



Seasons

WINTER 2012



A PUBLICATION OF THE HOSPICE OF EAST TEXAS FOUNDATION

Wes Bynum,
Hospice of
East Texas
Bereavement
Coordinator,
shares his
family's
hospice
journey
through a
"Season of
Receiving."

A Season to Receive

The look in her eyes said it all... This is serious. This is the beginning of a hard journey. I am so sorry that you are going to be introduced to the heartache and pain that is ahead. I need you so much. I love you so much. Her eyes said it all... the eyes of my wife. She had found a lump in her breast and years of experience and her God-given intuition said that this was no ordinary situation.

She had been a registered nurse for over thirty years and a good one. She had taken care of countless numbers of people. She had given freely of her knowledge, skill, insight, and compassion to patients all over East Texas. She had travelled the world on mission trips just to nurse people to health and share her heart. She was a born care-giver who was about to discover the art of receiving care.

As my wife had worked to minister to the physical needs of patients, I had spent my life ministering to their spiritual and emotional needs. I had spent those same thirty years as a pastor in and around the area. I knew what it was like to sit for hours with people in the hospital waiting room. I knew what it was like to be called out in the middle of the night to hold the hand of someone who was grieving. I knew what it was like to give care to folks with broken hearts. Now it was to be my turn to discover the art of receiving care as well.

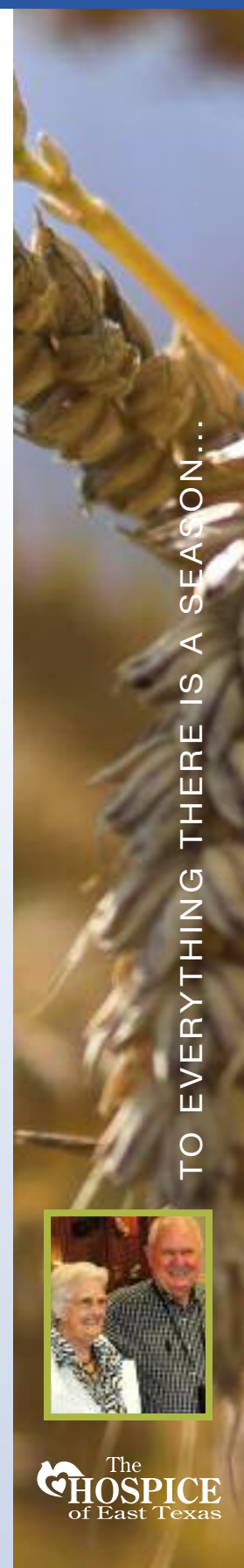
For a year we walked together through the mine field of emotion that cancer laid before us. Surgeries,



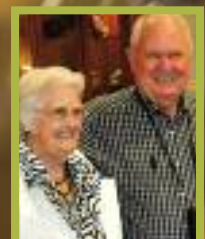
hospitalizations, infections, lab work, tubes and drains, chemo, radiation and so many days trying to make some solid sense of it all, that was life. The best way to describe that period was a constant and futile effort to nail "Jello" to the wall.

Family and friends from all over converged on us to offer their love and support and come to our aid. It was an overwhelming and humbling experience. At first we tried to resist. We were "care givers" not receivers. However, gradually we began to realize that life had changed. The season to give had been embraced and enjoyed. Now it was the season to receive. It was time to allow others to be a blessing to us. It was time to let other people with hearts of love and compassion to reach out and minister to us just as we had done for so many years. It was a point in our lives when we would learn the value of opening our hearts to allow the love of others to flow in. As that love flowed

Continued on page 2.



TO EVERYTHING THERE IS A SEASON...





Continued from page 1.

we found healing and comfort and peace and strength.

The last few months the disease process began to speed up, and we made the transition to hospice care. We had both served for years as volunteers for the Hospice of East Texas. It was our turn once again to be on the receiving end of care that we were accustomed to giving.

Our nurses shared their love and compassion and skill and insight with my wife and family. The chaplains opened their hearts. The rest of the staff gave us smiles and hugs and encouragement at every turn.

Early one Sunday morning my wife smiled her last smile here on this earth. She left behind two wonderful children, a loving mother and brothers and sisters who are very special. And she left a man who was blessed to call her sweetheart. We had learned many lessons in life and about life over the years. Of all the lessons we learned, one of the more poignant was the value and importance of accepting our Season to Receive.



Wes and Bee Bynum in 2004

A Remarkable History...



2012 is a milestone year for The Hospice of East Texas, the thirtieth anniversary of the founding of our organization.

After Mrs. Evelyn Lake visited a friend who was receiving hospice care in Arizona, she returned to Tyler enthralled with the hospice concept and convinced that East Texans deserved the same extraordinary care at the end of life. Mrs. Lake

enlisted the support of the Junior League of Tyler whose volunteers spent two years researching the hospice concept and enlisting the support of the wider community. It was the Junior League's transformational gift of \$30,000, a huge sum of money in 1982, which launched Hospice of East Texas. East Texas Medical Center, Trinity Mother Frances and UT Health Science Center loaned personnel and office space, made financial contributions and blessed the hospice concept as an important contribution to the continuum of health care services in East Texas. Glenn Collins, D'Anna Wick and Holly Boyd signed the Articles of Incorporation. Sandie Propst was the Chair of the first board of directors. Incredibly, each of those good people are still involved with and connected to Hospice of East Texas today.

What the Junior League of Tyler created thirty years ago has grown into an organization that is nationally recognized for meeting the highest standards of hospice care. Serving only Smith County in the beginning, Hospice of East Texas now proudly lives up to its name, reaching across 23 East Texas counties and 15,000 square miles to serve more than 2225 East Texans and their families each year.

Though much has changed in the last thirty years, much remains the same. Hospice of East Texas' founding commitment to care for all who need its services, regardless of their financial circumstances or life situation, remains in place today. The volunteer spirit instilled by the Junior League in the beginning remains a cornerstone of our philosophy and values, and private philanthropy continues to be an essential element of our ability to offer extraordinary care at no direct cost to patients and families.

We will mark Hospice of East Texas' Thirtieth Anniversary with a number of special celebratory events as noted in this newsletter, and we hope you will plan to join us.

D'Anna Wick, the first Executive Director of Hospice of East Texas has said, "Hospice of East Texas has changed the way we care for the dying...and the living". I couldn't agree more, and I would add, "Hospice of East Texas has changed many lives, including my own." We have much to celebrate.

Marjorie Ream

President and CEO

All current and former volunteers of
Hospice of East Texas
Join us to celebrate
“The Gift of Time”
Thirty Years of volunteer service to
Hospice of East Texas

April 17, 2012 • 11:30 a.m.
Rose Heights Church of God

*The event is free but a ticket is required.
Please call 903-266-3405 for a reservation.*



The Thirtieth Anniversary of Hospice of East Texas presents a unique opportunity to showcase the history of extraordinary care provided by this singular community organization and to raise funds in support of its work. As one of the region's oldest and most-respected nonprofit organizations, Hospice of East Texas has long been committed to ensuring that the highest quality end-of-life care is available to all who need it, regardless of their life situation or financial circumstances.

The Hospice of East Texas Foundation is taking this opportunity to raise funds to underwrite the Thirtieth Anniversary events and to support the extraordinary care, compassion and commitment for which Hospice of East Texas has been known for so long.

Won't you join us to mark this special occasion? Contact Nancy Lamar, Vice President of Community Relations at 903-266-3402 for more information.

Thirtieth Anniversary Sponsorship Opportunities

\$15,000 - Oak

- Logo Recognition at all anniversary events, in all media and publicity
- Logo Recognition in HOET newsletter (distribution of 15,000)
- Logo Recognition in Anniversary Calendar (2500)
- Two reserved tables for 10 at Celebration Luncheon
- Inclusion on Donor Recognition sculpture at designated cumulative giving level
- Invitation to Donor Recognition Sculpture unveiling and reception

\$10,000 - Azalea

- Recognition at all anniversary events, in all media and publicity
- Recognition in HOET newsletter (distribution of 15,000)
- Recognition in Anniversary Calendar (2500)
- One reserved table for 10 at Celebration Luncheon
- Inclusion on Donor Recognition sculpture at designated cumulative giving level
- Invitation to Donor Recognition Sculpture unveiling and reception

\$5000 - Pine

- Recognition at all anniversary events, in all media and publicity
- Recognition in HOET newsletter (distribution of 15,000)
- Recognition in Anniversary Calendar (2500)
- Reserved seating for 8 at Celebration Luncheon

\$2500 - Magnolia

- Recognition at all anniversary events, in all media and publicity
- Recognition in HOET newsletter (distribution of 15,000)
- Recognition in Anniversary Calendar (2500)
- Reserved seating for 6 at Celebration Luncheon

\$1000 - Camellia

- Recognition at all anniversary events, in all media and publicity
- Recognition in HOET newsletter (distribution of 15,000)
- Recognition in anniversary calendar (2500)
- Reserved seating for 4 at Celebration Luncheon

Save the Date!

October 4,
2012

11:30 a.m.

Tyler Rose
Garden
Center

Hospice of
East Texas'
**Thirtieth
Anniversary
Celebration**



Cindy Nash, owner of Attic Treasures, recommends to her clients that they donate remaining items from estate sales to the Hospice of East Texas resale shops in Henderson and Nacogdoches. Sales from both shops benefit the patients and programs of the Hospice of East Texas. We welcome your donations of gently used clothing, furniture and household items and can pick up if you call us at 903-266-3400.



Volunteer Pat Anderson, at left, brought her pastor, Rev. Charles Faulks and church members LaTonya Fears and Rev. Antonio Christian from North Star Baptist to learn more about end-of-life care and Hospice of East Texas. Hospice staff are available to speak at your congregation or to host you for a meeting.



Through Hospice's LifeTimes program, volunteers like Ilene Healey interview patients, capturing and preserving their thoughts and feelings on CDs which are given to their families. One family recently wrote, "What a beautiful blessing! What you all have done is such a wonderful gift. It is one of the best capturings of my mother I have ever had, and this will be a treasure for all of us and the little ones that didn't really get to know her will now have a way to make a memory."



When volunteer Grady Stewart and his family gathered to celebrate sister Ruth Wilke's 90th birthday, they asked everyone to make a donation to Hospice of East Texas in lieu of gifts. Family from all over the country honored Ruth with contributions in her honor. Pictured with Grady, a Hospice of East Texas volunteer for 14 years, are his sisters, Mary Liner, at left, and Ruby Wilkes.



In January, Hospice of East Texas welcomed twelve new volunteers who will serve throughout East Texas. Pictured are (Front Row L to R): Norma Mendoza, Elizabeth Parsons, and Kathy McCabe. (Back Row L to R): Peggy Hunt, Lori Vick, Lilli Love, Marie Starling, Dr. William (Bill) Starling, Ruth Flynn, Patty McKinney, Jeanina Harman, and Hugh Denson.



Vince Pietet shares the gift of music for patients and staff at HomePlace.



There's a job for every volunteer at Hospice of East Texas! Don Perkins comes each Tuesday to help clean medical equipment and get it ready for hospice patients. "Our volunteers are the grease in our wheels!" said Billy Gilliam, driver in the Durable Medical Equipment Department.



Susan Stallings, Jeane Brown, JoAnne Freden from Quilts for Kids, donate beautiful handmade quilts throughout the year for Hospice of East Texas.



Gordon and Mary Breedlove volunteer twice a month to prepare hundreds of letters and packets for the Hospice of East Texas Bereavement Department. Through grief education, support and guidance, the Bereavement Department serves families for thirteen months following the death of their loved one. Grief workshops and support groups are also offered to the community, free of charge, as an important outreach effort of Hospice of East Texas.



Once a month, the "Pie Ladies" from First Presbyterian Church in Tyler bring delicious homemade pies for families in HomePlace. Pictured are, left to right, Judy Schmoker, Marquerite Carmichel and Karen Novy.



Alneta Williams greets visitors at HomePlace with her warm smile.



Many thanks to Stephen F. Austin State University Collegiate FFA Chapter and Dr. Dale Perritt, Chapter Advisor and Department Chair of Agriculture for their partnership in the construction and installation of three cedar benches in the Hospice of East Texas Walk of Friends in the Nacogdoches County Master Gardeners Demonstration Garden in Nacogdoches.



Photo courtesy of Tyler Paper

Each and every one of the more than 900 gifts received for Light Up A Life 2011 is deeply appreciated, and each will be used to further the mission of The Hospice of East Texas.

Sponsor level gifts of \$100 or more are listed in this newsletter, but heartfelt thanks go to each of the friends and donors who made 2011 a banner year for the Hospice of East Texas Foundation's signature fundraiser. The \$116,098 in proceeds from Light Up A Life will help to fund the extras that make nonprofit hospice care so exceptional. These gifts insure that Hospice of East Texas can serve all who need care and support at the end of life, regardless of their financial circumstances.



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