



Seasons

The **HOSPICE**
of East Texas
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The Right Time...

We talk about time a lot at The Hospice of East Texas.

How much time? Is there enough time? When is the right time?

For Becky and Wayne it was time. The right time.

They had been together for more than ten years, sharing their lives together. Nothing big and dramatic, just the comfortable companionship of days that somehow slipped into years, then a decade, without anyone paying attention to how much time had passed.

Becky cared for Wayne when he became ill with the same love and tenderness she had always shown, and he loved her for that, loved her more, he said, than he had ever loved her. Their small home became even more of a sanctuary for this couple, a place to be quietly together, managing what they had to manage, day in and day out over the long stretch of Wayne's illness.

Then Wayne made a decision. It was time. He wanted to marry Becky, and she said yes.

Wayne was physically unable to leave his home, physically unable to get out of his recliner, really, but he wanted this to happen, and as happens often at The Hospice of East Texas, when a patient wants something, well then, that something just gets done. Hospice social worker Jocelyn Sipes accompanied Becky to

the Smith County Courthouse to get the marriage license. Jocelyn swore by oath that Wayne was mentally competent to make this decision and asked that the three day waiting period be waived, given Wayne's failing health. Hospice Chaplain Tim Wade performed the ceremony in their living room the next morning, with Jocelyn, Hospice nurse, Zack Rogers, RN and family friends as witnesses.

Some marriages are blessed with a long lifetime together, some a few years, but for Becky and Wayne, it was just days, four days together as husband and wife when Wayne passed away.

But it was time. The right time. And there was enough time for one final, sacred statement of love.



Zack Rogers, RN;
Becky; Jocelyn Sipes, LMSW



Becky and Wayne



Extraordinary Gift Creates Extraordinary Opportunity



Bob Dyer, Thomas Smith, Mel Lovelady, Pam Smith and Whit Riter

Thomas Smith has long been inspired by the personal and professional life of his mentor, Mel Lovelady. "It is no secret that, other than my father, Mel has been the most influential person in my adult life," said Thomas. "In fact, I would not be in Tyler if it were not for Mel. His integrity, thoughtful stoicism, devotion to his beloved Bobbie, professional skepticism and prudence have tremendously impacted my personal and professional life."

In a career as a CPA and trusted advisor that spanned more than six decades, Mel Lovelady used his wisdom and expertise to serve countless individuals as well as foundations and nonprofit organizations. His unselfish professional service to the East Texas community has been paralleled by his unselfish personal devotion to his wife, Bobbie, and to their children, daughter, the late Rebecca Lovelady Craft and son, John Lovelady and John's family.

In considering a way to honor Mel upon his retirement, Thomas and his wife, Pam, asked Mel about causes he considered closest to his heart. Mel identified two passions that were of primary importance to his family: hospice care and care for

persons with dementia. With an extraordinary gift of \$100,000, Thomas and Pam created the Bobbie and Mel Lovelady Fund at The Hospice of East Texas Foundation. Distributions from the Bobbie and Mel Lovelady Fund will be used to support Hospice of East Texas' programs and initiatives providing extraordinary end-of-life care for persons with dementia caused by various neurological diseases.

Friends and colleagues learned of the Smiths' gift and the creation of the fund at a reception in Mel's honor on May 5 at the offices of RBC Wealth Management. Whit Riter, chairman of the board of The Hospice of East Texas, announced that an additional \$135,000 had been raised for the fund from others who share Thomas and Pam Smith's devotion and respect for Bobbie and Mel Lovelady.

The Hospice of East Texas Foundation invites additional contributions to the Bobbie and Mel Lovelady Fund at any time. This designated fund will pay tribute to Bobbie and Mel for years to come in the way they would find most appropriate, providing extraordinary care for persons with dementia at the end of their lives.

An Extraordinary Opportunity to Provide Extraordinary Care

At the end of life, patients with dementia face many challenges, both mentally and physically. Because many of them are almost nonverbal and severely limited physically, they are often isolated and dismissed as “unresponsive.” But not to Shannon Lutmer.

Shannon has a passion and a gift for reaching patients with dementia, and she is committed to sharing her passion and gift with others. In focused training sessions with volunteers and staff, Shannon enthusiastically teaches the use of “sensory kits” customized to the patient’s lifelong preferences. Soon, every dementia patient served by The Hospice of East Texas will be assigned a specially trained volunteer to communicate and connect with them and teach communication and calming techniques to their caregivers.

“Training and equipping our staff and volunteers in this highly specialized way is the first project funded by the Bobbie and Mel Lovelady Fund,” said Marjorie Ream, Hospice of East Texas President and CEO. “This program will add significant additional benefits to the care our dementia patients receive. We are deeply grateful to Pam and Thomas Smith for their inspirational gift and to all those whose contributions to the fund will enable us to grow our ability to provide the extraordinary care for which The Hospice of East Texas has always been known.”



Shannon Lutmer



Sensory kits for dementia patients

Together...

Joe and Mary,* husband and wife, and both patients of Hospice of East Texas, had managed in their own home for a while. Their family, and the Hospice team, all wanted badly to respect their wishes to stay together in their last days, just as they had been together through their long lives. At last it became apparent that both needed more care, and they were admitted to HomePlace with a very special accommodation: the private room was converted to a double room so that they could be together.

But that wasn't quite close enough for Joe and Mary. When the nurse asked if they would like their beds pushed together, both responded “Yes!”

This beautiful photo captured the moment when this precious, fragile couple reached out to grasp one another's hand. It wasn't home, but it was HomePlace, and it was together.



*not their real names

Cristel's Playground



Hospice patient Cristel wanted a swingset and a playhouse, and her Hospice team was determined to make it happen. With efforts led by Cristel's home care nurse, Mike Pace, RN, Hospice staff, Board, friends and donors partnered with Make-A-Wish Foundation to grant this special wish.

Mildred's Fountain

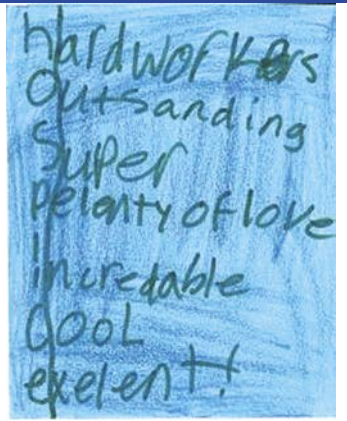


Mr. Jack Kenner, his family and friends gathered to dedicate a beautiful fountain garden Mr. Kenner generously donated to Hospice in memory of his beloved wife, Mildred. Thank you, Mr. Kenner, for creating a lovely addition to the Hospice gardens, and a place for families and staff to pause and reflect.

Car Wash



Employees from Trane washed cars for families whose loved ones were at HomePlace as part of United Way of Tyler/Smith County's annual Day of Caring. What a way to show our community cares!



Alyssa's Acrostic

Alyssa Gilstrap created this acrostic as a thank you when her class visited the Hospice of East Texas campus. We agree! Hospice is hardworking, outstanding, super, has "plenty" of love, and is incredible, cool and excellent!

Thank You!



Thank you to the locally affiliated Christian Methodist Episcopal Churches in the area. They brought snacks for staff and families on Saturday, April 25th. Thirty six people came to donate these goodies with wonderful, serving attitudes – what a blessing!

A Note from Marji... Remembering Dr. Helen Graham



Dr. Helen Graham was many things to us at The Hospice of East Texas. The first medical director of our organization. A champion of hospice care. A professional mentor and colleague. A dear friend. A patient of The Hospice of East Texas in her last days.

To that list we can now add a very special description: Dr. Helen Graham became a member of The Evelyn Lake Society when she created a fund benefiting The Hospice of East Texas at the East Texas Communities Foundation through her estate.

I think of Helen every morning when I drive into the campus of The Hospice of East Texas. At the entrance is a beautiful wooded garden area, underplanted with dogwood trees, that was dedicated to Helen in May 2009. I'll never forget the smile on Helen's face on the day we dedicated the garden or Chaplain Dennis Harvey's remarks when he commented that the dogwoods were like Helen, "the shortest trees in the forest," but also "trees that made themselves known." Helen was indeed short in stature, but she was fierce, strong and committed to her profession and the causes she held dear, among them The Hospice of East Texas.

Helen Graham left us many legacies: the example of her professional and personal integrity, the gift of her friendship and now, The Helen Graham Endowment at the East Texas Communities Foundation. Through annual distributions from the endowment, Helen will continue "to make herself known," just as the dogwoods in her garden at The Hospice of East Texas do each spring.

We are very grateful to Helen, and those of you who have joined her in making a commitment to The Hospice of East Texas through your estate plans. Your thoughtful planning now will create a legacy of care, ensuring that our unparalleled service will continue for years to come.

Helen will continue
"to make herself
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A Faithful Friend



I first met John* in early 2008. I was new to my job at Hospice of East Texas, and working hard to get to know its friends and donors. Every day I opened the mail, learning the names of those who found our mission worthy of their support. Then, as now, the gifts were many and varied, some small, some large, some from people in East Texas, some from far, far away. Then, as now, we took care to thank each and every donor, and I was committed to making that thank you process as personal as possible.

One day, I realized that there was a gift which kept appearing, month after month, a gift in a strange amount. \$258.36. A man named John gave the same unusual gift every month. I called to ask if I could visit him to thank him in person. I have to admit that part of my motive was to find out how he arrived at the odd amount he chose to give to Hospice of East Texas so regularly.

John told me his story as I sat in the living room of his very modest home. Hospice of East Texas had helped him care for his beloved wife in that home just the year before. John spoke with awe of the care and compassion his wife received, and he spoke with gratitude for the support the Hospice team gave him in his efforts to care for her. "They did everything," he said, over and over, through tears that were quick

to come. "They came here to us. They sent a hospital bed for her. They brought her medicines."

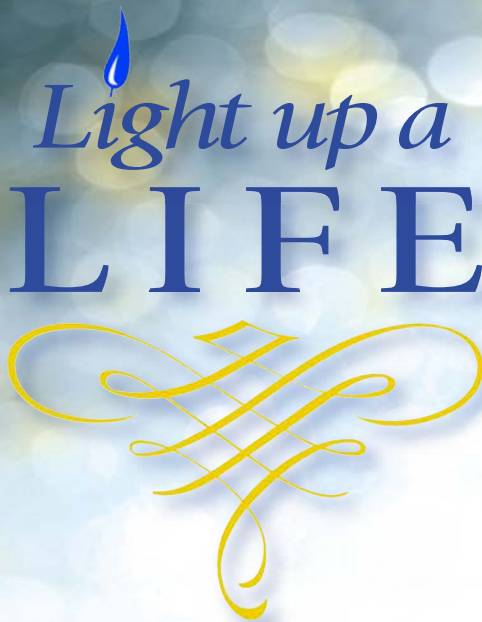
After John's wife died, he began to express his gratitude to Hospice of East Texas with a significant financial commitment: each month he would give a tithe of his income to Hospice.

For seven and a half years, each month, John's checks arrived, and each month, they varied a little as his income did: \$273.49, \$322.56, an amount he must have calculated every month to equal ten percent of his modest income. John never missed a month. Never.

We stayed in touch, and I visited John several times, but he was not a man who wanted attention or praise. How grateful we were that Hospice could serve again, when John became ill himself, and Hospice of East Texas was there to care for him in his final days in a nursing home.

We did the math the other day. Over the course of the last seven years, John's faithful gifts, carefully calculated and lovingly given, totaled more than \$18,000. We are deeply grateful for the constancy of John's support, the commitment and the sacrifice his giving entailed, and the example he showed to all of us of what it means to be a faithful friend.

*not his real name



Extraordinary care, compassion and commitment.

Light Up A Life...

In loving memory of a friend or relative

In honor of someone who lights up your life

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

Your gift to Light Up A Life, Hospice of East Texas' signature fundraiser, helps 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.

Please 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.



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