



## Volunteers fill the "Fall" holidays with "Goodies"

October brought colorful "Fall Festival Bags" to our home patients and inpatients. Candy donated by "**Hall Ladies Group**" from **First Baptist Church of Madison**, along with home made cookies and snacks from Hospice volunteers, were packaged in each colorful bag for our patients.



Volunteers from L to Rt: Mary Clare Hogan; Lucy Hite; Bob Perry; Barbara Thompson; Vangie Hughes; Kellum Wilson; Susie Cook; Colleen Simmons; Ronald Green; Jan Sorrels.



Volunteers seen in the photo to the left, are busy with the creation of the "Fall Festival Bags". Some of the treats were difficult to put in the bags for they begged to be tasted.

### "Pot Luck" Luncheon

**Administrative Volunteers working on Wednesday November 19th**, were invited to join the staff for a "**Pot Luck**" Luncheon, on their normal work day. Chaplain Nash Nobel and Volunteer Jerry Cauthen, seen at the left, were busy filling up their plates with all the good dishes brought by the staff. Nurse Margie Slade and volunteer Dixie Myrick seen at the right, picked up some very tasty dishes.



Volunteer Jeanette Prescott at the left, sits and chats with staff while other volunteers in the background are enjoying their food. New HR manager Sheryl McDurmon is seen filling her plate. In-home nurses Margie Slade, Sandi Phillips and Marie Felton laugh with Brother Richard Brogan at their table.



In-home nurses Margie Slade, Sandi Phillips and Marie Felton laugh with Brother Richard Brogan at their table.



November brings the Thanksgiving Holidays to most of us. Our volunteers from Ridgeland wanted to bring a little of this holiday spirit to our patients. So they brought cookies, brownies and candy to stuff in Thanksgiving baskets for the patients. Over 60 dozen cookies and brownies were brought in by volunteers to add to the baskets. Some volunteers, unable to participate with the stuffing, brought cookies in earlier during the week, to ensure there would be plenty.



Volunteers Kellum Wilson and John Wheat preparing the baskets for stuffing.



A special thank you to volunteers **Betsy & Rene Bodin** (left) who over the years have used their speciality of working with wrap to wrap up the baskets after they have

been stuffed full of goodies. Also I would like to give a special **Thank You** to **Cheryl Mitchell** for



John Wheat, & Cheryl.

agreeing to chair this event. Cheryl and volunteer **Ronnie Green** are seen in the photos on the sides giving door prizes to those whose names were drawn after the event.



Betsy Bodin, Ronnie and Cheryl



Bob Perry, Ronnie & Cheryl



Bonnie Zimmerer and Ronnie Green laugh over her use of an abbreviation for her name while Cheryl reaches for her gift.



Attending the event were:

(L to R, back row) Kellum Wilson; Ronnie Green; Bob Perry; Patrick Butler; Gloria Butler; Rene Bodin; John Wheat; (ft. row R to L Nancy Vickery; Karen Hilton; Bonnie Zimmerer; Betsy Bodin and Event Chairman, Cheryl Mitchell.

On Monday the ladies who deliver the flower vases also delivered the baskets to the inpatients. Pictured at the right are volunteer **Susan Halton** and guest **Ashley Jerman**, from Missoula, MT. and volunteer **Julianne Summerford**.







# Saying Good-bye to old friends...

# Car Donation Benefits Hospice Ministries, Inc.

## Retirement...bitter sweet

October is an exciting month bringing with it the bright colors of change for the seasons. But it was a bitter sweet month for us, we had to say good bye to some wonderful friends, Margie Scott-DeVoss from the Finance Department and long time volunteer Marion Steven. After 14 years with Hospice Ministries, Margie chose to retire this fall. Honoring her request that no formal reception was to be given, we chose to honor her with gifts, our thoughts and prayers instead. We shall miss her sweet voice and determined spirit, not to mention her talents for decorating and poem writing. We heartily wish Margie and Marion many years full of fun and excitement in their retirement.



Margie DeVoss



Director of Support services stands behind the door with Charlie Knighton of Pinnacle Medical Solutions

A 2000 white Toyota Avalon XL, complete with a sunroof and leather interior has been donated to Hospice Ministries, Inc. by Charlie Knighton, owner of Pinnacle Medical Solutions. The Southaven, MS based company specializes in diabetic medical solutions.

Knighton, a resident of Jackson, was prompted to make the donation because "I am always looking for ways to give back to the community," he said. "In my business I deal in health-care, and especially with non-profit agencies and organizations," he explained. "That has allowed me to see firsthand the work these groups are committed to doing every day. Witnessing that commitment to help others is what prompted me to make the donation."

Hospice Ministries, Inc. was selected as the benefactor because of Knighton's knowledge of the work done there. "Diabetes is a complicated medical condition," he said, "and it is destructive if it is not managed. I know that Hospice Ministries provides a great service to people in need, and what they give is beyond just the medical. Patients also receive emotional and spiritual nourishment from people who really care. They make a difference in people's lives. I wanted to do what I could to support their work."

"We are extremely grateful to Mr. Knighton and Pinnacle Medical Solutions for this donation," said Belinda Patterson, Executive Director of Hospice Ministries, Inc. "It is always uplifting when your work is validated by others," she said, "but especially when that expression of appreciation also allows us to expand our reach to help others. After much discussion, we decided to sell the car and designate all of the proceeds for patient care." Pictured at the right are the Knighton family: Charlie, Abbie, Celeste and Amy.



## Vivian

The cool November wind blew another retirement our way, as



Medical Records Vivian Fortenberry, (otherwise known as the "Chart Police"), retired. During the last QAPI meeting she handed over her magnifying glass and her "Police" badge to Martha Griffin, to make sure we fill in our forms correctly and in the right places! After the meeting she was presented with a bag of full of "gag gifts" for her hobby of hunting. This theme was



carried through during the reception in the dining room decorated by volunteer Sherry McColgin and



Bereavement Coordinator Jean Nesbit.



Executive Director, Belinda Patterson guided Vivian to sit in her "camouflage hunting chair of

honor" where she opened her gifts from Hospice Ministries and coworkers. Laughter and tears from everyone highlighted the afternoon.



Working everyday closely together as a staff, we have strengthened our relationships and formed long lasting bonds of friendship. While we celebrated Margie's and Vivian's retirement, our hearts grew heavy knowing how much their laughter and advice would be missed. "Good luck to both, we will miss you."

In this season of Thanksgiving, we would like to send some **Very Special Thank You's** to the following people for their donations to Hospice Ministries:



- Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church - blankets
- Christ United Methodist Church - Flowers
- First Baptist of Madison- Flowers
- Halls Ladies group: First Baptist of Madison- Candy
- Bethan Read - Computers & Equipment
- Evelyn Hinton - Pine Straw

## Hospice Ministries: Natchez

### "Pot Luck" Luncheon for Staff and Volunteers

Volunteers of the Natchez office attended a Quarterly Meeting and a "Pot Luck" luncheon on November 12th. After the meeting everyone, including staff, filled up with the delicious food. Laughter and good ideas spilled into the air as an event for celebrating Christmas with our patients and the date was decided. We will hold another "pot Luck" luncheon (surprised...?) on December 17th. Immediately after the luncheon we will stuff "Christmas Boxes" for our patients. Everyone who would like to participate please call Jeri at 1-800-273-7724. Be sure to bring plenty of cookies and an ornament for a Christmas box. Johanna Cocaran will chair this Christmas event. At the right she shows Cindi Galloway, RN, her latest Memory Book creation.



Volunteers and staff of the Natchez Office included: (back row) Shirley Hughey; Lou Verda Langley; Phillip Kunkle; RN Grace Woods; Nurse Supervisor Kathy Sutton; Danny Freeman; Kay Miller; Charlotte Kunkle; Zerline King; Carol Swillon; Office Manager Jessica Dewitt; SW, Stephenie Carr; (Front Row) RN Cindi Galloway; CNA, Linda Holden; Johanna Cochran; and Alma Timmons.



Seen filling their plates are from left to right: Charlotte Kunkle, Jean Passman, Janet Passman and Alma Timmons.



### Volunteer Training

September 20 brought in new volunteers for Hospice Ministries in Natchez, Ann Johnson and Danny Freeman. Ann is a retired nurse who recently moved into the Natchez area. Danny, a retired employee of the criminal justice system, is a long time resident of Natchez. Joining the Volunteer program also is Florence Hargis. Florence lives in Natchez and plays the Harp. We look forward to hearing her musical talents.



### Up-Coming events:

**December 17th, 11:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.**  
**Volunteer Pot Luck Luncheon and Making Christmas Boxes for patients.**  
**Johanna Cochran, Chairman.**  
**Please call office (601)-446-8000 or 1-800-273-7724**  
**If you would to join in the fun.**



## Volunteer training In Ridgeland



L to R: Dense Nicodemus, Yanita Rhodes, Terrie & Dallas Spurk, James Chapman, Hobson McGehee and Monica Prechter

November 8th & 9th ushered in twelve trainees for the Ridgeland office. From entertainers to retired hospice nurses, this group asked a lot of questions of our volunteer panel seen in the photo to the left. We were very excited to have



in our group of volunteers Beverly Coleman who has been an inpatient nurse here at Hospice Ministries for quite a number of years. Beverly was involved in a severe car accident last summer and is in recovery. She has offered her services to help Hospice

Ministries as a volunteer until she is able to return to work. Home nurse Margie Slade came by to give some pointers on the nurse's role in working with home patients.



We were lucky to have Charlotte



Robinson stop by to chat with us about grief. Charlotte was our *Faith In Action Coordinator*, but now works as a volunteer in the inpatient facility on the weekends. And of course we are always very grateful for the ever popular Donna Evans from our Social Work Department. Donna really

knows how to bring a point across through the gift of laughter. Thank you all for contributing and advising us.



## McClellan Fletcher Center Heartstrings Gala 2009



Please mark your calendars...plans are well underway for the 2009 Heartstrings Gala. The event will be held Thursday February 12, 2009 at the home of Sally and Darden North. Once again we will have an evening of fun festivities including a silent auction and delicious food. The Gala will be focusing on The McClellan Fletcher Center's 10th anniversary. We hope you can join us in our celebration. For more information or tickets please call **601-982-4405.**





**Thank You Brookhaven Volunteers**

“During this time of Thanksgiving I would like to thank all of our wonderful volunteers. We are so very thankful for all you do! With all the talk of a struggling economy, national and international woes, I am so blessed to have such a committed, compassionate group of people that are willing to continue to give, no matter the circumstances.”

*Iris Waldrop, Volunteer Coordinator, Brookhaven*



Elizabeth Huey holds volunteer Faye Watts's hands during one of her visits.

Recently Volunteer **Faye Watts**, a faithful visitor to patient **Elizabeth Huey**, agreed along with Ms. Huey to be in an article for the local Brookhaven paper. We deeply appreciate their efforts in showing how much volunteer visits mean to both the patient and the volunteer.

What a gift of love for this time of Thanksgiving. Faye sees several other patients and is one of our best volunteers. Thank you Faye for your dedication to our mission.

Another wonderful volunteer is **Rachel Bullock**. She recently delivered 100 handmade angels to our office. These will be placed on our Christmas tree at our Memorial Service on December 1st. One angel will be given to each family to hang on their trees at home. Mrs. Rachel spent over 200 hours making these angels from vintage handkerchiefs. They are absolutely beautiful and mean so much to everyone who sees them. Knowing that they were made with the love from Mrs. Rachel's heart will touch everyone's heart. Mrs. Rachel has been a long time volunteer with Hospice Ministries. For over ten years she has been creating these gifts of love for the Brookhaven Office. Thank you Mrs. Rachel, for your continued dedication to our ministry and your wonderful gifts of love for our patients.



Volunteer Rachel Bullock with her gifts of love for our patients.

Thank you to each of you who responded to our request for material for gowns. We are keeping Mrs. Sue very busy.

We would like to thank the **Exchange Club** of Brookhaven for allowing Iris to speak at their meeting on Thursday, November 20th in observance of **National Hospice Month**. We really appreciate these opportunities to talk with organizations within the community. If you see a member of the Exchange Club please let them know how much we appreciate those opportunities.

**In-Service on Abuse and Neglect.**

Following the Hospice Ministries corporate guides lines which comply with the **Mississippi Vulnerable Adults Act of 1986**, the Brookhaven office conducted an in-service on **Abuse & Neglect** for our staff and volunteers. Abuse and neglect are serious problems in our communities for people who are unable to take care of themselves and Hospice Ministries designed this in-service to help all of us to become better stewards while working with others in our communities.



Volunteers Joyce Hughes, Faye Watts, and Phyllis Ratcliff waiting to attend the new Abuse & Neglect in-service conducted at the Brookhaven office.

**Trais Tadlock, Joyce Hughes, Faye Watts** along with several others and **Chaplain Charles Guy** attended the Abuse & Neglect in-service. Many questions were asked and most walked away with a new perspective on how to spot abuse and/or neglect within our communities.



**Brookhaven & McComb Up-coming Events:**  
**Sunday, December 7th**

Iris will have the opportunity to speak at **Wanilla Baptist Church** and share with the entire church family about our ministry. We welcome every opportunity to do this, so please remember this as you prepare your calendars for the new year.

**Cookie Swap:** If you are able to participate in both please do but please try to participate in one.

**Tuesday, December 16th**

**Cookie Swap for Brookhaven:** at 10:00a.m.

Brookhaven office. Please bring 4 dozen homemade cookies which will be delivered to our patients.

**Tuesday, December 18th**

**Cookie Swap for McComb:** at 2:00 p.m.

McComb office. Please bring 4 dozen homemade cookies which will be delivered to our patients.

**Tuesday January 13th, 2009 @ 8:30 a.m.**  
**Volunteer Training**

“It is hard to believe that it is time to wish each of you a Merry Christmas, but it is upon us. I hope you have a joyous holiday season and even greater blessing in the New Year 2009!”

*Iris*



# Handling the Holidays

By Darcie D. Sims, Ph.D., CHT, CT, GMS

A nationally certified thanatologist, a certified pastoral bereavement specialist, and a licensed psychotherapist and hypnotherapist.

From *Grief Inc.*, *Lighting the candle of Hope*



It's holiday time and the world is filled with music, tinsel and glitter. Everything seems to sparkle and there is always so much to do! It is a festive time of year, filled with joyous occasions and family gatherings. But when your family circle has been broken by death, the holidays may only serve to remind you of the empty space at the table, the hole in your heart.

The holidays are a time when the past and the present collide. We either try to recreate the wonderful memories of our past or to clean the slate completely and start all over again. When the family fabric has been torn apart by death, the holiday season becomes one of the most difficult experiences the bereaved must endure. It's a season often filled with despair and renewed grief. Yet, the holiday season can also be a time of reflection and renewal, of recollection and reconnection.

Handling the holidays isn't a matter of eliminating the pain, but rather how we manage the pain we experience. The most important thing to remember is that this is YOUR TIME and YOUR GRIEF and DO WHATEVER IS COMFORTABLE AND "RIGHT" FOR YOU. Your family and friends want to help and perhaps the best gift they could give you is the love and patience you need to help you through this season.

**The following are offered as suggestions for handling holiday grief:**

***Become Aware Of Your Feelings And Acknowledge Them.*** Tears, depression, anger, guilt and loneliness are all a natural part of grief. These feelings may return again and again during the holiday season as well as other "earlier symptoms" you may have experienced. Once you can acknowledge them and embrace them, they will dissipate more quickly. Do not be afraid or ashamed of your emotions.

***Be Gentle With Yourself.*** Be kind and patient. Let go of the oughts and shoulds. Try to forgive yourself for surviving the death of your loved one. Let go of the guilt you may experience if you happen to find yourself enjoying a moment or two of the holiday season. Your loved one enjoyed the holidays with you, let those memories surround you now.

***Make Lists.*** The bereaved often can't remember things, so make lists of everything you have to do. Ask yourself the following questions about everything on your list:

- ö Do I really enjoy doing this?
- ö Do others expect me to do this?
- ö Can someone else do this?
- ö Will it still be the holidays without this?
- ö What would happen if it didn't get done?

Change Things. See what happens if you would:

- ö Have dinner at a different time or place
- ö Attend a different church service
- ö Open presents at a different time
- ö Ask others to help or take over hosting the holidays
- ö Send a New Year's note instead of holiday cards

***Work At Lifting Depression.*** Take responsibility for yourself. We cannot wait for someone else to give us joy. Think of things you enjoy and give yourself a treat. Create your own healing environment. (Hot Chocolate, Soup, Cookies, No Veggies!)

***Share Your Holidays***

- ö Visit a nursing home or day care center
- ö Volunteer at a soup kitchen or shelter
- ö Invite a child to go for a walk or sledding
- ö Take a friend shopping

***Take Care Of Yourself.*** Eat right. Exercise (at least watch someone else). Gift wrap some broccoli. Get plenty of rest. Be nice to yourself. If nothing else, JOG YOUR MEMORY!

***Pass On Family Treasures.*** If you have special items of your loved ones that other family members would treasure, wrap them up and give them this holiday season. Pass on the treasures rather than keep them locked away in a box.

***Buy Your Loved One a Gift.*** Give it away to someone who would not otherwise have a gift. When love is shared, it grows.

***Be thankful for something.*** Think of all the things your loved one shared with you...love, happiness, joy, laughter.

***No light that was born in love can ever be extinguished***

## Volunteer Up-Coming Events

More on Volunteer Communication page on website

### December:

#### Ridgeland:

Friday December 5th: 9:00 a.m.

#### Parade Mississippi State Hospital

Call Kevin or Karen to participate, 601-898-1053

Saturday December 6th 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 noon

#### Christmas Trees Decorating

Good cheer and creative talent abound... please join us

Call Jeri to sign up. 601-898-1053. 258

Saturday December 13th 10:00 a.m. - 12 noon

#### Cookie Exchange

Delicious party to make cookie boxes for patients and their families.

200 dozen cookies are needed.

Call Linda at 601-977-9412 if you would like to participate.

#### Brookhaven:

Monday, December 1st:

#### Memorial Service

State Room in Brookhaven.

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

Tuesday: December 16th:

Cookie Swap: 10:00 a.m.

Brookhaven Office

Call 601-835-1020

#### McComb:

Thursday: December 18th:

Cookie Swap: 2:00 p.m.

McComb Office

Call 601-835-1020

#### Natchez:

Wednesday: December 17th:

Cookie Connection & Christmas luncheon: 11:30 - 1:30

Natchez Office ; Call Johanna Cochran: 601- 446-6102 or

Jeri at 1-800-273-7724

**Happy NEW YEAR!**

### January 2009

#### Ridgeland:

Saturday: January 3rd:

Take Down Christmas trees; 10:00 a.m.

Dayroom Ridgeland office

Call Jeri 601-898-1053, ext 258

Sunday: January 18th -

Volunteer Quarterly Meeting & Volunteer "Pot Luck"

Get-together. 3:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Call Jeri for more details or check website.

Wednesday: January 21st

In-service: "Kids need help too" 11:30 a.m.

Isabel Cordua, Director of Support services

RSVP: lunch will served.

Saturday: January 31st:

Volunteer Training: 8:00 a.m. - 5:30 p.m.

Call Jeri for more details: Continues on Sunday Feb.1st

### January 2009 continued

#### Brookhaven:

Tuesday January 13th : 8:30 a.m.

#### Volunteer Training

Call 601-835-1020

### February 2009

#### Ridgeland:

Sunday February 1st:

Volunteer training Continued 12:30 p.m.-5:30 p.m.

Saturday February 7th:

Valentine's Bags: 10:00 a.m.

Ridgeland; Dining Room

Call Jeri 601-898-1053: Hearts are needed

#### Natchez:

Wednesday : February 11th:

Valentine Bags: 10:30 a.m.

Call Jeri for more details : 1-800- 273-7724

Check out the Communication Page on our website for more

information on these events and for the latest requests, and

announcements for Volunteer Services.

www.hospiceministries.org.

Under -Volunteer Service/Volunteer Log-In/Communication page

If you do not remember how to use the Volunteer Log-In call or e-mail Jeri.

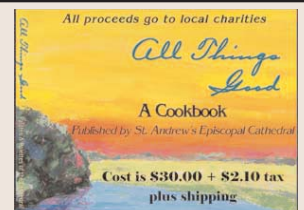
*The Holidays are here!...*When looking for a gift please don't forget about the two cookbooks on sale to benefit Hospice Ministries.



**Cooking with  
Cox's Army II  
\$22.00**

The Cox family is giving back through the development of a cookbook with all proceeds going to Hospice Ministries. This cookbook is full of four generations of family favorite recipes, that will take you through breakfast, lunch and dinner as well informal gatherings or formal events.

**All Things Good Palates &  
Palettes of the Cathedral  
Parish of St. Andrews  
\$30.00  
601-354-1535**



A coffee table quality cookbook with over 260 pages of recipes, picturesque works of art from Mississippi artists, and a satin ribbon bookmark, has been created to benefit The McClean Fletcher Center along with other outreach programs of St. Andrews.

Check our website for more information,  
www.hospiceministries.org.



# Ridgeland Buzz...

## Caregivers' Appreciation

November was *Caregiver Appreciation Month*. In honor of our caregivers, Hospice Ministries hosted an Open House for them. Social Workers **Patti Jones, Wendy Reddick** and **Donna Evans** hosted the reception for our caregivers. Refreshments were served and they were presented with a "Caregivers' Poem" along with a gift bag full of gifts



Social Workers: Patti Jones; Wendy Reddick; and Donna Evans

and written material about "Getting Through the Holidays" and "Handling Stress". Lovely table top decoration were provided by volunteer **Carol Duggar**. The photo at the right shows one of her creations.



## Being a caregiver Means...

*You will never be bored.  
 You will always be frustrated.  
 You will be surrounded by challenges.  
 So much to do, so little time.  
 You will carry immense responsibility  
 and very little authority.  
 You will step into people's lives and  
 you will make a difference.  
 Some will bless you.  
 Some will curse you.  
 You will see people at their worst--  
 and at their best;  
 You will never cease to be amazed at  
 people's capacity for love,  
 courage, and endurance.  
 You will see life begin--and end.  
 You will experience resounding triumphs and  
 devastating failures.  
 You will cry a lot.  
 You will laugh a lot.  
 You will know what it is to be human  
 and to be humane.*

Author Unknown

## News from the Marketing Department...

This fall has been busy for our marketing department. **Karen Denham** and **Kevin Jones** have been popping up everywhere with events here or at different locations around the state. They would like to thank volunteers **Dixie Myrick, Alice Rice** and **Mary Clare Hogan** for their help with several of their events over the past few weeks. In November we hosted the HAPS (Healthcare Activities Planning for Seniors) meeting, where area activity directors share ideas to make life better for seniors in the area. The speaker was **Wes Holsapple** owner of the *Fondren Trolley*.



Kevin & Karen introducing the speaker, Wes Holsapple to their guest at the HAPS meeting.

Those represented at the luncheon were: Baptist Adult Day Care; Ridgeland Pointe Assist Living; Azalea Christian Manor; Senior Care/Crossgates Rankin Medical; Comfort Keepers; Jacquit Nursing Home and St Dominic's New Directions.

Kevin & Karen would like to express their gratitude to our volunteers for their help with the many events of the past few months or those working on the float for the parade on Dec. 5th..

## The Gardener's Corner



Bethan Read with the big red potato.

Gardener Bethan Read displays the red potatoes she dug up from one of our gardens a few weeks ago. She doesn't know if she will try to cook it or if she will try to root it. She ended up finding several, but this one was the largest.

The gardeners still meet on Monday, but will be having some special work days during the winter, if you are interested in joining give Bethan or Jeri a call.

We would like to send a special thank you to Dixie Myrick, Bethan Read, Rebecca Allen and Vesta Draper for raking up pine straw for the gardens. The pine straw will be a nice gift over the winter.

## *Pause and Give Thanks*

*Wherever you find yourself today,  
Whether filled with joy or wrapped in pain,  
Remember to pause a moment and give thanks  
For no other event in our history and time,  
Can change our lives like the birth of Christ - so Divine.  
His love never failing, and His Presence always near  
The greatest wonder in Heaven on Christmas did appear.  
God's gift full of grace that brings life, love, and hope,  
Can be unwrapped by us all - changing life's scope.  
For when we invite His life into our hearts,  
No love is greater than that He imparts.  
So wherever you find yourself today,  
Remember to pause and give thanks.*

Carolyn Lynn Schwartz



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<sup>SM</sup>***