

# Volunteer Matters

HOSPICE MINISTRIES, INC. A publication for the Volunteers of Hospice Ministries, Inc.

Winter 2006

## Cookies, Santa and Caroling Brightened the halls at the Ridgeland Location



Volunteers Dixie Myrick, Anna Ziemianski along with students Rebecca Ruelle (Ridgeland High), Courtney Stafford (Old Town Middle School) and Wilma Harry .

The Spirit of Christmas rejuvenated the air during the month of December at the Ridgeland location.

Starting with the first Saturday, volunteers decorated the Christmas trees at the nurses' station and Dayroom.



Ana Keith, Sandy Crook, Iva Shelton, Lucie Phillip, Linda Young and friend.



Students from The Prep Singers with Choral Director Juanaree Solop(far right).



Sweetness literally filled the air as the cookies were distributed by volunteers to the In-patient unit. Students from *The Prep Singers* joined by some singers from *Millsaps College* delighted the patients and their families with Christmas carols punctuated by a few **HO-HO-HO's** from **Mr. & Mrs. Santa Claus**.



(L to R)- Aaron Akers, Cathy Vernon, Lucie Phillip, Sandy Crook, Colleen Holloway, and Mamuel Geitner, Front row-(L to R): Rachel Sullivan, Wilma Harry, Dixie Myrick, Iva Shelton, Kathy Hilton and Linda Chase.

The next Saturday was the annual "Cookie Exchange". Led by volunteers Linda Chase and Colleen Holloway, volunteers steadfastly brought in over 200 dozen home-made cookies that were delivered to patients and their families.

### The Prep Singers & Friends



Prep Singers: (Bk row L to R):Danielle Brown, Choral Director Ms. Solop, Jane Armstrong, Wilson Brand, and Cole Lawler. Front row: Heather Palmer, Gwenette Corbitt, Mrs. Claus (Ella Weston) Santa Claus (Bob Weston) and Millsaps student Om Amni.

### Broadmoor Baptist Church of Madison's 12<sup>th</sup> grade Sunday School students put together Christmas Goodies Bags for patients and their families.



Sherry Winstead and Melinda Hendrix of Broadmoor Baptist Church show off the big bag of goodies donated by the students.

"One of the student's grand mother had stayed with Hospice Ministries during her illness and the family had been impressed with her care. The granddaughter suggested that the class give "Holiday Goodies" to the patients at Hospice and the class agreed", commented Sherry Winstead, Sunday school teacher.

### Ridgeland High School students Came A-Caroling



(ft. cr.): John Parker Elkins; (2nd:l-r): Echoe Griffith, Becca MacNeill, Melissa Myers, Kelsey Givan, Claire Felder, Alice Elkins (teacher.) (bk:l-r): Allen Marette (teacher), Jayson Newell, Brennan Walls, Ramsay MacNeill and Coach Elkins.

After their exams, students from Ridgeland High School dropped by during the Christmas week. With angelic voices, they sang Christmas Carols for the patients and staff. The patients and their families enjoyed their bright smiles, animated songs and best wishes for a "Merry Christmas".

## Ridgeland's Special Christmas dinner



Ellie Heitmann (Bereavement),  
The Grinch & Suzanna Hart  
(Bereavement Volunteer)

Not even "The Grinch" could stop the merriment at the annual "Christmas pot-luck luncheon".

Bells were rung and carols sung while the food was being explored.

Till everyone was full of fun and sweet things that made us want more.



RN Sherry Ingle and SW Wendy Reddick with courage in hand sang a few lovely duets without the help of a band.



Staff & volunteers sang Christmas Carols while everyone loaded up with the feast.

surrounded all those who are known to care.

While Santa stopped by just to say "Hi" and wished **"Merry Christmas to all and to all a good time"**.

Carols were singing through the air as the spirit of Christmas



## Special Thank You's & Announcements

This year's Christmas cards sent to the volunteers were extra special. They were donated by one of our dear patients who wanted to give back to the volunteers some of the kindness that Hospice Ministries has given her.



### Christmas Gifts Given Throughout the Year.



We would like to say a very special **Thank You** to **Christ United Methodist Church** and **First Baptist Church of Madison** for the flowers they donate to Hospice Ministries.



Also to **Bob & Jo Jones** who take the time to pick up and deliver these beautiful flowers to Hospice Ministries almost every Monday morning. The picture above came from the large donation of Poinsettias the Church sent the last week of December. These flowers made such a difference in the patient's rooms and halls of the Center. **Thank You.**



A **Special Thank you** goes to **Ella Weston** and her husband (Bob) for playing Mr. & Mrs. Santa Claus who brightened the day for our patients and their families.

Ella is seen here, as 'Witch Helda' for Halloween, with a few friends from the In-patient Unit as we delivered "Halloween Bags of Goodies" to the patients and their families.



(l-r) Ella Weston (volunteer); Shelia Carter, RN; Debra Priester (Coordinator of Inpatient Care), and RN, Beverly Coleman.

We would like to say **Thank You** to **Volunteer Billie Henry** for delivering the donated flowers from **Kroger on I-55** every week during the month of December to add to our patient's rooms. We would also like to thank her granddaughter **Haley Mason** for making hand made Christmas cards for all the staff and in-patients at the Ridgeland location.



### Welcome to the world "Little Jack Steadman".

Long time volunteer Robert Steadman received the most wonderful gift of all on Aug. 22, 2005 **John Brennan Steadman**. We congratulate the Steadmans and wish them a very Happy New Year!



# Trading Training Notes

## Ridgeland

### Welcomes New Volunteers

Jeri Flinn

We are **very grateful** for our new volunteers who joined us for the November 4th training class at the Ridgeland Center.

**Ana Keith, Cookie Sampson, Chris Turnipseed, Brenda Fuller, Sue Touns, Om Amin, Cynthia Moore and Belinda Boozier** joined us for a full day of intense training to become a hospice volunteer. Several have already been busy throughout the holidays working with administrative staff and visiting patients.

We would like to thank volunteer **Patty Watson** for directing a "loss workshop", and volunteers **Linda Young, Don Guillory, Ella Weston John MacGregor and Sandy Crook** for participating in a "volunteer mentor discussion panel" which allowed the new volunteers the opportunity to ask questions about experiences in the field.

The *next training class* is scheduled for **Saturday, February 4th, 2006** at the Ridgeland location. Please call **601-898-1053, ext 258** for registration or if you have any questions.



RN Gerry Gray-Lewis talks with the class about Hospice Ministries and the role of nurses and the volunteer.



## Up-coming Volunteer Training

### Ridgeland -

Next Volunteer Training class for the Jackson-Ridgeland-Metro area will be held on **Saturday February 4th** from **8:30a.m.- 5:00p.m.** at the Ridgeland Center.

For more information call: 601-898-1053, ext. 258 or 1-800-273-7724

### In-service training:

CPR Classes will be held on Jan. 19th and Feb. 16th from 8:00 a.m. - 3:00p.m. at the Ridgeland Center

Fee \$25 - *All volunteers are welcome to attend.*

*Please call by the Wednesday before class for registration . 1-601-898-1053, ext. 258*

### Natchez -

Will host Volunteer Training on **Saturday, February 11th from 9:00 a.m.- 4:00 p.m.** at 106 Jefferson Davis Blvd., Natchez, MS

Call 601-446-8000 or 1-800-680-0448 for more information.

### Brookhaven -

Offers individual training and will hold a training class sometime in February or March.

Call 601-835-1020 or 1-800-210-7775 for more information

### Southaven -

Currently is sponsoring individual training.

Call 662-342-9744 or 1-866-255-9992 for more information.

### Forest -

Currently is sponsoring individual training.

Call 601-469-2141 or 1-888-405-2216 for more information.

**TB test and health assessments** are being given at the Ridgeland Center **free** on Mondays from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Please call to make an appointment. **All volunteers must be up-to-date on their TB test before they can visit or sit with a patient. This includes In-patient volunteers.**



## Southaven Hospice Ministries News



### Gifts to hospice show what the love of one girl can do.

Wendy McKenzie



#### Seamstress knows personally the value of agency's care

Katelyn Hougiam, 8, shows off one of several gowns she sewed to benefit Hospice Ministries in Southaven.

After reading in her Colonial Hills Church bulletin that volunteers were needed at Hospice Ministries in Southaven, Katelyn Hougiam, (age 8) wanted to help.

Having recently had a grandparent to die while in hospice care in another state, Katelyn wanted to help in her community and honor the great care that her grandparent received.

Even at a young age, Katelyn has an astonishing talent for sewing and has gotten her 4-H troop involved in helping her sew gowns for hospice patients. She is truly an amazing young lady from whom we all can learn.

"Katelyn touched my heart so much that I wanted others to see that, if an 8 yr. old can make time to care and help others, we all can in some way." said Wendy McKenzie Social Worker for Hospice Ministries, Southaven.

\*Taken from the Desoto Appeal, 12/18/05



Katelyn, is seen here with her fellow 4-H'ers showing off some of the gowns the girls have sewn for Southaven Hospice Ministries.

Pictured are: (front , from left): Whitney Hodnette, Katelyn Hougiam , Corley Dawson and Audrey Eldridge; (back ,from left) Advisor Kelly Mullinaux and Anna Mullinaux.

### Charitable Hearts

Members of the **WMU at Parkway Baptist Church** in Hernando spent countless hours sewing new gowns for patients at Hospice Ministries recently. WMU routinely undertakes charitable projects that assist residents throughout the community. Thank You Ladies!

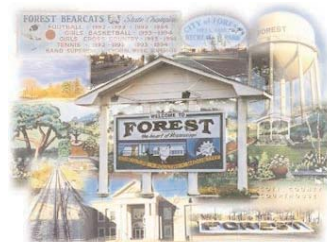


(from left): Oma Bain, Jonnelle Long, Connie Ray, Jewell Willcutt, Marie Bates, Juanita Kerley, Sarah Burns and Monica Berry.



## Forest Hospice Ministries News

### Forest Hospice Ministries Memorial Service Thursday January 19, 2006



Sister Camilla Hemann

We cordially invite you to attend a **Memorial Service Thursday, January 19, 2006 at 6:30 p.m. at Excel Community Learning Center 383 South 4<sup>th</sup> St., Morton, MS.**

Realizing the loss of a loved one is a very difficult experience. Our hospice team has planned an inspirational service honoring patients served during the past year. We hope that it will be comforting and uplifting to all and that you will enjoy seeing familiar faces as well as meeting new staff members.

It will be helpful to our planning committee if you will call our office to indicate if you and your family or friends may be joining us for the Memorial Service and reception. We look forward to seeing you on Thursday, January 19 for this service as we get together to remember what love can never forget.

*Sister Camilla*

**Please call 601-469-2141 or 1-888-405-2216 for more information or directions to the service.**



## Natchez Hospice Ministries News

### Hospice Ministries welcomes *New Volunteers*



Taneka Reed

Natchez held a volunteer training class on November 22nd. *Johanna Cochran, Nancy Corley, Cleo Campbell* and *Dixie Lewis* (long time volunteer) attended. They will be an asset to the hospice mission in Natchez. Nancy Corley will be the acting coordinator for the volunteers and will work closely with the Natchez staff in assigning volunteers to aid in patient care. We are very thankful to have them joining us.



Johanna Cochran



Nancy Corley



Cleo Campbell



Dixie Lewis  
Long time volunteer

## Brookhaven Hospice News

Iris Waldrop



### “Soup in a Jar”

#### A Gift of Love from our Volunteers

Brookhaven Volunteers worked very hard to prepare “Soup in a Jar” for all of our patients for Christmas. We made “Chicken Noodle” & “Country Bean Soup”.



Shown are Mrs. Jeanette Haag, Opal Smith, Faye Watts, Sherry Cross, Aline May, Julia Furr, and Peggy Castilan. All the jars were beautifully decorated and delivered to all our patients.  
**“Thank You Volunteers!”**

#### Special Thank Yous:

To **Mr. & Mrs. Jouce** for visiting patients in the nursing home.

To **Jackye** for all your help in the office

To **Ms. Sue & Ms. Darlene** for all your sewing.

To **Ms. Rachel** for making our tree beautiful at the Memorial Service with all our hand-made angels.

To **Ms. Dott & Ms. Gretcher** for cooking and helping with our food for the Memorial Service.

To all our volunteers we could not make it without you!

**Happy New Year!**

### February Happenings:

February is “*Soup & Cornbread*” month for our office. Prepare the soup of your choice. Bring your homemade soup & cornbread by the office any day in February and we will deliver it to the patients and their families. As a reminder we have canned vegetables in our pantry if you would like to use some...Just give Iris a call. **Please make sure your soup is frozen and have it dropped off at our office by 8:30 a.m.**



On Tuesday February 14, (for those non-romantic folks, that's *Valentine's Day*), we need cakes baked and delivered to our office. We will then deliver them to our referral sources. Please call Iris if you would like to sign up to bake a cake. **Please remember to place your cake on something that does not need to be returned.**

### March Happening:

We will be welcoming spring by beginning to collect items for our Easter baskets to be delivered to our patients and their families for Easter. We will try to fill the baskets with our usual items. If you have any questions please call Iris for details.



Hospice Ministries Volunteer Services.

**Have a wonderfully peaceful and happy  
New Year.**

**And over and above...  
filled to overflowing -  
a heart that gives him love.**

**Give me...  
ears that hear my brother's cry,  
eyes that see his need,  
feet that bear me to his side,  
hands, that heal and feed.**

**Today**

Every Wednesday, a service is held at 10:00 a.m. in the Chapel at the Ridgeland Center for all who like to attend. During the last service of 2005 Chaplain Richard Brogan stood and read this prayer as one for the New Year. I want to pass it on to you.



HOSPICE  
MINISTRIES, INC.

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*Life is a gift  
given to share with others  
but for a brief moment.  
Through sharing this gift,  
we learn about the process of dying.*

*We learn what is most important in life.  
Our conversations take on new meaning.  
Our body, mind and soul  
bond in companionship.  
And the process of living and dying  
touches us and those around us, forever.*

# Life Matters

At Hospice Ministries we believe that every human being has the right to a quality end-of-life experience.  
For each person, no matter the time left, **Life Matters**<sup>SM</sup>

Author Unknown

Take time to worship...it is the highway to reverence..

Take time to play...it is the secret of youth.

Take time to dream... it hitches the soul to the stars.

Take time to love...it is the one sacrament of life.

Take time to read...it is the foundation of knowledge.

Take time to think...it is the source of power.

Take time for work...it is the price of success.

Take time for friends...they are the source of happiness.

Take time to pray...it helps to bring God near  
and washes the dust of earth from your eyes.

“Take Time...”