other...

Peggy and Bob Hughes were soul mates. In the thirty six years of their marriage, they built a partnership based on shared interests, mutual respect, an abiding faith and deep love.

Peggy was a talented artist who created “Old European Master” style paintings, most of them of the Christ child surrounded by Mary and Joseph and angels. Her exquisite creations in ornate frames decorated the couple’s Dallas-area home and their East Texas lake house, a constant reminder of the faith on which their marriage was centered. Bob’s work as a college professor and text book author afforded them the opportunity to rarely be apart. “Most everything we both did was to make the other person happy and to show our love for each other,” said Bob.

couple were at their lake house, and she was flown by helicopter to a Tyler hospital. Although initially it appeared that she would recover, Peggy suffered a second, massive stroke that took away all hope of recovery. After two weeks in ICU, Peggy was transferred to Hospice of East Texas’ HomePlace.

“Since we were from Dallas, I had never heard of Hospice of East Texas, and I had never heard of HomePlace. Our experience there was beyond anything I could have imagined,” said Bob.

“When I talk about the people at The Hospice of East Texas, I always say that the doctors, nurses, caregivers, chaplains, volunteers and administrators are like angels. I can honestly say that I don’t

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On Saturday, October 4, 2014, Peggy suffered a stroke while the





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know if I would have gotten through those last days if it had not been for the caring people at Hospice of East Texas.”

After Peggy passed away at HomePlace on October 31, 2014, Bob began to think about ways he could contribute to Hospice, in gratitude for the care his beloved wife received. He arranged for a meal to be provided for staff and Hospice families, mindful that he and Peggy’s brother had been the beneficiaries of so many meals donated by others while they kept constant vigil at her bedside. He began making annual financial contributions. He joined the Hospice of East Texas Foundation’s investment committee and its board of directions. And Bob advised Hospice of East Texas that he was

planning for the ultimate gift, a gift from his estate.

“I want to give something back by contributing support for the hospice ministry,” said Bob. “The care Peggy received at Hospice of East Texas was outstanding. The doctors, nurses and aides took excellent care not only of her, but her brother and me as well. Remembering Hospice in my estate plans allows me to make the most significant gift I will ever be able to make, and it’s fitting that it go to an organization that is so significant to me.”

A couple of years ago, when Peggy and Bob bought cemetery plots, they searched for an inscription for what would be their shared headstone. Peggy came up with the words. “No greater love than for

God and for each other.” To Bob, there could not be more fitting words to describe the relationships he cherished most, his marriage and his faith.

“The care Peggy received at Hospice of East Texas was outstanding. The doctors, nurses and aides took excellent care not only of her, but her brother and me as well.”

PLANNED GIVING a gift from the heart

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 hospice 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 and end-of-life 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 The 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.

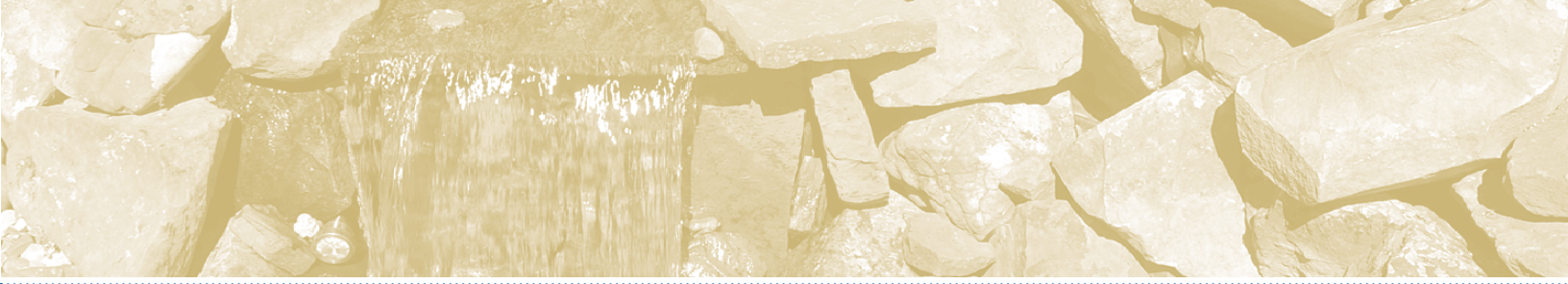
Making a gift through your estate to The Hospice of East Texas enables you to create a legacy of care for all East Texans. There are no membership fees or minimum gift amounts to join the society. The size of your gift is entirely your choice and is kept strictly confidential.

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. If you have already included Hospice of East Texas in your plans, please let us know so that we can thank you.

For more information, visit hospiceofeasttexas.org, email nlamar@hospiceofeasttexas.org or call us at 903-266-3402.



THE WATER FLOWS

The water flows.

*You can hear it.
You can see it.
You can sense it.*

*Soft falls, gentle ripples,
a quiet pool.*

*A peaceful place to pause
and reflect on life.*

*To remember what has been.
To realize what is now.
To dream of what will be.*

Written in memory of
Jerry Pope Bynum

Hospice of East Texas' Bereavement Coordinator, Wes Bynum, wanted a way to honor the memory of his mother, Jerry Bynum. What came to him was a poem, a reflection inspired by a beautiful place on the Hospice grounds, a place that has been a comfort to so many.

Now inscribed on a plaque by the waterfall garden, Wes' poem is a gift to all those who will visit that space. HomePlace is full, every day, of people who are watching and waiting and grieving a loss that is very real and present. They go out into the gardens to seek the solace of nature, to find in the presence of God's creation the comfort and peace that He promises.

When they pause by the waterfall, they will find the words Wes wrote, words inspired by a lady who herself would probably have loved to just sit a spell by that waterfall, to let God's

peace flow into her as the water ripples and flows over the rocks.

Gladys Taber, who wrote the charming Still Meadows books, was one of Ms. Bynum's favorite authors. As Ms. Taber wrote:

"Perhaps, after all, our best thoughts come when we are alone. It is good to listen, not to voices but to the wind blowing, to the brook running cool over polished stones, to bees drowsy with the weight of pollen. If we attend to the music of the earth, we reach serenity. And then, in some unexplained way, we share it with others."

Thank you, Wes, for gathering the words that will help others who sit by the waterfall, watching and waiting and grieving, to find serenity. Your gift "fits" the memory and the heart of Jerry Bynum.



A LETTER FROM TOM BROWN

“We are pleased to announce that plans have been drawn to create a Flag Court near the entrance to HomePlace.”

My dad, Jim Brown, was a good and godly husband, father, and accomplished leader in business and his community. He was also a patriot who loved our great country. Because of the outstanding reputation of The Hospice of East Texas, we moved Dad to Hospice HomePlace from Fort Worth for the last weeks of his life. He died at HomePlace in 2012.

Since his death we have considered doing something for Hospice of East Texas in gratitude for their incredible service provided to our family and to so many others. We are pleased to announce that plans have been drawn to create a Flag Court near the entrance to The Robert M. Rogers Hospice Center. It will include a lighted ceremonial flagpole as its centerpiece, surrounded by brick pavers, flagstones, and plantings. Benches will offer a place of rest for families, volunteers and staff.

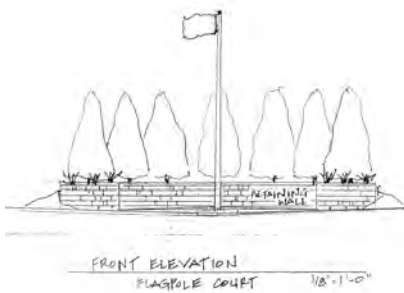
This wonderful addition to the Hospice of East Texas campus gardens will cost approximately \$60,000. Donors who contribute to the project's construction will

be offered the opportunity to select an engraved brick or stone in memory or honor of a loved one. Once completed, the opportunities for giving and improving the project will continue, with additional pavers being added.

Fundraising for this project has already begun, and we are hoping others will join our family and the charter donors with a contribution to complete the Flag Court at The Hospice of East Texas Robert M. Rogers Hospice Center.

Our family has memories of walking the gardens at HomePlace during dad's last days. I know my dad and so many others will be pleased to see the great symbol of our freedom (the Flag and a Texas flag as well) properly and prominently displayed as an addition to an already extraordinary and beautiful place.

Will you join us in making The Hospice of East Texas Flag Court a reality? For information on contributing to the Flag Court, visit the Hospice of East Texas website at www.hospiceofeasttexas.org or contact Nancy Lamar, VP of Community Relations.



THE HOSPICE OF EAST TEXAS **FLAG COURT AND GARDEN** **CONTRIBUTION OPPORTUNITIES**

Each flagstone or brick will be engraved with the wording of the donor's choice
 (subject to space restrictions.)

\$10,000

24 by 24 inch
 Large engraved flagstone

\$5,000

18 by 24 inch
 Medium engraved flagstone

\$2,500

Engraved 12 by 18 inch flagstone

\$2,000

Engraved 12 by 12 inch brick paver

\$1,500

Garden bench with brass plaque

\$1,000

Engraved 8 by 8 inch brick paver

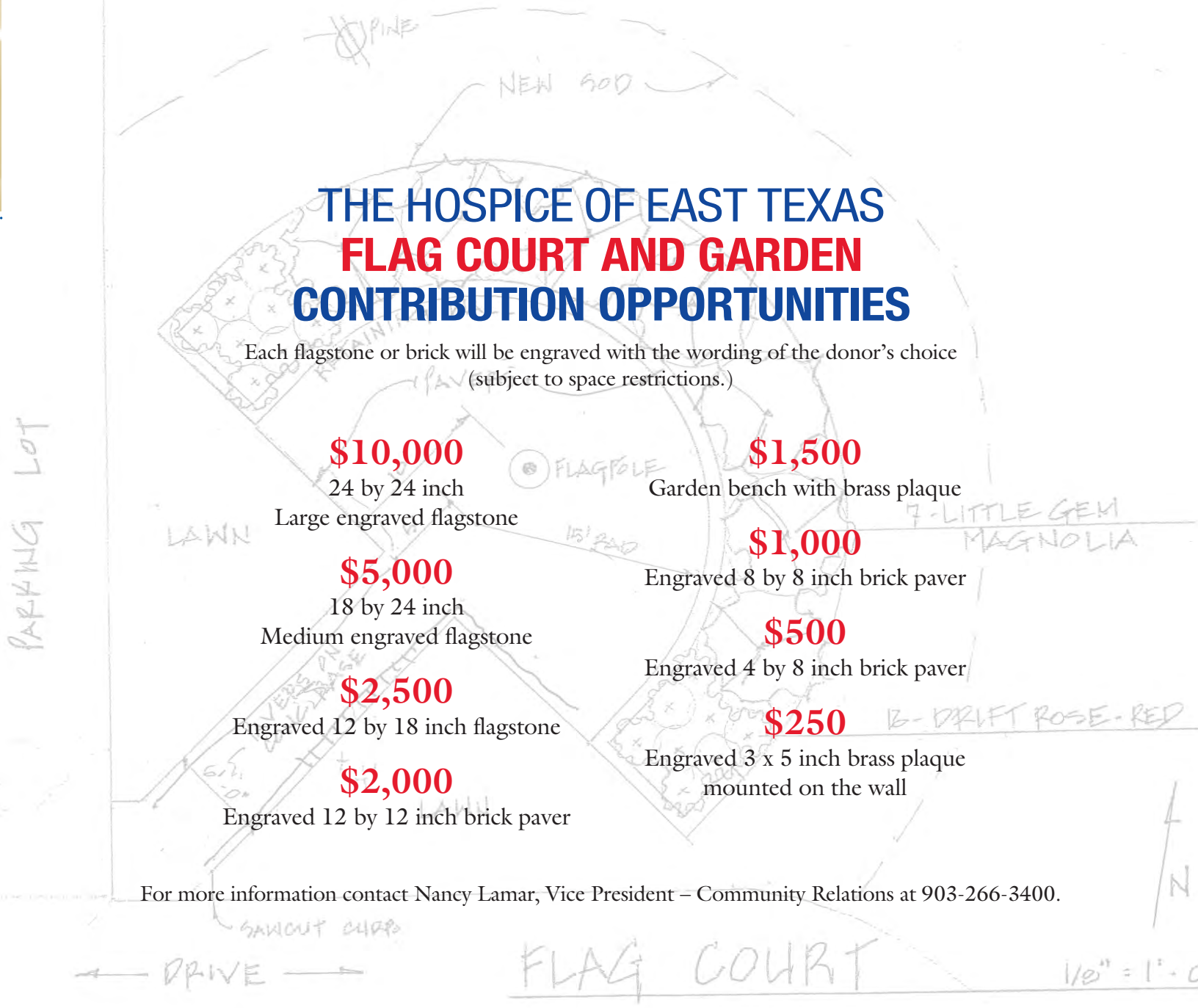
\$500

Engraved 4 by 8 inch brick paver

\$250

Engraved 3 x 5 inch brass plaque
 mounted on the wall

For more information contact Nancy Lamar, Vice President – Community Relations at 903-266-3400.



QUILTS AND MORE QUILTS!

Since the first patient was cared for at HomePlace, the tradition has been to place a quilt on each patient bed. This simple gesture is welcoming for patients and families, often reminding them of home and beloved family

treasures that have comforted their loved ones. Quilters guilds, church groups and patient families donate quilts so that Hospice of East Texas can continue this tradition of comfort. Here are a few we recently received.



▲ In memory of their father, Tommy Holcomb, two of his children, daughters Amy Moss and Susan Salter donated this quilt to HomePlace.

Amy, the quilter, and Susan, designed the quilt with their father in mind, remembering his love of farming and working the land and the fact that he was the recipient of a Purple Heart. With fabric depicting tractors and cows, the quilt will be just right for the bed of a man like Mr. Holcomb.



▲ Inspired by the giving spirit of her fellow Hospice of East Texas volunteers, Sheila Odaker commissioned quilter Debbie Borski to create a quilt in their honor. This stunning work of art will hang in the Meadows Conference Room of the Robert M. Rogers Hospice Center as a tribute to all the volunteers who contribute so meaningfully to the patients and families Hospice serves.



▲ Sharon Gates Grooms' mom, Barbara Gates, was a quilter, who had made quilts for Hospice of East Texas. When Mrs. Gates passed away, Sharon's father gave her quilting supplies to Hospice, hoping we could find a group who would finish her quilt tops and donate them to Hospice. Up stepped the East Texas Quilters Guild, who made several lovely quilts from Mrs. Gates' fabric. Sharon's father passed away unexpectedly without seeing the finished quilts, but Sharon came by to see these beautiful examples of her mother's creativity and her father's generosity.





THE WATERMELON MAN

In December 2015, Hospice of East Texas board member, Jonna Fitzgerald, posted this note on her Facebook page:

“Many of you have heard me share the story about the lengthy time we were at The Hospice of East Texas with Mom in early 2011... there were many magical moments we experienced while there. This is one of them. Mom had not been eating and was asked if she could have anything she wanted to eat, what it would be. She responded that she would eat some watermelon. Mind you, this was April... not many watermelons around. It was just a couple hours later that a man

walked into her room with a beautiful plate full of watermelon, from which he had meticulously removed every seed. Mom said it was the best watermelon she had ever eaten. Today, at a Hospice holiday gathering, I finally met the ‘watermelon man’ – THANK YOU, Shane Lee, for such a precious gift to my mother and my family, and for all you do to make Hospice of East Texas the amazing place that it is!”



MANY THANKS TO SCOUT TROOP 333

Many thanks to Javier Destarac of Boy Scout Troop 333 for organizing a project to place American flags around the Robert M. Rogers Hospice Center as his Eagle Scout Project.



PAULA BATES

PROVIDING A MINISTRY OF LOVE FOR 35 YEARS



“I love Hospice. It’s been my love for a long time.”

With those words, Paula Bates describes her 35 years as a volunteer for Hospice of East Texas, service which began before there was even a Hospice of East Texas.

In 1982, Paula was one of the Junior League volunteers

charged with researching the concept of hospice care and investigating whether it was something that could benefit East Texans. She and fellow Junior League volunteer Sandie Propst asked the Junior League of Tyler for \$30,000 as seed money to start a hospice, and with that grant, Hospice of East Texas began.

Through the years, Paula has held most every volunteer position it’s possible to hold at Hospice of East Texas. Serving on the board of directors for many years, Paula also volunteered to work with patients and their families. For seven years, she and her friend, Cindy Gordon, chaired Light Up A Life, Hospice’s signature fundraiser. Now she volunteers at the front desk at HomePlace, the first smiling face visitors see when they enter the facility, and she organizes the library where books and magazines are such a comfort to families.

“To start off with a project and to see it grow from what you helped start, our small beginning, to see the vision that other people had for it, to see what it’s become, is unbelievable,” says Paula. “It feels great

to have had a part in that.”

The relationships Paula has formed at Hospice of East Texas through the years are immensely meaningful to her. “I have found love here,” she says, “with patients, families, with the volunteers and staff. I’ve learned patience, and understanding, and joy.”

“I believe it’s a God thing,” Paula adds. “God puts it on your heart to want you to do things and to see that you work through it. He makes things right. He opens the door, leading you through every little step that you take. I believe God wanted Hospice to be here... and I believe that God is in charge of this.”

Paula Bates was honored at the Hospice of East Texas 2015 annual meeting and celebration as the longest continually serving Hospice volunteer. Her history, her wisdom, and the long arc of her service have blessed our organization, and our patients and families, beyond measure.



Paula Bates and her family at the 2015 Hospice of East Texas Annual Meeting and Celebration

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Paula adds. “God puts it on your heart to want you to do things and to see that you work through it. He makes things right.

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I believe God wanted Hospice to be here...
and I believe that God is in charge of this.”



Marji Ream, Thomas and Pam Smith, Mel Lovelady

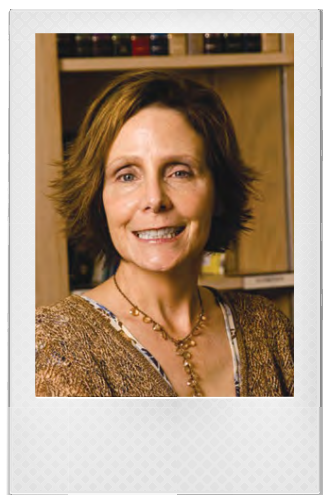


Rabbi Neal Katz, Bob Dyer



Cassie Ransom, Marji Ream, Billie Murphy

A NOTE FROM MARJI



Every nonprofit organization is required to have an “annual meeting.” As a time to review the past year and “pass the gavel,” these events are important and necessary. At The Hospice of East Texas our annual meeting is more than just a necessity... it is a time to pause and celebrate our inspiring, dedicated board; incredible staff and physicians; phenomenal volunteers and generous donors.

Through the years The Hospice of East Texas has become a complex and complicated organization with more than 250 employees, 271 volunteers, a budget of \$18 million and

three corporate entities; Hospice of East Texas, Hospice of East Texas Foundation and Texas Palliative Care. In 2015, we cared for 2285 patients and served 3615 bereaved loved ones in a service area that spans 15,000 square miles.

At its heart, however, The Hospice of East Texas is very simple. At its heart are its people, and the annual meeting is our time to share and celebrate their stories of dedication and generosity.

The Hospice of East Texas Board Chair, Bob Dyer, passed the gavel to in-coming chair, Rabbi Neal Katz and The Hospice of East Texas Foundation Board Chair, Whit Riter, passed the gavel to in-coming chair David Nelson. Cassie Ransom, RN, and Billie Murphy, LVN were recognized with the Keith Ingram award for their twenty years of employment with Hospice. Pam and Thomas Smith, whose generous gift was the catalyst for the creation of the Bobbie and Mel Lovelady Fund, were honored for the spark that is providing exceptional end-of-life

care for persons with dementia. And Paula Bates, who has been a volunteer for The Hospice of East Texas since before there was a Hospice of East Texas, was lauded for thirty five years of continuous dedication to our mission.

“Every bird in its winter needs a gentle branch to help launch its final flight.” This touching phrase has been our theme for the last year. The gentle branch that is The Hospice of East Texas is part of a larger tree, a tree with roots that are deep and broad and stretch back thirty four years. The leadership of our Boards of Directors upholds our mission in much the same way that the trunk of a tree supports its branches. Our dedicated staff and volunteers provide the special expertise, compassion and passion for extraordinary care that is the gentle branch for more than 300 patients and their families every day, preparing for a final flight. And you, our friends and supporters, make our mission possible through all the many ways you give to make that flight possible.

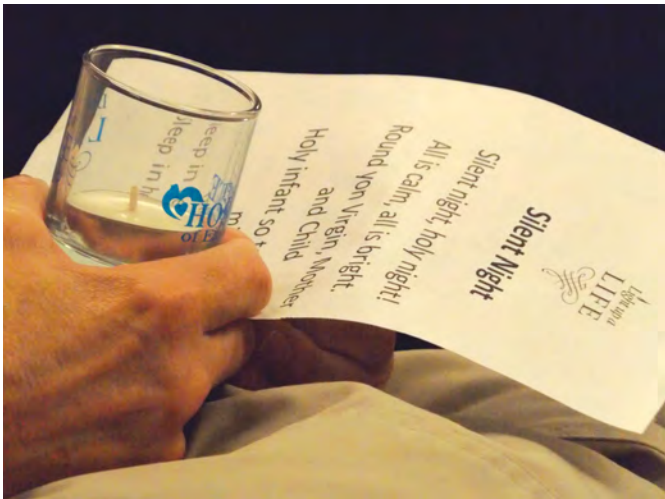
We are very grateful to each of you.

Light up a LIFE



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 4000 tributes “to light up a life” were sent “in honor of” and “in memory” of those held dear, made possible by 639 gifts totaling \$126,445. 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.

Looking for a way to help Hospice of East Texas serve patients and families?

Participate in
East Texas Giving Day

What a day May 3rd will be!



On that day, nonprofits throughout East Texas will participate in the first East Texas Giving Day organized by the East Texas Communities Foundation. This online “crowd funding” day offers donors throughout East Texas the opportunity to support the causes they care about and to invite their friends and family to join them in that support.

Mark your calendar, and “Like” us on Facebook for all the up-to-the-minute action. Help us share the story of The Hospice of East Texas and attract new donors and friends.

Call Wendy Frizzell at 903-266-3400 ext 140 for more information.

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.

Your support makes our unique brand of care and compassion a reality

For a majority of us, the end of life is the most difficult time we will face. Hospice of East Texas makes a special effort to provide all in need with our extraordinary care

and compassion, especially where the need is greatest and for those most vulnerable. Your gifts made these unique programs possible in 2015.



We Honor Veterans

Staff and volunteers made contact with 502 patients who were veterans 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, Hospice staff and volunteers were given specialized training on techniques to connect with dementia patients at the end of life.



Pediatric Hospice Care

In 2015, Hospice of East Texas provided 26 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 ability to pay. In 2015, \$650,000 in care was provided to those without a payor source. In the last five years, that commitment totaled more than \$5.5 million.

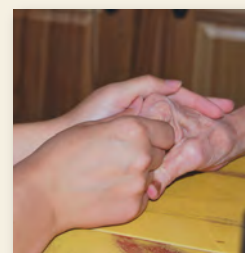


WINGS

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 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 provided 1406 specialized consults 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.





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