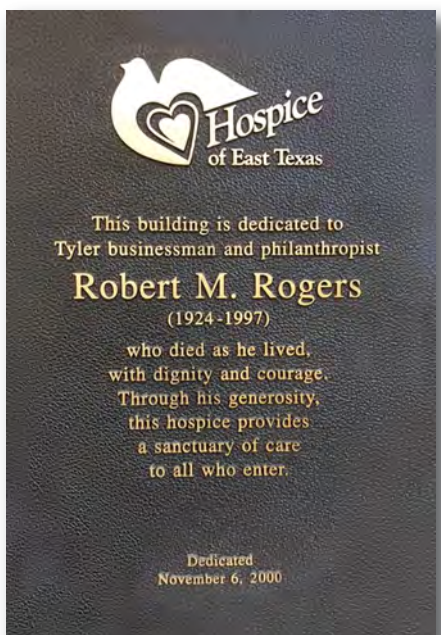


HOSPICE OF EAST TEXAS HOMEPLACE

Celebrating 20 Years



Twenty years ago, in the fall of 2000, Hospice of East Texas opened the doors to the Robert M. Rogers Hospice Center for the first time. Through many years of careful planning and fundraising, the visionary board, volunteers and staff had focused their time and energy on the creation of a facility like no other in East Texas.

Named in memory of Robert M. Rogers, businessman and philanthropist, whose family gave the lead gift in the capital campaign, the Robert M. Rogers Hospice Center housed administrative offices, meeting rooms and a unique facility, HomePlace, dedicated to meeting the needs of patients at the end of life and supporting the loved ones who were caring for them.

Twenty years later, HomePlace remains the only dedicated in-patient facility for terminally ill patients in East Texas. Every detail, from its architecture and furniture, to its artwork and gardens, is still patient and family-focused. Its name is more than symbolic. HomePlace is "home" for patients and their families at a very tender time of life.

This year, 2020, with all its challenges, we celebrate HomePlace on its twentieth anniversary. You, our friends and donors, have uplifted the ministry of this very special place throughout its history. We are pleased to share with you the stories and photos in this booklet, reflections of the gratitude of families for whom HomePlace has been "home" and reflections of the generosity of our community.

When it was constructed, HomePlace was a gift to our community from our community. The gift of extraordinary care, deep compassion and loving support continues today in a place like no other, a place that has truly become sacred ground.

There's no place like HomePlace.

2000 Dedication of the Robert M. Rogers Hospice Center

In the summer of 1999, the land on which the Robert M. Rogers Hospice Center was to be constructed was blessed by the reading of this prayer:

*To the glory of the Creator,
 May this land be blessed
 For the strengthening of families
 May this land be blessed
 For the relief of pain and suffering
 May this land be blessed
 For the ministry of compassion and caring
 May this land be blessed
 For a home where dignity and respect are primary
 May this become holy ground
 For the hallowing of life and the acceptance of death,
 May this be a sacred place.*

These prayers spoken over bare ground twenty years ago are now answered on a daily basis.

Families are strengthened at HomePlace.
 Pain and suffering are relieved.
 The ministry of compassion and caring,
 of dignity and respect, are primary in this "home."
 And life itself is affirmed, even as death is accepted.



The chapel's stained glass window depicting the four seasons was given by Mrs. W. T. Brookshire in memory of Peaches Brookshire.



Mr. Jack Kenner gave this pretty garden and water feature in memory of his beloved wife, Mildred.

TO THE STAFF;

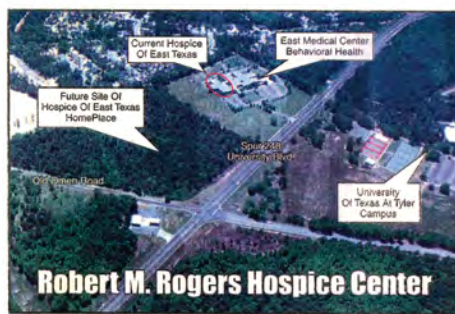
Even in our brief time of being in your facility, my family & I want you to know how very much your kindness to my Daddy (Abe L. Banks) meant to us. I know that you get lots of "Thank you" cards from lots of families, but this was our first encounter with a facility such as yours. I can truly say I wish that we had a place like yours in our city or at

least in our county were the families could feel the peace of knowing that not only are our loved one is being cared for, but we are too! In our short time, your staff made the time with my Daddy peaceful and I felt like they really cared about him, that he wasn't just another person waiting to die. My prayer is that God continue to bless you & your staff in all things! Continue to provide loving care to all who comes through your doors!

*Respectfully,
 Beverly Jones*

Tyler Courier-Times-Telegraph

Sunday \$1.00



A Place To Call Home

Proposed Hospice Center Envisioned As Comforting New Environment For Terminally Ill Cancer Patients

By JAYMIE POESCHL, Staff Writer

The Tylerites Jan and Brent McCauley, the diagnosis of terminal cancer for Brent's mother, Dorris McCauley, was a stinging blow that only got tougher in the months that followed.

The Hospice of East Texas HomePlace, Tyler, was created to support families like the McCauleys and help those in their last days of life by giving them a comforting choice that is more like being at home. Nancy Bentley, hospice director of community relations, said.

Mrs. Bentley said the HomePlace, which is a "pilot" facility, is ready for a home of its own and plans are taking shape to create a state-of-the-art facility.

The hospice is kicking off a capital campaign for the construction of the Robert M. Rogers Hospice Center for the terminally ill, she said, so the facility can more effectively create a comfortable home environment.

Glenn Collins, chairman of the campaign steering committee, said lead donors, private foundations and community supporters already have committed 61 percent of the \$4.9 million goal.

So far, \$3 million has been raised for the new facility, which will be located on 23 acres at the corner of Spur 248 and Old Oman Road, near the temporary facility and across from the University of Texas at Tyler.

The current facility, which is leasing space from East Texas Medical Center Behavioral Health, is serving its purpose as a "test" facility, but is inadequate as a "home" environment, Mrs. Bentley said. She said although they have tried to create a comfortable environment, the facility still has hospital characteristics.

"While this building has served its purpose

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With a lead gift from Jonna Fitzgerald in memory her parents, the waterfall garden was constructed in 2012 and dedicated on a perfect spring day.

A History of Love and Generosity

Bricks on the Walk of Friends on the Hospice grounds and tiles on the walls of HomePlace hold special places of honor and remembrance for many families. In these twenty years, the thousands of names recorded in this place are a history of our community and a history of love and generosity. Their presence invokes special meaning and memories, awe and respect.

Dear Hospice Staff - Nurses, CNAs & Volunteers
 You are never ready to place your loved one in Hospice but it was such a blessing when we got there. I knew we where my dad was going to get the best possible care. Everyone was so compassionate, sensitive, knowledgeable and knew exactly what we needed... hugs and comforting words.
 Thank you for a wonderful place, full of special people to care for those who are near the end of their life. The care my dad received was exceptional and the facility was the perfect place for us to be with my dad. We for sure felt "at home" during our seven days we were there.
 Thank you for your caring hearts. Hospice and the staff there hold a very special place in our hearts.
 ❖ Christa Hood (daughter of Milburn Cook)

Garden Spaces Bring Beauty and Peace

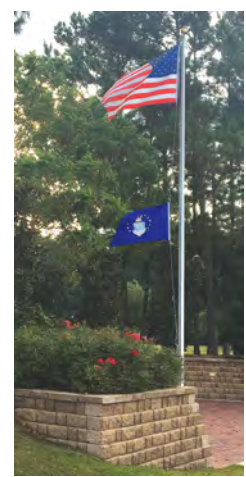
Dear Hospice of East Texas,

Even in the midst of sorrow, God gives us glimpses of grace to help us endure. The kind, compassionate care you gave Emerson Brown, Sr. and the entire Brown family during his stay at The Hospice of East Texas reassured us of God's love, even as we engaged in the painful process of saying goodbye.

Thank you for providing us with a peaceful environment to share those precious final moments with our loved one. We were deeply comforted by the thoughtfulness and patience you displayed at his passing. You did not just care for his needs. You walked with us, you prayed with us and you held our hands.

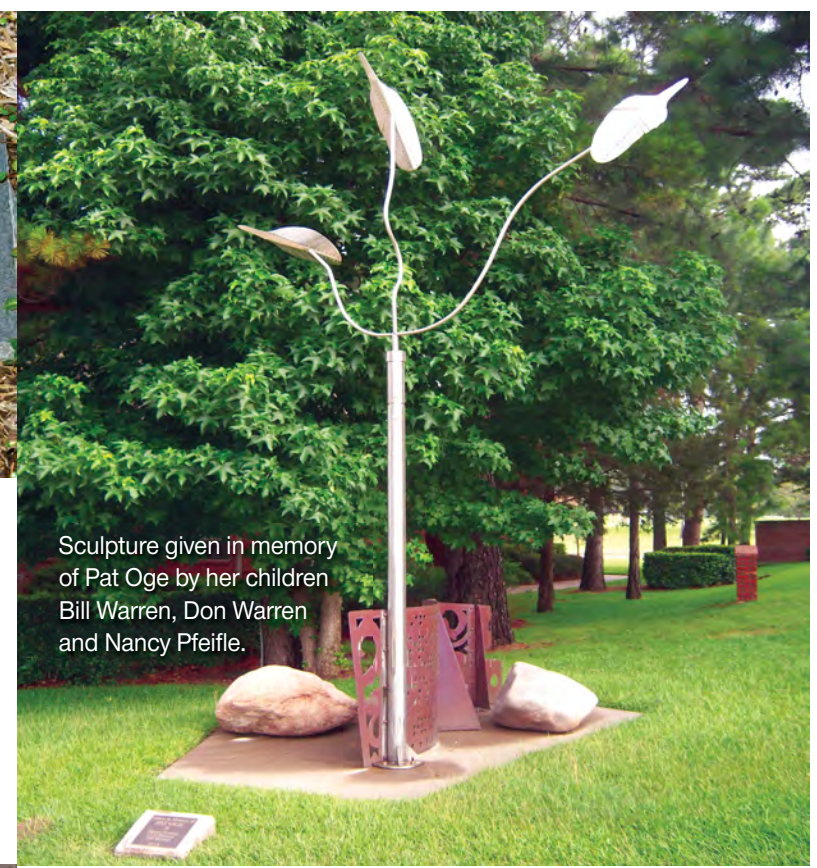
As a family, we thank God for you and the work you do with such quiet strength and dignity. May favor rest on you, and may He continuously strengthen and establish the work of your hands.

With gratitude,
 The family of Emerson Brown, Sr.



Above Left: Julie and Tom Brown and their family lead the way toward construction of the Hospice of East Texas Flag Court as a way to honor the memory of Tom's father, Jim Brown.

Above Right and Bottom: The Jasper and Lassiter families gathered to dedicate the renovated HomePlace Courtyard in memory of Donna Lassiter.



Sculpture given in memory of Pat Oge by her children Bill Warren, Don Warren and Nancy Pfeifle.



Artist Nancy McCain has hand-lettered more than 650 tiles.



Families honor their loved ones with bricks on the Walk of Friends.



Special Occasions and Special Touches

Like any home, HomePlace has been the setting for many special occasions and is filled with special "home-like" touches.



Carole Glenn
16813 N. Sourdough PL
Fountain Hills, AZ 85268

August 7, 2018

To: All Homeplace Staff

I'd like to thank you for all the care you provided for my brother, Leon Clark.

I'm sorry you didn't know him when he was well. He loved to fish, watch basketball and car races and loved country and western music. He played guitar and sang, laughed a lot and had three beautiful daughters.

He may not have expressed it, or been able to, but know that he was grateful for your kindness and care.

The work you do and care you provide is so amazing and important. I hope that you find joy and fulfillment in that.

Thank you, more than words can express.

Lindale High School held a mock graduation for senior Christan Patterson so that her father could attend.



The Kindness of Strangers



Above: Hospital beds have wheels so they can go outside.



Right: Quilters donate handmade quilts for every bed.



Right: Mr. Herbert Washington wanted to take his wife out to dinner one last time... and he did in the HomePlace family room.



A family member once said that what impressed him most about HomePlace was "the kindness of strangers."

Every day, dedicated and devoted volunteers perform selfless acts of kindness that touch the patients in HomePlace and the families who are visiting them.

Meals, snacks, sweets, coffee, music, a listening ear, a welcome smile, a warm hug, a furry volunteer's cuddle, all contribute to the special air of "home" that is HomePlace.





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GIVING OPPORTUNITIES

Some tips for giving to Hospice of East Texas that could be beneficial to you as well:

Coronavirus CARES Act

The Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security (CARES) Act, which became law on March 27, allows taxpayers who do not itemize to deduct up to \$300 in cash contributions to charitable organizations in 2020.

Benefit from this new tax deduction and support Hospice of East Texas today.

Take advantage of the IRA Charitable Rollover

If you own an IRA and are at least 70 ½ years of age, the law requires you to take a minimum distribution from your IRA each year and pay income tax on the distribution. You can give all or part of the distribution from your IRA to Hospice of East Texas, tax-free, and have it count as all or part of your required minimum distribution for the year.

Consult with your professional advisor or call us at Hospice of East Texas to see if these benefits might be helpful to you:

- The amount of your gift is counted towards your required minimum distribution for the year

- The amount of your gift is excluded from your reported income for federal tax purposes – your gift is 100% tax free!
- Most importantly – your gift may be used immediately to support Hospice of East Texas' patients and their families.

Plan for the future

Often families express their desire to “give back” to Hospice of East Texas in a meaningful way. A simple bequest to Hospice of East Texas in your will is a wonderful way to do that and could be the most important charitable gift you ever make. You may designate a specific dollar amount, a particular asset such as securities or real estate, a fixed percentage of your entire estate, or leave your residuary estate after you have provided for loved ones.

We encourage you to speak with your attorney, accountant or estate planning advisor about ways to take care of your family and meet your individual goals while helping to support a cause you care about – the mission of Hospice of East Texas.

If you would like information on any of these giving opportunities, visit our website at www.hospiceofeasttexas.org, email nlamar@hospiceofeasttexas.org or call us at 903-266-3402.