



Prairie News

Summer 2006

Dedicated to Enhancing the Quality of Life

Page 1

Hospice Volunteers In the Spotlight!



Volunteer Training January 2006

VOLUNTEER TRAINING

Hospice of the Prairie hosted a very successful volunteer training on January 24, 26 & 31, 2006. The training included the history and philosophy of hospice care, the physical, spiritual and emotional needs of the terminally ill, grief education and communication techniques. The training was coordinated by Carolyn Eichman and Nancy Renner.

A total of 36 individuals attended the training: **Vicki Dunham, Joe Dunham, Dale Eichman, Lorraine Kincaid, Trudy Hobbs, Marie Millershski, Judy Post, Walt Redburn, Janice Riedlinger, Isaac Sanchez, Joan Sangster, Ann Weigner** all of Dodge City. Also attending: **Maurine Moore, Aladine Watson, Ashland: Rachel Campbell, Cimarron; Lori Copeland, Ford; Angie Dewell, Fowler; Joyce Shirwise, Jetmore; Maxine**

Delissa, Meade; Linda Barnes, Lou Esplund, Minneola; Helen Hayse, Mullinville; Juanita Dinges, Rosalie Gerstner, Jo Lovitt, Phyllis Stull, Ness City; Mary Ida Heskamp, Susan Hines, Joan Indiek, Bernice Mages, Shirley Moritz, Spearville; & Judy Norton, Utica. Hospice of the Prairie staff members **Melora Schriener** and **Sonja Strecker** attended the training, along with long time volunteers **Anna Jean Minor, Ashland & Shirley Harris, Minneola.**

VOLUNTEERS MAKE A DEFERENCE

Hospice of the Prairie & Prairie Home Health has a super group of volunteers! Each volunteer brings a special and unique gift to our organization

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HOSPICE VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR

Each spring, Hospice of the Prairie honors one volunteer as the Volunteer of the Year. The selection is always difficult as we have been blessed by so many extraordinary volunteers at Hospice of the Prairie. At our Volunteer Appreciation Luncheon held in April 2006, our 2005 Volunteer of the Year was named. Mr. Bill Burton was selected for his dedication and loyalty to the hospice patients that he has served. Bill completed hospice volunteer training in 2003 and proceeded to make visits to patients and families. His understanding of the difficulties often experienced by caregivers is notable as he always encourages caregivers to take time to refresh and reflect on their role as caregivers while he can offer a friendly visit to the patient. Bill is a good listener to those that have the privilege of spending time with him. Veterans are of special interest to Bill as he enjoys serving our patients at the Kansas Soldier's Home. Bill is also very responsive to Hospice of the Prairie's requests for medication or equipment deliveries. The miles and time are given by Bill are great, but it is definitely Bill's compassion and friendliness that brighten patient's and families lives during a stressful time.

"Happiness lies within reach of those who reach beyond themselves."
~Unknown

VOLUNTEER INSERVICE

Hospice of the Prairie offers a monthly inservice to volunteers to broaden their awareness and knowledge of hospice related issues. The next inservice is planned for September and will cover a variety of interesting topics. Speakers for the September inservice will include Muriel Bonsall, a Certified Massage Therapist and staff from a local long term care facility. Ms. Bonsall will discuss the benefits of massage therapy for our patients and the long term care facility staff will share with us some tips on how to assist patients with dementia. The September inservice will be held on September 12, 2006 at 10am and presented again at 7pm. If you are interested in attending the inservice please call Carolyn Eichman, Volunteer Coordinator for more information at 620-227-7209 or 1-800-466-7209.

CHILDREN'S GRIEF GROUP

Hospice of the Prairie will offer "Adventure in the Land of Grief", a grief support group for kids ages 6-12. "Adventure in the Land of Grief" is designed for kids who have experienced the death of someone close to them and helps them understand the grief process and how to cope with the loss. Because it's a play-group, the children learn quickly that the sessions are fun and they get to do what they do best--create, pretend and play games! We are careful to balance the "grief work", which is our primary purpose, with plenty of fun and activities.

Each of the five sessions includes a play in which the children will participate and it's during this time that the main concepts of grief are presented. The children will learn concepts regarding common feelings in grief, dealing with our questions about loss, the importance of memories, allowing others to support us in grief and dealing with

guilt and fear. This group provides a rare opportunity to teach children healthy coping skills that they can use the rest of their lives.

"Adventure in the Land of Grief" is offered as an after-school activity in the Dodge City School District and in surrounding schools. The group is a community service of Hospice of the Prairie and is free of charge.

If you know of a child who could benefit from "Adventure in the Land of Grief", please contact Nancy Renner, Bereavement Coordinator or at 227-7209 or 1-800-466-7209.

HOSPICE FACTS AND FIGURES

Each year the National Hospice and Palliative Care Organization collects data from thousands of hospices to create a National Data Set (NDS). It is one of the few databases which captures information on all hospice patients regardless of payer source, thereby providing truly meaningful information. The 2004 NDS revealed a continued upward trend in number of hospice programs nationwide- from one program in 1974 to 2,312 in 1994 to 3,650 in 2004. Patients served by hospice continued to rise as well with 1,060,000 patients served in 2004, an increase of 110,000 people in just one year's time. In 2004, 6.2% of hospice patients were of Hispanic or Latino origin vs. 4.3% in 2003.

While many people still think of hospice as serving only cancer patients, the NDS represented the true picture of hospice with cancer diagnoses accounting for only 46% of hospice admissions in 2004. The top five "non-cancer" diagnoses for 2004 were as follows: End Stage Heart Disease, Dementia, Debility, Lung Disease and End Stage Renal Disease.

-information obtained from NHPCO 2004 National Data Set

GRANT FUNDING

Hospice of the Prairie and Prairie Home health recently received funding from three local programs that will help us better serve patients and the communities that we work in. The *Dodge City Area Women's Chamber of Commerce, Inc.* donated funds for the purchase of a pulse oximeter to be used by the nurses in providing care to patients. The *Community Foundation of Southwest Kansas* assisted with funding for the Children's Grief Group that is provided in local schools to educate children that have lost a loved one about the grief process. (see related article, pg 2) And a private local *Charitable Trust* funded the purchase of equipment that is used for educational presentations.

The grants provided a total of \$4500 in funding. Hospice of the Prairie & Prairie Home Health relies on such gifts to continue our mission of enhancing the quality of life in Southwest Kansas.



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VOLUNTEERS MAKE A DIFFERENCE

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and to the patients and families that we serve. Some volunteers prefer to visit patients while others enjoy helping in the office with mailings or other office work. Regardless of what kind of work the hospice volunteer provides, one thing is for certain- Hospice of the Prairie is a much better organization because of its dedicated group of volunteers. During the year 2005, hospice volunteers gave over 1000 hours of their time and drove nearly 13,000 miles on behalf of Hospice of the Prairie!

NEW STAFF

Hospice of the Prairie & Prairie Home Health would like to welcome the following new staff to our team:

Melora Schriner RN joins us as an "as needed" nurse, visiting both hospice and home health patients. Melora and her husband Curt have two children, Clinton and Lauren. In addition to working at Hospice of the Prairie, Melora works for USD 443. Melora spends her free time enjoying her children's activities.

Shannon Doom is our new Administrative Assistant. Shannon and her family have returned to Dodge City from Amarillo, Texas. Shannon and Frederick are the proud parents of Jaden, 5 months old. Shannon enjoys spending time playing with her new baby girl.

Shelly Pavlu RN is helping us with as needed visits to hospice patients in the Ness County area. Shelly also works at Ness County Hospital. Shelly and Jasen have 3 children, Jaiden, Audrey and Caleb. Shelly keeps busy taking care of her young family!

CHAPTER 2 GRIEF SUPPORT GROUP

Hospice of the Prairie will offer a six-session grief support group this fall in Dodge City. *Chapter Two* offers education about coping with grief in a supportive and accepting environment. Jerry Hodges, Pastoral/Bereavement Counselor presents a new topic during each session and discussion is centered around this topic. Session titles are: *Living With Your Loss, When Going to Pieces Can Help You Stay Together, Grief and the Holidays, Plugging the Holes of Loss, Where is the Hope in Loss?* and *A time to Remember.*

Chapter Two is for everyone who has experienced the death of a friend or family member and feels the need for additional support and information. The recently bereaved are welcome as well as those whose loss occurred years ago. There is no cost to attend.

If you are interested in attending *Chapter Two*, please contact Nancy Renner Bereavement Coordinator at 227-2709 or 1-800-466-7206.

ABATE GIFT BENEFITS PATIENTS



HOPHI staff members (left to right) Shannon Doom and Marcia Vazquez along with an Abate representative hold up shirts that were given to them after receiving Donation check for \$2,500.

ABATE District 7 has again shared their generosity with Hospice of the Prairie presenting a check to Hospice of the Prairie in the amount of \$2500 to be used to

provide comprehensive hospice services to those patients without insurance coverage. ABATE holds a major fund-raising event each year with proceeds going to a local non profit. For the last several years, Hospice of the Prairie has been the recipient of ABATE's gift. The members of ABATE have chosen Hospice of the Prairie because they have had personal experience with hospice serving their loved ones. Hospice of the Prairie is very grateful for ABATE's dedication to our organization. The gift from ABATE has provided many patients and families with hospice care, helping to ensure that compassionate end of life care is available to the residents of Southwest Kansas. ABATE is a motorcycle organization composed of motorcycle enthusiasts throughout the country. ABATE District 7 has demonstrated their continued concern for their communities by their generous gift to Hospice of the Prairie.

UPCOMING EVENTS

- Aug 24 Adult Grief Support Group
- Sept 4 Labor Day- Office Closed
- Sept 12 Volunteer Inservice
- Sept 14 Adult Grief Support Group
- Sept 20 Bereavement Luncheon
- Sept 28 Adult Grief Support Group
- Oct 10 Volunteer Inservice
- Oct 12 Adult Grief Support Group
- Oct 18 Bereavement Luncheon
- Oct 26 Adult Grief Support Group

Please remember that attendance at any of our groups is open to all persons in the community and is free of charge.

MEMORIALS...

Hospice of the Prairie, Inc. wishes to thank the following for their contributions in honor of their loved ones. Their generosity will help enable Hospice to continue to address the physical needs of our patients, as well as to assist with the spiritual and psychosocial needs that arise during this time for both the patient and family. We believe that this support enables life to be lived as fully as possible, even though dying is imminent. Memorials listed were received between January 1, 2006 and July 31, 2006.

Magdalen Ackerman

American Legion Auxiliary
Kevin and Jeannie Durler
Ed Durler
Melvin and Pat Habiger
Rob and Erica Oglevie
Maxine Pendergast
John and Barbara Schartz
Berenice Wagner
Daniel and Delynn Whitehair
Pauline Wolfe

Sarah Albright

USD #443
A.E. Bud Albright
Michele Baird
Roderick and Lorena Baker
Kenneth and Gayle Bowden
Richard and Annette Burghart
Timothy and Dee Ann Burke
Roger and Cindy Day
Karen Friend
Jill Downing Gibson
Clifford and Ona Hunter
Russell and Joyce Johnson
Julia Jones
Lee and Teresa Lancaster
Michael and Linda Sharpsteen
Monte and Patricia Swanson
Charles and Veryle Wycoff

Bernice Duval Allen

Ronald and Shirley Harris

Bevin Arbogast

Marian Hurtig

Shurley Burnett

Donald and Deanne Burnett
Raymond and Jean Demuth
Jack and Gatha Denton
Lorraine Edwards
Ronald and Ellen Frink
Pamelia Herrman
Margaret Klenke
Rick and Julie Melia
Phyllis Newell
Myron and Kay Nicholson
Grant Jr. and Bonnie Powers
Grant and Rhesa Webber
Katherine Zimmer

George "Dale" Carr

Wilma Carr
Larry and Connie Stieben
Charles and Joann Walker
Theodore Wittman

Norma Clark

Preferred Investments
Connie Beery
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Sheri Cook
Donald and Thelma Davis
Chester and Faye Fairbank
Harold and Juanita Hall
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Greg and Lynn Keck
Kyler and Barbara Knobbe

Clarence and Eva Lee
Donna Legg
Bernice Magouirk
Russell and Sandra Schartz

Lenora Colvin

Nona Mackey
Galen and Brenda McArthur
Darrell and Vicki Mobley
Ethelrita Stein
Mr. and Mrs. Peter Vogel
Julia Walsh

Marcella Donaldson

Warren and Trudy Marshall

Kathy Harshberger Dragoo

Ronald and Shirley Harris
Lou Melgren

Ann Ehrlich

Roy Bays
Jack and Jane Dalton
Karen Friend
Daniel and Norma J. Hays
Jean Koelling
Bill and Phyllis Quillen
Connie Ross
Douglas and Klaressa Smith
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Truman and Catherine Hicks
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Brice and Margaret Ramsay
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David Ross
Gregory and Jan Starks
Dan and Marla Stephens
Henry and Sharon Strecker
Roy and Lavon Timken

Marilyn Ferguson

Jack and Marletta Wilkens

Keith Griffith

Eileen Griffith
Robert Johnston
Frank and Della Zveglich

Bonnie Horacek

Janis Haynes

Russel Horton

William Austen
Clarence and Neola Herrman
Ethel Peterson
Tim Reynolds
James and Teresa Stuart
Russel and Victoria Wells

Alyce Huff

Animal Hospital of Dodge City
Darrell and Janet Ruder
Ilene Shelton
John and Susan Trombley

Maxine Kilgore

Leslie and Margene Bolen

Zelda Lener

Tom and Mary Sanko

Robert Lomberg

Centera Bank
Kenworth of Dodge City
USD #443
Drs. Ripple and Liebl P.A.
Williams, Strobel, Malone, Mason
Heath and Crystal Bamberger
Chris and Thelma Bamberger
Melvin Beltz
Eddie Berkamp
Robert and Barb Bergmann
Cary and Ruth Boeckman
Dennis and Marcie Bradford
Stephen and Lisa Carpenter
Rosse and Janice Case
J Scott and Deborah Chipman

" Each one of you helped so much in getting us all the equipment we needed, in helping with Dad's care, in educating us, in comforting us and in giving us a sense of understanding of what was happening. You are each special and unique and will always hold a spot in our hearts. For all that you did for us we thank you and for all that you do everyday for others in our situation we commend you."

Jimmy Crotinger
 Jack and Glatha Denton
 William and Dorothy Dixon
 Gary and Diane Ehrlich
 Denise Elwell
 Mr. and Mrs. Raymond Faygen
 Kermit and Nina Froetschner
 John and Stana Geier
 Vern and Vivian Goetz
 John and Twyla Harding
 Leonard and Margaret Herman
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Ronald and Shirley Harris

Helen McWhirt

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 Ben and Joan Phillips
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 John and Mary Schaffer
 W.W. and Virginia Schraeder
 James and Jan Scott
 Ralph and Dorothy Sees
 C. and Sandra Smith
 Janette Smith
 Marlin and Donna Spreier
 Walter and Gail Steinbring
 Junior and Elsie Steinbring
 Rodney and Betty Swaim
 Janice Thoben
 Glen Tongier
 Alan and Beth Vogel
 Rolland Werner
 John and Julie Wessel
 Don and Jean Winfrey
 Brian and Darci Winter
 Marsha Yeager

*"Hospice of the
 Prairie Thank
 you for your
 support in our
 time of loss the
 words, time and
 being there dur-
 ing our need.
 Also thank you
 for our red rose
 gift."*

Doyle Meadows

Phyllis Meadows

Henry Montgomery

David and Janet Boroughs
 Gerald and Kathryn Collins
 Jon and Michelle Herrmann

Thomas Naasz

Tony and Michelle Lampe
 Dephline Peintner
 Alan and Beth Vogel

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 Jim, Meredith & Laura Schraeder
 Bruce and Donna Siemson
 Mark and Renee Sinclair
 Marlin and Donna Spreier
 Junior and Elsie Steinbirng
 Arthur and Valerian Stiebe
 Donald and Geneva Turnquist
 Gene and Arnella Webb
 Ruth Wells
 Don Wiles
 Roger and Carla Wilson

Wilbert Schwartz

Larry and Cindy Brown

"I would like to thank Hospice of the Prairie staff for your concern and caring since my Mothers death. Although I didn't participate in all the group meetings. I always new for me and my family. Thank you so much. I really appreciated all of you."

Stephen Seibel

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 Dale and Ramona Smith
 Bernie and Debra Stegman
 Waldo and Germaine Stimpert
 Dorothy Weber

Wilma Smith

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 Sharon Smith

Margaret "Janie" Stein

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 Kevin and Julia Hanson
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 Kent Roth
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