

Volunteer Matters

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

Fall 2007

Fall, ... a time of Harvest and Thanks Giving



Fall for me, brings to mind a period of reflection, of the experiences and wonders I have witnessed during the year. The harvest of these experiences echo the changes which surround us just like the seasons. When I contemplate on the beautiful colors of fall's foliage, I am reminded of the colorful and compassionate volunteers of Hospice Ministries. They come from all walks of life and experiences, all here to ease the pain and suffering of our families and patients, any way they can. Maybe by a quiet smile or a listening ear, or to bake sweet smelling cookies or create warm snuggling blankets, but all here because they care. I am humbled by the way each gives of their heart, and grateful, for I know I am blessed to know each and everyone of them. I hope I can learn to give half as much to others as they do. All I can say to them is *Thank You... Thank you for all that you do, as Hospice Volunteers. You really do make a difference... in many lives, you have in mine.*

Happy Holidays, Jeri

Thank You, Thank You, Thank You ... Did I say Thank You?



To **Jeanette and Bob Prescott** for their continuous devotion in helping with the administrative paper work of Hospice Ministries. They are always ready to lend a helping hand.

To new volunteers **Jeanne Till, Margaret Brown and Barbara Laing** for helping with administrative forms and book work for different departments of Hospice Ministries.



Barbara Laing

To **Jack MacGregor**, for donating a computer to Hospice Ministries, and to his father, long time volunteer **John MacGregor**, who helps in the inpatient facility every morning



To **Gloria Butler** and her son **Patrick** for helping stuff the decorative Halloween/ Fall goodies bags for our patients. The goodie bags were donated by **Broadmoor Baptist Church 7th grade Sunday School**, class leader,

Kathy Keady.

To the wonderful group of volunteers who made sweet tasting cookies, brownies and goodies to stuff the Thanksgiving baskets for our patients (from left to right **Cheryl Mitchell, Vangie Hughes, Margie Boyd, Julie Cockayne, Ann Swartfager, Rene Bodin, Betsy Bodin, Mary Benson, Bonnie Zimmerer, Patrick Butler and Gloria Butler**). Not pictured is **Kathy Hilton**, who is seen in the photo at the right between **Betsy & Rene Bodin** wrapping the baskets.



The photo at the left shows **Margie, Julie, Patrick, Gloria, and Vangie** working

on the baskets while **Bonnie, Ann and Cheryl** stuff the goodies for the baskets in photo at right.



UMC Nursing students drop by to help in the gardens.



Annulette Dillon left, and Ashleigh Scott right, shovel up the old garden.

I was sitting at my desk one morning when I received a phone call from nursing instructor Rebecca Askew, from UMC, offering to bring some of her students by to work in the gardens. We were thrilled that these young people wanted to come and work along side our gardeners in October.

Taking a break to the right, are Nell Blankely, Rebecca Askew, and Anna Tucker.



Briana Novick seated on the right, along with a fellow student, work carefully digging up weeds between the stones.

Fall Volunteer Training class for Ridgeland



The Fall training class for Ridgeland was held on Saturday, November 10th & Sunday the 11th.

Chaplain **Nash Noble**, seen above, chats with the new volunteer trainees during the class. Her stories about her adventures while working with Hospice were enlightening and entertaining as she discussed the chaplains' role for Hospice.

Volunteer nurse, **Julie Cockayne**, at the right, checks trainee **Mary Clare Hogan's** blood pressure during the Fall training class.



Volunteers from different areas of hospice came to the training class to share their experiences as volunteers and answered questions. (L to R) **Jinx Carroll, Leo Heller, John Gibson, Carol Richardson, and Jeanette Prescott.**



Christmas Decorations and Arrangements In-service

Carol Duggar, flower arranging volunteer for the inpatient unit, and Sheila Cowart gave another free in-service on Christmas decorations and arrangements on Saturday, December 1st.

Carol and Sheila gave some wonderful tips to us about creating beautiful Christmas decorations for the holidays with natural items around your house. She is seen here reviewing the lovely arrangement made by Carol McKinnon, volunteer from McClean Fletcher Center. Thank You Carol and Sheila for all your fantastic tips on decorating for Christmas.



Decorating the Christmas trees at Ridgeland

A big thank you goes to the volunteers who gave up their beautiful Saturday morning to decorate our Christmas trees in the Inpatient facility and the Chapel. A special thank you goes to Volunteer **Dixie Myrick**, for being in charge of this event. Dixie is seen at the right arranging ornaments. She and her crew of volunteers did a wonderful job in creating picturesque trees for the facility.



Dixie Myrick



James Chapman and Yanita Rhodes

At the left, **James Chapman** along with **Yanita Rhodes** worked hard on the tree in the dayroom, while **Gloria** and **Patrick Butler**, in



the photo to their right created a beautiful tree in the Chapel.

Gloria & Patrick Butler

Special Needs for the Holidays



Our Food Pantry needs donations.

Many times we help out patients and their families with food items during the year when their expenses become too numerous. If you would like to donate

to the food pantry, please call **Patti Jones** at **601-898-1053**. Items to donate should be soft foods such as Jello, Ensure, puddings, soups, oatmeal, canned veggies, potted meats, tunafish, flour, corn meal, or any quick mix, cake mix, any thing that has long storage life. *Thank You.*

We need your help...

Volunteer Services needs your help in taking down the Christmas trees and decorations in January. This is the first time we are asking for help with this project. We will meet on **Saturday, January 5th at 10:00 a.m.** in the Day Room to dismantle the trees and put the decorations away for next year.

Please come and help us organize for next year. Cookies and coffee will be served.



Rebecca Roell helps with Christmas tree decorations for the 2007 trees.



T H C
MCCLEAN
FLETCHER
CENTER
HOPE. HEALING. PEACE.

Space Ship Play House donated to McClean Fletcher Center

This fall The McClean Center received a donation of a wonderful outdoor playhouse. It was donated by the Mack Family in memory of Bobby Mack. This playhouse will be a wonderful addition to our new center scheduled to be finished in fall of '08. Director Isabel Cordua on the right, and Medical Director Dr. Gerry Ann Houston on the left are checking out the new playhouse.



Life Changes Literary Competition 2007

Once again *The McClean Center* and the *Junior League of Jackson* held its *Life Changes Literary Competition* as an outreach into the community. It was promoted to the greater Jackson area along with communities served by Hospice Ministries. This year we had eight schools compete in the three categories poetry, short-fiction, and short non-fiction. The winners were recognized at a reception in the Chapel at Hospice Ministries on December 2.

Winners were Behnaz Ahmed, Mary Anne Bagley, Allie Gamble, Whitney Gilchrist, Elizabeth Jones, Clara Martin, Anastasia Varenita, Margaret Sullivan and Ann Stallings.



Save the Date!!!!

Plans are already underway for the 2008 McClean Center fundraiser to be held

February 21, 2008 at the beautiful home of **Bob & Beth Lloyd** in Jackson. Once again, volunteers are already busy organizing for another successful event. Music, a cocktail buffet and a silent auction are just part of this annual event that is the mainstay of fundraising efforts for the year. So save the date as the event is sure to be another fun filled evening. For more information please call **The McClean Center 601-982-4405**.



Gifts of the Season

As we tick off the days on our calendar and the holiday season kicks into full swing, panic often sets in. Trying to buy the "perfect gift" turns into the reality of buying "any gift." and the true meaning of the season is lost in the blur of decorating, shopping, shopping, baking, and wrapping presents.

There is an alternative to at least some of that. Hospice Ministries is sponsoring the Gifts of the Season, which offers participants the opportunity to memorialize or honor special people in their lives. For a gift of \$100, a white ceramic dove Christmas ornament will be personalized, and placed on the beautifully decorated Christmas tree in the Chapel at Hospice Ministries for the duration of the season. In early January the ornament will be mailed to the designated recipient as a special keepsake.

The *Gifts of the Season* offers the unique opportunity to keep alive the memory of the those no longer with us by memorializing them during the holidays, and honoring special people in our lives. Letting others know that their presence and actions have been a gift to you is particularly appropriate during the Christmas season, and is an especially meaningful gift. It also reflects the true meaning

of Christmas, for your gifts will keep on giving in the form of services provided by Hospice Ministries and the McClean Fletcher Center.

Levels of Giving



Dove of Peace

A gift of \$100. A ceramic dove will be personalized with the designated name and placed on a beautifully decorated Christmas tree in the Chapel at Hospice at Hospice Ministries for the duration of the season. The designated name will also be listed in the Gifts of the Season book on display in the Chapel. In early January the ornament will be mailed to the designated recipient.

Flame of Love

A gift of \$50.00. A candle will be placed in the Chapel and the designated name will be listed in the Gifts of the Season book on display in the Chapel for the duration of the season.

Shining Light

A gift of \$25.00. The designated name will be listed in the Gifts of the Season book on display in the Chapel for the duration of the season.

Please contact **Janie Reynolds at 601-898-1053 , extension 207** for more information about *Gifts of the Season*.



Open House for Natchez's new office building



November 8th at 1:00 p.m. **Kathy Sutton**, Nurse Supervisor of the Natchez office, cut the bright yellow ribbon on the new location for *Hospice Ministries of Natchez*.

The *Natchez Chamber of Commerce* furnished the yellow ribbon and took photos for the paper. Seen above are *Chamber members, Concordia Bank & Trust President Patrick Biglane and employees*, along with our staff and volunteers who all joined in on the ribbon cutting ceremony and celebration.



The Natchez Staff: **Emily Scott**, SW, **Lil Bramlette** SW, **Grace Woods** RN, **Lisa Bunch** Office Manger, **Linda Holden** CNA, **Cindi**

Galloway RN and Nurse Supervisor **Kathy Sutton** stand in front of their new sign.

Volunteers furnished the sweets for the dessert table for the celebration. Shown at

the left are volunteers **LouVerda Langston**, **Joanne Cocharan**, **Shirley Hughey**, **Alma Timmons**, **Janet Passman**, **Shannon Silversmith**, and



Barbara Sours standing behind their delicious gifts.



Having a good time! Pictured at the left are *Executive Director of Hospice Ministries*, **Belinda Patterson** and **Jimmy Allgood** from *Allgood Office Machines and Red Neck Adventures of Natchez*.

Seen at the right are Social Workers **Emily Scott** (left) and **Lil Bramlette**, (right) talking with *Chamber Board Member*, **Millicent Mayo** during the celebration.



New Volunteers for Natchez Hospice Ministries



Nurse **Cindi Galloway** (center, right) discusses the role of the hospice nurses with the trainees at the volunteer training class in

October in Natchez. Listening from left to right are **Carolyn Swidoll**, **Kay Miller**, and **Zerline King**.



New Volunteer for the Natchez Office, **Barbara Jager-Sours** from Colorado has already started working with families in the area.

Another new volunteer, **Janet Passman**, takes a moment out from her studies to smile for the camera.



Forest's Hospice News



New Volunteers for Forest



We are very excited about the new volunteers who attended the Volunteer training class in Forest on Friday, November 2nd. Pictured left to right are (standing) **Sister Beata Reiser** RN, new volunteer **Charlotte Phillips** seated, **Mary Atkins** SW, (kneeling), new volunteer **Sister Brenda Whetstone** (seated), Office Manger **Chanelle McBreath** (kneeling) and Volunteer **Kay McDaniels**. The Forest office is looking forward to working with their new volunteers.



By the time you receive this, we will have celebrated Thanksgiving but I never can express to you enough just how thankful I am for each of you. My life is blessed every day by each of you being so willing to give of yourselves for the benefit of others. "Too often we underestimate the power of a touch, a smile, a kind word, a listening ear, an honest compliment, or the smallest act of caring, all of which have the potential to turn a life around" - Leo Buscaglia.

I hope each of you and your family have a "Merry" Christmas. One that is filled with anticipation, wonder, hope and a trust that cannot be explained in human terms. I look forward to a New Year of serving together and to journey into the New Year with a great expectation of what God has in store for all of us.



Iris Waldrop,
Volunteer Coordinator



Brookhaven Events

Our annual bake sale was held on November 15. We had plenty to sell and also plenty of customers. We actually had people waiting when we got there to set up. One gentleman said when he read it in the paper he remembered that he bought from us last year and remembered how good it was. Thank you Volunteers and staff for baking for us.



Suzannah and Iris recently represented Hospice Ministries at a Health Fair on Saturday at **Grace Community Baptist Church**.

Pictured are **Suzannah Britt** and an attendee discussing Hospice Ministries services.

We welcome **Glenda Cameron** to our staff as a Social Worker. Glenda comes to us with a wealth of experience in the field of Social Work and upon her arrival, she hit the ground running (and hasn't stopped yet!)



Volunteers from **Vanilla Baptist Church** provided a complete Thanksgiving meal for several of our patients. We are thankful for all that they give to Hospice Ministries.

We welcomed three new volunteers to the Brookhaven office. **Emilee Cutler, Sylvia Keene, and Mary George Collins**. Mrs. George is actually a long-time volunteer that moved from Natchez to Brookhaven and was willing to attend training again to refresh her memory and get records up-to-date. Thanks to all of you for your time.

Volunteers have been working diligently on Christmas trees for our patients. They are beautiful and will add a little extra Holiday Cheer!



Pictured at the left are volunteers **Peggy Castilase, Judy Robicheaux and Faye Watts** working on the trees.

Right is **Mrs. Faye Watts** hanging one of the completed trees.



Up-Coming Events for this winter:

Looking ahead, *February is our annual soup month*. Bring your homemade soup to the Brookhaven office any day in February that is convenient. Please don't forget that we do have some canned goods in our food pantry that you are welcome to use.

Now is a great time to remind your friends and family that we always have a need for volunteers. We will be having a volunteer training in the spring and it would be a great time to get started!

Hospice Ministries' has a new branch office in McComb

We are eagerly anticipating the official opening of our new office in McComb. We are excited about the opportunities this will bring to Hospice Ministries. This has been something we have wanted to do for a long time and it has been amazing to see how it has all come together.

Hospice Ministries of McComb
1405 Aston Avenue
McComb, MS 39648
601-249-3852
Toll Free 1-877-249-3852
Fax: 601-249-3863



Ridgeland's Up coming Volunteer Events and In-services

December

Saturday-15th: Cookie Exchange:
 10:00a.m. -12:00p.m. in the Dining Room.
 200 dozen Cookies need to be baked to
 stuff in Christmas boxes. Please contact
 Linda Chase at 601-977-9412 if you would like to help.



Wednesday-19th: "Working with Challenging Patients"-
In-Service: 12:00 p.m. - 1:00p.m. Formal conference
 room. *Contact Colleen Freeman at*
 601-898-1053 if you would like to attend.



January

Saturday-5th: Taking Down the Christmas Trees'
Decoration 10:00 a.m. - 12:00p.m. Help is really needed
 to take down the decorations and put them away. *Contact*
Jeri 601-898-1053.

February

January, continued
Wednesday-23rd: "The Art of Self Care"-In-Service:
 12:00 p.m. - 1:00 p.m. Formal conference room
 Contact Colleen Freeman at 601-898-
 1053.



Saturday & Sunday-2nd & 3rd:
Volunteer training Ridgeland 8:30 a.m.- 5:00 p.m. &
 1:00p.m.-5:00p.m.
 Formal conference room. Contact *Jeri 601-898-1053*

Tuesday-5th: Fat Tuesday: Mardi Gras; 8:00 a.m. -
 9:00a.m. Celebrate Mardi Gras with Cafe-au-Lait and
 home-made beignets in the Dining Room

Saturday -9th: Valentine Goodies Bags: 10:00 a.m. -
 12:00p.m. Help stuff or bake goodies for Valentine bags.
 Dining room. Contact *Jeri 601-898-1053.*



**HOSPICE
 MINISTRIES, INC.**

450 Towne Center Boulevard
 Ridgeland, MS 39157

*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.*

*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**SM*