



life times

SPRING 2010

“this place is not about pokes and hurts...
this place is about love.”

When Jackson Huse, age 6, spoke those words, he knew a thing or two about “pokes and hurts.” For more than a year, he and his family had waged a heroic battle with his brain tumor. After three surgeries, and months on end of treatments and hospitalizations at Children’s Medical Center in Dallas, Cook’s Children’s Hospital in Ft. Worth, the Mayo Clinic in Rochester, MN, M.D. Anderson Cancer Center in Houston and LeBonheur Children’s in Memphis, they were all exhausted.

In January of 2008 Jackson’s pediatrician told his family what most likely had been obvious to many health care professionals, and even to Jackson and his family, for months: Jackson was not going to get well. It was time to stop the pokes and hurts. It was time to call hospice. “We could finally breathe,”

says Johna Huse, Jackson’s mother. “We unpacked our bags. We stayed at home, and The Hospice of East Texas came into our lives.”

With the skilled intervention of the hospice team, led by Stacy Smith, RN, Pediatric Hospice Coordinator, Jackson’s pain was finally under control. “The thing I valued most was their flexibility and willingness to do whatever it took to keep Jackson comfortable,” said Johna. “Let’s try this’ or ‘Let’s do that’” they would say, just doing whatever they could. There was always someone I could call, and I really felt that everyone in the chain, our primary nurse, Susan Cox, and even the on-call staff at night and on the weekends, knew Jackson and understood our situation. Someone was always there, at the other end of the phone, day and night. Jackson had a few bad days, but he had some really good ones, and on those good ones he was even able to go to school for a few hours.”

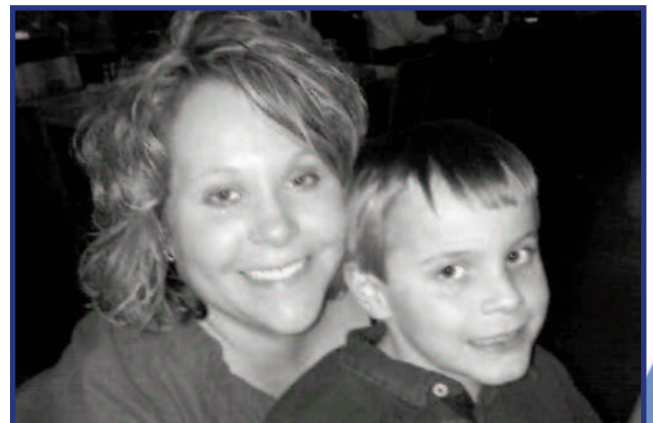
During a particularly difficult period, Jackson spent some time at HomePlace, Hospice of East Texas’ in-patient facility, and he was “the center of the universe there”, reports Johna. Someone would pull him around in a wagon, staff

would stop what they were doing to play with him. As wonderful as HomePlace was, a haven without pokes or hurts, Jackson’s family wanted him to be at home. They were determined that he be able to die there, and he did, on March 25, 2008, with his extended family surrounding him.

Since Jackson’s death “every day has been hard,” says Johna. The death of a child “changes every single thing and every single relationship.” She has found comfort in a number of things, all of them involving giving.

“Jackson was a healthy boy.” says Johna. “He just had a brain tumor.” A source of great comfort and pride to his family is

Continued on page 2.



Johna and Jackson Huse

Jackson Huse, cont.

that after his death, Jackson was able to be an organ donor, giving his cornea, skin and heart valves to those who needed them.

Johna now serves as a parent representative on the Texas Pediatric Palliative Care Consortium, giving a parent's perspective to this state-wide coalition focusing on the care of children facing a life-threatening condition. Her personal experience and her background in education (Johna holds a Masters degree in Educational Leadership and is working on her doctorate) make her a perfect fit for this important position.

In addition, Jackson's extended family has established two funds at The East Texas Communities Foundation in Jackson's memory: The Jackson Huse Scholarship Fund will offer college scholarships to bereaved siblings, and the Hospice of East Texas Crisis Care Fund will provide resources to Hospice for the "extras" many pediatric hospice families need.

And finally, Johna Huse will soon complete the Hospice of East Texas volunteer training course. "Maybe there is something I can do to help other families," she says. "I want to give something to Hospice for all they gave to Jackson and to our family. I have a very special bond with this place and these people.

We went through a lot together. They are my family. And as Jackson said, 'Hospice is all about love'."

a "second calling"

After a successful business career, William Touchstone has found his "second calling" as a volunteer for The Hospice of East Texas' bereavement programs.

After his wife, Rosella died, William struggled with what he called a "devastating grief that once seemed to fill every moment of every day." He enrolled in a Hospice grief workshop and made an astounding discovery. "In the workshop, you have a chance to talk to those who are eager to listen. Friends and family members express their sympathy for your loss, but in the workshop you find other victims of grief who are suffering in the same way that you are. THEY KNOW! Bonding with them comes quickly and easily, and soon you are like old friends."

"I learned in the program that even though a day began in sorrow, it might end in joy," says William. "I could grieve because of my loss, and still rejoice in my many blessings."

Now, serving as a Hospice of East Texas volunteer is one of the things William counts as his "many blessings." In addition to Hospice volunteer orientation, William has had additional bereavement training and proudly co-leads workshops and support groups with Nora Gravois, MSW, Bereavement Coordinator.

"Your task is not to eliminate grief, but to alleviate it and to control it," says William. "You will never stop loving the one you have lost. That love will still be tinged with grief, but it will be a controlled grief that honors the memory of the one you lost, as you recall the happy times that you spent together."

Bereavement programs of The Hospice of East Texas are offered throughout East Texas to the public free of charge. For more information about a program in your community, contact the bereavement department at 903-266-3400 or 1-800-777-9860 and ask for the bereavement department.



William Touchstone, left, walks with Nora Gravois, MSW, Hospice of East Texas Bereavement Coordinator and volunteer Jim Stephens. The "Walking on Wednesdays" support group walks and talks at Tyler's Broadway Square Mall each Wednesday morning.

a great big thank you

to our fabulous volunteers!

Gin Ables
Marge Adams
Boby Adamson
Ruth Alders
Jean Allen
Faye Alston
Anita Anderson
Pat Anderson
Ben Ashworth
Exa Ballard
Sue Ballow
Donna Barnett
Maxine Barnette
Paula Bates
Margaret Beekman
Madison Behm
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Willard Birdwell
Larry Black
Darla Blackmon
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Joy Blue
Daisy Bonilla
Asher Boudreaux
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Gordon Breedlove
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Wes Bynum
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Tommie Cagle
Phyllis Carlyle
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Thecela Cooks
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Teresa Cowart
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Jeri Culpepper
Patty Curtis
Doris Davis
Eva Davison
Marjorie Desselle
Richard Diekman
Sandra Dillon
William Dillon
Frieda Doolen
Susan Dudley
Carol Duncan

Holli Durrett
Paula Edwards
Elizabeth Ely
Ralph Everett
Winnie Sue Everett
Joyce Fleisher
Judy Floyd
Sarah Ford
Jackie Frank
Beverly Franklin
Ruby Frazier
Terri Frazier
Mary Germany
Linda Gettys
Cathy Gibbons
Homer Gilbert
Michael Gillen
Taylor Glover
Darlene Graser
Kaitlyn Gravois
Michael Gravois
Brenda Green
Arlene Gregg
Dawn Gwin
Margie Hall
Neta Hanna
Valerie Hardy
Frances Harrell
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Amy Howell
Bettie Hudgens
Juanna Hudson
Robert Hughes
Jeanie Hulsey
Velma Hyde
Ashton Ihrig
Gloria Jennings
Beverly Jimerson
Crystal Jones
Marguerite Jones
Wendell Jones
Marian Kaplita
Kathryn Kilpatrick
Anita Kress
Kathleen Kunkel
Jim Kurtz
Karen Labordus
Janet Latham
Betty LeFlore
Ethel Leatherman
Rosalinda Lemus
Cathy Linney
Jim Linney
Richard Liptak
Barbara Love
Katie Lund
Johnnie Lynch
Janette Maldonado-
Johnson
Bill Marshall
Tony Martin
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Sherman Mayfield
Chaley McCain
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Donna McEwen
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Pat Morrow
Katie Moseley
D'Anne Moxon
Ken Neff
Willene Nitzsche
Mary Del Oden
Victoria Overton
Sara Padelford
Lucina Pappas
Johnnie Parker
Susan Parks
Sandra Partin
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Jerry Peden
Maria Perez
Geniece Perry
John Ben Perry
Joyce Perry
Tommie Jack Perry
Wilton Perry
Dean Phillips
Vince Piotet
Bill Pitts

Shannon Sieber
Kenneth Sims
Gini Sims
Rosemary Slayton
Martha Smelley
Andriana Smith
Richard Smith
Fran Sonka
Eric Spaude
James Stephens
June Stephens
Penny Stephens
Michael Stevens
Grady Stewart
Pat Stewart
Jan Stock
Charles Strong
Nancy Strong
Judy Tarrant
Evelyn Tate
Chris Teeple
Alice Todd
William Touchstone
Marilyn Trollinger
Mary Upton
Ann Ussery
Jude Vurgason
Ellen Wallace
Judy Watkins
Maudean West
Lou Ann Weston

"When we ask ourselves which persons in our lives mean the most to us, we often find that it is those who can face the reality of powerlessness. . . and have chosen rather to share our pain, and touch our wounds with a gentle and tender hand. The friend who can be silent with us in a moment of despair or confusion, who can stay with us in an hour of grief and bereavement, who can tolerate not knowing, not curing, not healing. . . that is the friend who cares."



The most recent class of HOET volunteers (L to R) Beverly Wood, Sue Jett, Renee Didlake, Terri Morris, Betty Thames, Dess Wilson, Wayne Golden, Kaye Milligan, Daniel Piotrowski

Betty Porter
Marilynn Pryor
Lois Ray
Frances Reid
Jan Ridenour
Dale Robertson
Hayley Robertson
Susan Robertson
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Margie Rodriguez
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Susan Roy
Beverly Russell
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Bea Schroeder
Margaret Scott
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Hortencia Williams
Jerry Williams
Melissa Williams
Laura Wilson
Hunter Winans
Justin Winans
Mary Wofford
Jennifer Wood
Bernice Woodford
Linda Wray
Zenaida Yarrington

In all the many ways you serve The Hospice of East Texas, you are gentle and tender hand and a friend who cares. We are grateful to each of you for all that you are and all that you do.



It was a HOET Winter Wonderland as east Texans woke up to a blanket of snow on February 12th.

The Bullard High School Student Council made a \$300 donation to HOET in honor of other student councils and in memory of the wife of their principal, Mr. Richardson, who was on our service.



Hospice of East Texas recently expanded its service area to include Nacogdoches, Shelby and San Augustine counties. David Nelson, HOET board chairman, cut the ribbon at the Nacogdoches Chamber of Commerce to celebrate.



HOET remembers our colleague, our mentor, our friend Dr. Helen Graham, pictured with other HOET staff at last year's American Cancer Society Relay for Life. Dr. Graham passed away in February 2010.

HOET thank you

Fredia Melvin, HOET Community Outreach/Tournament Organizer and Millard Countryman, USTA/Tournament Referee are pictured at the 12th Annual HOET Tennis Open. Proceeds of nearly \$14,000 from the 2009 tournament will directly benefit HOET.



"Many thanks for the great care you took of my mother. All of you were so passionate about carrying out her wishes to the end."



The ladies of ETMC Jacksonville Auxiliary enjoyed refreshments at a "Special Friends" gathering at HOET, showing off the bib towels they make for our patients. HOET is blessed with many Special Friends who donate their talents to HOET.

"My aunt was recently one of your patients. I'm sure you hear this all the time, but I have to say Hospice of East Texas is the most wonderful gift she could have been given. Your staff is so caring and kind. The facility is extremely comforting and peaceful. I will always be grateful to you for making the last goodbye a true family moment."

Duke Gill, Alan Harris and Steve Farris of East Texas Triathletes present a donation to HOET from the 2nd Annual Rose City Triathlon.



Family members of Ann Campbell gather around the HOET Holiday Remembrance tree after hanging an ornament in her memory.



"I now know why you are so highly recommended and needed. My mother received great care and it helped my family to know you were there."

connections...



David Rowe

How many connections to The Hospice of East Texas is it possible for one family to have? The connection as a patient. The

connection as a family. . . not once but twice. The connection as a volunteer. The connection as the donor of an ultimate gift. . . a bequest to Hospice of East Texas.

The Rowe family has made all those connections, and David Rowe is eager to express his gratitude and appreciation.

“Through the coordination of local medical facilities, my family was fortunate to have the service of the Hospice of East Texas in the care of my parents, Elaine and Robert Rowe,” says David. His mother was the first to become ill, and Hospice cared for her in his parents’ apartment and then at HomePlace. “She received. . . absolutely wonderful care. It particularly struck me how our every want, need and desire—and more—was delivered warmly and flawlessly. Everything was just perfect.”

Eight months later, it was David’s father who needed what David calls “the same extraordinary and compassionate care.”

For the last two weeks of his life, Mr. Rowe was a patient at HomePlace, where “we were especially grateful for the service of Ms. Linda Black who befriended Dad and kept a smile on his face”, says David.

In recognition of the care his parents received, David became a Hospice volunteer fourteen months ago. He is known for going “above and beyond” to ease the burdens of the patients and families he works with, once even planting a garden so that a patient could see it from his bedroom window.

The final connection for the Rowe family is the ultimate connection. David’s father, Robert Rowe, made a bequest to The Hospice of East Texas through his estate, making him a member of the Evelyn Lake Society. “Mrs. Lake was the catalyst for the beginning of The Hospice of East Texas,” says Nancy Lamar, Vice President of Community Relations. “It is so fitting that our planned giving group is named in her honor. The members of The Evelyn Lake Society will insure the future of The Hospice of East Texas just as Mrs. Lake insured its beginning.”

“My family has been so thankful to know The Hospice of East Texas,” says David. “I am grateful to have had the opportunity to help families with loved ones in their final journey, and we are fortunate that Dad was able to make a bequest to The Hospice of East Texas Foundation in his will,” says David.

The Evelyn Lake Society

The Evelyn Lake Society was created to pay tribute to those who have a vision for the future of Hospice of East Texas. Named in honor of Mrs. Evelyn Lake, whose vision of the importance of hospice care was the catalyst for the creation of Hospice of East Texas, membership in the Society is open to all those who make a commitment Hospice through their estate plans.

By naming The Hospice of East Texas as the beneficiary of a gift through bequests, trust agreements, life insurance, retirement accounts or other planned gifts, members of The Evelyn Lake Society ensure that Hospice will be able to provide our caring services to all who need them for years and years to come.

If you have included The Hospice of East Texas in a bequest or other planned gift, we hope you will let us know. Your willingness to be listed as a member of The Evelyn Lake Society encourages others to follow your example.

If you are interested in joining The Evelyn Lake Society, please contact Nancy Lamar, Vice President of Community Relations at 903-266-3402.



Elaine and Robert Rowe

board of directors

Among the Hospice of East Texas' most valued volunteers are the dedicated men and women who serve on its board of directors. Their wisdom and dedication guide our organization in all that we do.



New 2010 officers for the Hospice of East Texas board of directors include David Nelson, board chair; Keith Ingram, board vice chair; and Mel Lovelady, treasurer. Not pictured is Mary Ann Cozby, Secretary.

Hospice of East Texas welcomes three new board members, left to right, Bob Roseman, CPA; Sherry Dunn, community volunteer and chair of The Friends of Hospice of East Texas, and Rabbi Neal Katz, Congregation Beth El.



"Please know that each of you went beyond what is necessary to ensure our loved one's care and comfort. Then you went above that by ensuring our physical and mental comfort as well."

"I was especially impressed with the aides that treated my mother with dignity, respect and compassion as they turned her regularly and bathed her in her terminal condition..."

Perhaps my highest recommendation is the desire to come here myself when the time comes for me to cross over to the other side."

"Thank you so much for being there for families at the end of life. Your care is exceptional."

partners in education (P.I.E.)

The Hospice of East Texas and the Alzheimer's Alliance of Smith County have joined together as Partners in Education (P.I.E.) to offer excellent programs to those caring for loved ones.

P.I.E. meetings feature great speakers, an opportunity to ask questions and... a piece of pie!

On May 5, at 12:30 Dr. David Lindzey will speak on "Pain Management for the

Home Caregiver". Meetings are held in the Meadows Conference Room at Hospice, 4111 University, Tyler, Texas.

P.I.E. is offered free of charge and is open to the public as a service of the Alzheimer's Alliance of Smith County and Hospice of East Texas. For more information, contact Christine Morawski, Director of Community Outreach, at 903-266-3400.



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