

# life times

SPRING 2009



## taking compassion on a journey

“You won’t think about me,” said Beverly Ridgway to her Hospice of East Texas nurse, Deborah Palmer, when she learned of Deborah’s upcoming week-long vacation to North Carolina.

In the six months since she’d been a patient of The Hospice of East Texas, Deborah’s weekly visits had become a bright spot for Beverly. There was someone to listen, someone to offer advice, someone to call if the unexpected arose. What would she do, even for a week, without the support and care of the nurse with whom she’d developed a special bond?

“I will think about you”, Deborah promised, reassuring Beverly that the nurse who would visit in her absence knew all about her needs and that the entire hospice organization was there to support her while Deborah was away.

Little did Beverly know that not only did Deborah think about her, she took Beverly along for the vacation. With a hand-made sign that said “Hi Beverly”, Deborah asked her husband to take her photo at the scenic stops on their trip. “That sheet of paper went through a lot,” laughed Deborah. “I dragged it from Texas to North Carolina and back again!” When she returned from her vacation, Deborah presented a special gift to Beverly, an album with all the photos of her “Hi Beverly” sign, real proof that she thought about Beverly every step of the way.

Beverly was stunned by the gift. “Deborah made me feel special! On her own vacation time she thought about me! With my name in all the photos I felt like I had been on vacation with her. This is only one example of the many things Deborah has done to make me feel not only loved, but special and important.”

A unique bond between a nurse and a patient is not a rare occurrence at The Hospice of East Texas, but sometimes

the strength of that bond is truly amazing. Deborah took her compassion on a journey and brought it back home to continue to care for Beverly. “I didn’t do anything special,” said Deborah, “just something for my friend.”

In the back of Beverly’s photo album is the crinkled paper sign that traveled across seven states, a tangible reminder of a nurse’s compassion, a friendship with deep meaning and extraordinary care that knew no bounds.



Beverly & Deborah

# Tennis Open 2008

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*\*Thanks to Coach David Hanna for directing the tournament!*

## seeking comfort

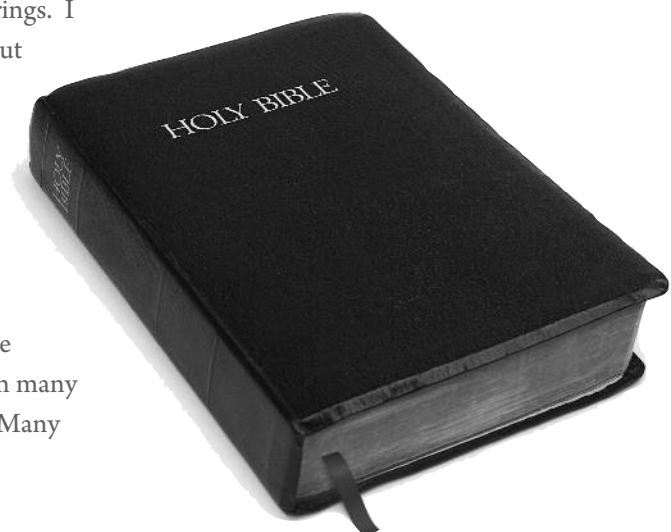
“I gave the Bible to her,” said Hospice volunteer Alice Todd, “and then came the moment I will always remember. Her eyes literally sparkled! They were filled with delight and tears. She held that Bible as if she had just received the most precious gift ever.”

The Bible was a large print version, a gift from the Frank Smith Methodist Church in Alto, TX to Hospice patient Cecil Frazier. Ms. Frazier’s failing eyesight had prevented her from reading the Bible for a

long time, and she had sorely missed the comfort it brought her. “After I gave her the Bible, I sat with Cecil for a little over an hour,” said Alice. “She read several passages, told stories from her childhood and sang songs that she and her sister sang at church gatherings. I tried to encourage her to eat, but she insisted that she would do so later. She just wanted to continue to read from her Bible, and she said she planned on reading it from the front page to the back page.”

Comfort for our patients at The Hospice of East Texas comes in many ways and from many sources. Many

thanks to volunteer Alice Todd and the Frank Smith Methodist Church for providing Cecil Frazier with just the comfort she needed. As Alice reported, “When I left, Cecil told me that God had sent me to her that day.”





# friends of the hospice of east texas

Welcome to "The Friends"!!!

The Hospice of East Texas is pleased to announce the formation of a group whose mission is simply to be "Friends" of The Hospice of East Texas.

"It's sort of like an Auxiliary, but without all the work!" said Sherry Dunn, chair of The Friends Organizing Committee.

"There are many of us who want to be involved with hospice in some way, but we can't commit to being regular volunteers. This is our way to do something to help The Hospice of East Texas."

The Friends will gather twice each year for programs to inform and inspire them about the work of Hospice. Their knowledge will equip them to serve as ambassadors for The Hospice of East Texas. Annual dues of \$50 will cover all the costs of their activities, and any remaining funds will be donated to The Hospice of East Texas Foundation.

Membership in The Friends is open to any person interested in making a personal commitment to support the



**Friends of the Hospice of East Texas,  
Beth Whitney and Sheryl Rogers Palmer**

work of The Hospice of East Texas. For more information, contact Nancy Lamar, Vice President of Community Relations at 903-266-3402.

*"With grateful hearts, we remember your kind expressions of love and comfort for the woman who will always be the light of our lives. Whether it was offering to take care of our grandson, giving a kind word of encouragement or just helping us to understand all that was going on—you are all very appreciated. It was a soft place to fall in a hard time. Everyone was so helpful and it was a gorgeous place."*



**Maxine Evans, Phyllis Kimmel, Shirley Hughes and Wynelle Goddard attend the first organizational meeting of The Friends of Hospice of East Texas**

*"We never expected the 150% you all gave. I know you all will have many jewels on your crowns in heaven. We will always be grateful to you."*





James Clark delivers poinsettias donated by ColorSpot for holiday cheer at HomePlace and HOET nursing home patients.



“Santa Paws” Katy & Simon, Hearts in Harmony volunteers, make their weekly visit to HomePlace during the holidays.



Bernice Bach and her son Don Kahler record a LifeDisk as Bernice turns 109. The HOET LifeDisk program is a digital audio recording of the patient telling his or her life stories. The recording is turned into a CD to be given to the patient/family as our gift.



HOET employees dress in their new ‘True Blue’ attire.



HOET Volunteers enjoyed a Square Dance Exhibition at the Volunteer Fall “Feast”ival.



The Cascades Club in Tyler, formerly Briarwood Golf Club, presents a check in the amount of \$1,100 to HOET. The donation was made possible through a silent auction of clubhouse items during the ‘Demo Wake’ of the old Briarwood Clubhouse. Many thanks to Mr. James Broussard, founding member of Briarwood Golf Club, for selecting HOET as the benefactor.



The “Hospice Family Singers” perform for residents of Park Place Nursing Home during the holiday season.





**Volunteers of the Hospice Shoppe in Henderson bid farewell to retiring shop manager, Cathy Oliver.**



**George and Elsie Lloyd celebrate their 74th wedding anniversary while at HomePlace.**



**Ruby Breckenridge has been welcoming guests to HomePlace each Sunday for 10 years. Ruby says, "I heard they needed help at the desk on Sunday afternoons, and I thought, 'What am I doing on Sunday afternoons? Sitting in my chair! I could be helping someone.'"**



**Pat Hornbuckle has made and donated over 100 stuffed animals that are given to HOET pediatric patients as well as children affected by the death of a loved one. She shares these gifts in memory of a friend who was a HOET patient.**

*"Hospice of East Texas Home Care and HomePlace brought us comfort during a very difficult time. They provided most excellent care and allowed our last days together to be days of closeness and sweet memories."*

*"The staff met our every need with joy. The physicians at Hospice of East Texas were exceptionally knowledgeable of our pain and kept us at ease as much as possible. We could not praise Hospice of East Texas enough. Thank you for everything. I share our experience with everyone."*

*"Thank you for your care and gentle concern. Thank you for holding our hand and walking us through a most difficult time. Your kindness will never be forgotten."*

THE HOSPICE OF EAST TEXAS FOUNDATION  
PRESENTS

*Light up a*  
**LIFE**

*Each and every one of the 1004 donations received for Light Up A Life 2008 is deeply appreciated and each will be used to further the mission of The Hospice of East Texas.*

*Thank you to all the friends and donors whose gifts totaled \$135,445.00, the highest amount ever raised for Light Up A Life!*

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**The family of Faye Peeler gathers together at the HOET Light Up A Life tree lighting ceremony in Mineola. Mrs. Peeler's daughter, Cathy Cain (center), has planned her holiday visit from California around this event for the past 6 years.**





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