



Hospice of Southern Kentucky, Inc.

November 2009

November is National Hospice Month

Hospice of Southern Kentucky is proud to announce a donation of grief materials to the public libraries in all nine counties that it serves to commemorate National Hospice Month. Hospice made its first donation on Wednesday, November 4th at 2pm when it presented materials to the Warren County Public Library. Donations will follow throughout the month in memory of the patients Hospice has served in each county. Each presentation will consist of materials for both children and adults. Also included in the Hospice resources will be a DVD that explains Inpatient Hospice care available at the Hospice Care Center in Bowling Green.



Hospice Intern, Nikki Dadisman and
Laura Flowers, Collections Development Coordinator

Hospice has expanded its services in the last several years to include a children's grief camp, a ten bed Hospice residential care center, and a Transitions program. Hospice uses an interdisciplinary team of health care professionals and trained volunteers to provide pain-management, symptom control, psychosocial support, and spiritual care to patients and their families, coping with life-limiting illnesses.

"Most people think hospice is what you do when there's nothing left to do," commented J. Donald Schumacher, president and CEO of NHPCO. "That couldn't be farther from the truth. Hospice provides a wide range of services to the family and patient that maximize quality of life and help people live as fully as possible, on their terms." NHPCO reports that one million patients were served by the nation's 3,300 hospice providers last year. Hospice helped these people live with dignity, comfort, and compassion. Hospice is a covered benefit under Medicare, Medicaid in most states, and most private insurance plans and HMOs.

"We are proud to be able to give back to our community," remarked Betty Biggerstaff, Executive Director, "We hope these resources will assist those in the community that need help dealing with grief, especially those trying to help children deal with the loss of a loved one." More information about hospice and palliative care and the new Hospice Inpatient Center can be found at www.hospicesoky.org or by calling Hospice of Southern Kentucky at 800-344-9479.

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Hospice Inpatient Center Celebrates One Year Anniversary



Hearth Room at Hospice Inpatient Center



Main Hallway at Hospice Inpatient Center

The Hospice Inpatient Center celebrated its first anniversary on August 1st, 2009. Since the center opened it has served over 175 patients and was the third free standing Hospice unit in the state of Kentucky. "Despite what you might think, it's a healing environment, it's about life at the time when you least expect it," remarked Hospice Chaplain, Wayne Hunter.

The Inpatient Center is staffed 24 hours a day and is used for short term stays for those patients who have care issues that cannot be managed at home. The unit has ten private patient suites. Family and friends are welcome to stay with the patient. Well behaved pets are welcome to visit their owners at the Center as well.

Potential Hospice patients and their families are welcome to tour the facility as they are seeking information about their care options. We ask that you call ahead so that we can make someone available to answer your questions and explain our admission criteria. For more information about whether a patient might be appropriate for the Inpatient Unit, please call Yolanda Terry, RN, CHPN, Director of Clinical Services at 270-746-9300.

Light up a Life for Christmas

It's the Christmas season already, and once again Hospice is having our "Light Up A Life" event where donations are made "in memory of" or "in honor of" a loved one or friend.

A Christmas tree will be set up at the Hospice office from December 1st through December 30th. As before, you may make a donation "in memory of" or "in honor of" a loved one. A light will then be turned on with a card attached naming the person being remembered or honored.

It is our sincere hope that by Christmas, the tree will be ablaze with lights, illuminating the work Hospice does for the terminally ill. We will light a white light "in memory of", a red light "in honor of" or a blue light for our military.

Please take a moment to drop a donation in the mail to us or stop by the Hospice office at 5872 Scottsville Road.

In Memory of _____ In Honor of _____

By: _____

Address: _____

“Friends of Hospice” Group Started

By Alicia Carmichael, Capital Campaign Coordinator

For the first time, Hospice of Southern Kentucky has formed a formal volunteer fundraising group, aptly named Friends of Hospice. This group of devoted supporters includes Patrick Bryant, a recent Western Kentucky University graduate who this year organized Hospice’s first fundraising gala because he was so impressed with the care his grandmother was receiving in the Hospice Center; Joyce Cloutier, a retired medical technologist and avid volunteer in our community; Vivian Foe, a retired Bowling Green City Schools teacher, current substitute teacher in the city schools system and active community volunteer; Romanza Johnson, who is on the Hospice Board and serves as Hospice’s capital campaign chairwoman; Shirley Leath, who creates custom doll houses in Bowling Green and is involved in several community organizations; Martha Morgan, president of the Eloise B. Houchens Center board and an active community volunteer; Lynn O’Keefe, a retired St. Joseph Catholic School teacher and owner of The Gallery at 916 in Bowling Green; and Pearl Taylor, also a Hospice board member and devoted community volunteer.

Friends of Hospice will soon begin asking members of our community for donations to help pay off the residential Hospice Center. If you are asked, please consider a gift to Hospice. There are many ways in which you can help. You can designate a gift of any amount to benefit the Hospice Center. You can sponsor a room, complete with naming rights, in the Hospice Center. You can buy a brick or paver to be engraved to your specifications and placed in our new Hospice Memorial Garden. Order forms for the memorial garden have been included in this month’s Hospice newsletter. As we continue helping patients and their families find comfort and dignity in the difficult times that come with death, all gifts are greatly appreciated.

For more information about giving or becoming a Friend of Hospice, please call Hospice of Southern Kentucky Capital Campaign Coordinator Alicia Carmichael at (270) 782-3402 or (800) 344-9479. You can make a difference!

Did You Know?

Hospice is not just for cancer patients. Across the United States, approximately 50% of hospice patients have a cancer diagnosis. The top five non cancer diagnoses are End Stage Heart Disease, Dementia, Debility, Lung Disease, and End Stage Kidney Disease.

(Source—National Hospice and Palliative Care Organization)



The children’s play area
at the Hospice Center

Volunteer Spotlight

We have now begun using Volunteers at the Hospice Center on weekends. We have an amazing unit secretary during the week, June Coy, but needed a little extra help on Saturday and Sunday. The weekends can be a busy time with many family and friends visiting. Volunteers are helping answer the phone, directing family members, and assisting the staff in dealing with patient needs. Our volunteers come from many walks of life. Volunteers must complete 18 hours of training, have references checked and pass a criminal background check. Opportunities are available for both office volunteers and patient care volunteers. The next series of volunteer training classes will be in the spring. If you are interested in joining our dedicated group, please call 800-344-9479 or visit us on the web at www.hospicesoky.org



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Visit us on the web at:
www.hospicesoky.org



Save The Date • Sunday, February 21, 2010



Hospice Chocolate Festival