



Volunteer Services' Winter Quarterly Meeting & Get-Together

We were looking forward to a crisp cold Sunday in January for the homemade soup and desserts at our **Winter Quarterly Meeting and Get-Together of 2012**; Mother Nature had a different idea. I guess we should have changed our theme to a tropical island or sandy beach as the temperature rose to the mid 70s for our event. Yet the soup was delicious, and the decorations outstanding. It may have been hot outside but inside we were all very cozy and happy with our wintery illusions of cold weather and treats for the day.



enjoy the many treats brought by

Volunteers. We covered the business meeting of Volunteer Services quickly so that we could adjourn to the day room to



Volunteers. Recipes were available for those who wanted to exchange them. A special thank you goes to **Sonya Lee** and **Anita Jemison** for chairing the food committee and for the lovely "Wintery" decorations. Volunteers brought extra soup for our pantry which had been running a little low. If you have any canned goods or other items for the pantry please call Jeri. Be sure to check the "Communication Page" on our website for updates on the pantry needs. www.hospiceministries.org.



Volunteers gathered for a group picture at the get-together last January.

While most of us were filling our plates, volunteers **Vangie Hughes, RN** and **Julie Cockayne, RN** were in the hall giving TB Tests for those who wanted to get their annual test.



The next group TB Testing will be held on **March 10th** at 10:00 a.m. during the **St. Patrick's Day Treat Bags** assembly in the Bereavement room behind the dining room. Call Jeri if you haven't gotten your test yet.



Returning volunteer **Jolly & Krishna Saha** talked with new volunteer **Linda Smith** on the joys of volunteering.

It was fun sampling the great soups brought by our very talented volunteer cooks and discovering new friends. I hope you can join us for our next get-together on August 19th.



Merry Christmas from Volunteer Services 2011

Decorating for the Season



Bill Taylor, Paul Kennedy & Aaron Akers

Under the gifted guidance of volunteer **Aaron Akers**, a group of us gathered on the first Saturday in December to "Deck the Halls" of Hospice Ministries with Christmas spirit. Volunteers divided into groups

to decorate the different areas around the building.

Volunteers **Libria Butler** and **Mayra Prado** (right) and **Robert Miller** and **George Hill** (left) are

seen decorating the Christmas trees in the dayroom and suites.



Robert & George



Libria & Mayra

A special Thank You goes to **Anita Jemison** and **Sonya Lee** along with the ladies from **Beta Sigma Phi** for their whimsical decorations in the dining area.



Volunteers **Carol Richardson** and grandson, **Lakeshia Williams**, **Vangie Hughes**, and **Julie Cockayne** worked to brighten the main hall of the downstairs entrance.



By the time we were through the building was filled with love and Christmas spirit.

Cookie Connection 2012

The excitement of the season brought the largest group of volunteers ever to help with the Cookie Connection. The halls were lined with well over 200 dozen homemade cookies, snacks, chocolate and mint candy.



Linda Chase and her dedicated angels **Colleen Holloway** and **Aaron Akers** brought in an unbelievable amount of cookies and candy for this year's event, along with a fantastic number of volunteers who chipped in to contribute and help create the bright and colorful Christmas boxes. We cannot thank everyone enough for their generosity, support and dedication to this event.



Christmas Elves:

Back row: Mayra Prado, George Hill, Juanita Powell, Bob Perry, Ellie Heitmann, B.B. Watson, Ann Kelly, Kathy Vernon, Sonya Lee, Nancy McGhee, Martha Jones & Aaron Akers. Front row: Jacqueline Davis, Ashley Breeland, Lakeshia Williams, Vangie Hughes, Kathy Hilton, John Ross, Bettie Ross, Sandra Ray, Cable Ray, Linda Chase & Ellen Ford.

After the Christmas boxes were made, the volunteers joined the Troubadours to sing Christmas carols on the suites. The morning ended on a high note, with the joyous sounds of Christmas. I hope you will be able to join us next year for this event.



Taking Down the Decorations

You can't start a new beginning without packing up the old. Volunteers came back in January and helped take down, pack up and organize all of our Christmas decorations for the next year.



Mayra Prado, Aaron Akers, Vangie Hughes, Paul Kennedy, Julie Cockayne, Bill Taylor, Helen Haygood, Robert Miller, Lakeisha Williams, & Bob Perry.



Lakeisha Williams, Helen Haygood & Robert Miller



B.B. Watson and young son **Ian**, removed the ornaments for the trees and said goodbye to them until next year.

Thank you to everyone who helped organize this year's "takedown" event.

Volunteers **Anita Jemison**, **Sonya Lee** and **Martha Cooper** from **Beta Sigma Phi** took down the adorable Christmas decorations in the dining room.



Volunteer Calendar of Events for Spring 2012

March , 2012

Gardeners' Day March 3rd

9:00 a.m.- 12:00 p.m.

South Courtyard

Come join our Saturday garden day to work in the Hospice gardens with Lead Gardeners. Lunch provided.

601- 898-1053 ext. 258 *



Saturday, March 10th

St. Patrick Day Bags

10:00 a.m.- 12:00 p.m.

Dining Room

Bring wrapped cookies, shamrocks, & gold wrapped candy

Final TB Test 10:00a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

Conference room behind dining room,

Registration required. 601- 898-1053, ext. 258

Sunday, March 25th

4:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.

6th Annual Gospel Fest

A Benefit for Hospice Ministries

Brownsville M.B. Church, Bolton MS

Special choirs singing heavenly songs, lots of fun with music bouncing off the walls.

It is an afternoon to be remembered. We hope you can join us for this heart lifting event. Help is always welcomed.

Call Kim Moore or Libria Butler for more information.

601- 573-6337 or 601- 866-7008



Saturday, March 31st

10:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.

Easter Baskets

Dining Room

Will be filled and delivered to inpatients.

Wrapped cookies and plastic eggs full of candy.

Troubadours are scheduled to sing as baskets are delivered.

601-898-1053, ext. 258



April, 2012

Saturday, April 14th

Gardeners' Day 9:00 a.m.- 12:00 p.m.

South Courtyard

Come join our Saturday garden day to work in the Hospice gardens with Lead Gardeners. Lunch provided.

601- 898-1053 ext. 258

April, 2012 Continued

Sunday, April 22nd

4:00p.m. - 6:p.m.

Volunteer Awards Celebration

Quarterly Meeting & Inservice

Refreshments, entertainment and good cheer.

I sincerely hope you can attend.

**RSVP--Please let Jeri know if you can attend.*

601-898-1053, ext. 258



May, 2012

Saturday, May 12th

Gardeners' Day 9:00 a.m.- 12:00 p.m.

(May change check website.)

South Courtyard

Come join our Saturday garden day to work in the Hospice gardens with Lead Gardeners. Lunch provided.

601- 898-1053 ext. 258



Saturday, May 26th

Memorial Day 10:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.

Dining Room

Treat Bags of cookies, and candy for our inpatients.

Troubadours

11:00 a.m. Chapel

We will be visiting a patient.

Call 898-1053, ext. 258

You are cordially invited to

6th Annual Gospel Benefit Program

for

Hospice Ministries, Inc.

on

March 25, 2012

at

4:00 p.m.

at

Brownsville M. B. Church

7565 Bolton Brownsville Rd.

Bolton, MS 39041

Come join the fun

For more information call:

Kim Moore (601) 573-6337 or Libria Butler (601) 572-7827



Volunteers' Winter Happenings of 2012



Winter Training Class of 2012

Our first Volunteer Training class of 2012 was an exceptional group, with varied interests. Some are interested in working directly with our patients, some are interested in working in the gardens, some lend their talents to flower arranging and administrative duties. All are a welcomed addition for Volunteer Services.



There are so many ways in which to help. All are important to our mission. During the Volunteer Panel session volunteers **Diane Marler, Lakeisha Williams, Carol Merchant, Norman Turk** and **Sylvia Morgan** (not pictured) talked about the many different ways to volunteer with Hospice.

Later that afternoon **Donna Evans** entertained the class with her inspirational talk on the Social Worker's role at Hospice.



Carla Wilson Bereavement Coordinator, discussed our Bereavement department and the role of our volunteers.



It was a fast paced weekend full of stories, experiences, and hope. We are looking forward to the new class joining us.



New volunteers are: Janet Stovall, Scott Powell, Molly Davis, Shirley Lockett, Susie Cook (V C assistant), Dot Rule, Larry McKay, Sandra Hollingsworth, Bob Caskey, Cindy McMullen, Kathy Lodge, James Rule, Debbie Killen, Jo Ann Daniels, Jim Lee, Linda Smith, and Tijuana Kersh.

Ten Years of Volunteer Service

In January the Bereavement department celebrated the ten year anniversary of **Mary Lee Livesay's** volunteer service with Hospice Ministries. Mary Lee's assistance has benefited thousands of families who have received the correspondence which she so faithfully prepares each week. We sincerely appreciate her consistent presence, warm smile, and great attitude plus her willingness to go the extra mile when the stacks of charts are extra high. If it's Wednesday morning, Mary Lee is sure to be on the job. Thank you Mary Lee – your faithfulness makes a difference!



Mary Ann Miller, Joyce Burnett, Mary Lee Livesay and Carla Wilson

Valentine's Day Cards



Love was in the air as volunteers created and filled our treat bags with candy and cookies for our patients. Valentine Volunteers were (left to right): **Larry McKay, Kathy Hilton, Bob Perry, Dixie Myrick, Ian Watson, B.B. Watson, Susie Cook, George Hill, Terrie Spurk, Lakeshia Williams, Martha Jones, Nancy McGhee** and **Lucy Simmons**.



Kathy Hilton, Larry McKay and **Dixie Myrick** were busy filling the treat bags with cookies and candy as **George Hill** delivered the empty bags to the table to be filled.

In the photo to the right **Ian Watson**, son of **Chaplain B.B. Watson**, was very careful as he tied the Valentine card and bow to each bag. After the bags were filled we delivered one to all of our patients.



We hope you can join us for our next Treat bags creation for St. Patrick's Day on March 10th.

Vet to Vet Training

Introducing the Veterans who attended our first Volunteer "Vet to Vet" Training



John MacGregor, Norman Turk, Mike Graham, George Hill, Robert Miller, Karen Cooper, Roy Povall, Bob DeVille, Bob Jones, and Bill Kopp



Bob DeVille and Norman Turk receiving their pins from Karen Cooper.

class. At the start of the program **Karen Cooper RN** honored each one of our veteran volunteers with a pin, thanking them for their services to our Country.

During the class Veterans discussed the differences in working with other veterans at the end of life.

National Healthcare Decisions Day

-----April 16, 2012-----

Have you signed your Advance Directive?

National Healthcare Decisions Day exists to inspire, educate & empower the public & providers about the importance of advance care planning. National Healthcare Decisions Day is an initiative to encourage patients to express their wishes regarding healthcare and for providers and facilities to respect those wishes, whatever they may be.

Advance care planning is a process, not just a document. It's conversations that you have with close family and friends about your values and beliefs as well as the medical procedures that you want and don't want at the end of life. It's also about the experiences and people that you want around you at the end of life.

1. Think about what's right for you.

Begin by reflecting on your values, beliefs and understanding about end-of-life care or specific medical procedures, such as drug therapies, cardiopulmonary resuscitation or dialysis.

2. Learn about end-of-life care options and procedures.

Some individuals want to prolong life as long as possible with interventions, while others would not want to be hooked up to machines at the end of life if there is no chance of recovery.

3. Decide who will make medical decisions on your behalf should you become incapable of doing so.

Think carefully about who you feel would honor and follow your wishes, and would be most capable of making medical decisions on your behalf. This may be a spouse, an adult child, trusted family member or a good friend.

4. Start the Conversation.

Now it's time to have a conversation with your Substitute Decision Maker(s), your family and if needed, appropriate professionals. Your Substitute Decision Maker(s) may find the conversation difficult, or may be relieved to know exactly what kind of care you would like to receive. If you write your plan down, make sure that your Substitute Decision Maker(s) have a copy of your plan, and that they can honor and feel comfortable making medical decisions on your behalf.

5. Document your wishes.

Write down or record what you would want if you are at the end of life and are not expected to survive - such as the use of machines that will keep you alive (for example, breathing machines or dialysis), a trial period of that procedure, or no medical interventions at all except to relieve pain or other discomfort.

For more information about advance care planning, and National Healthcare Decision Day please visit **National Healthcare Decisions Day Initiative** at: <http://www.nhdd.org> or **The National Advance Care Planning Task Group** at: www.advancecareplanning.ca

Questions about Advance Directives

When is an advance care plan used?

Your plan is only used if you are unable to make your own health care decisions. Your representative can use it to guide your care and advocate for your wishes.

What if I change my mind?

Our lives- and the people around us - change over time. You will want to review your advance care plan regularly to be sure it still reflects your wishes and that you are comfortable with your Substitute Decision Maker. Remember, it will only be used if you cannot speak for yourself.

What happens if I have an emergency, I can't communicate and the emergency room staff don't know about my Substitute Decision Maker?

Make sure that your Substitute Decision Maker and your doctor have a copy of your plan and that family or friends know who will act as your Substitute Decision Maker - they will likely be contacted if an emergency occurs. You can also use a wallet card to name your Substitute Decision Maker and contact information.

What if my Substitute Decision Maker is not able or willing to make decisions for me?

Health care professionals will approach family members as directed in provincial or territorial legislations.

I have a Living Will - isn't that good enough?

A living will is a type of advance care planning - but it's also important that you have a conversation with those who will make decisions about your care - they may have questions about your wishes. You should also review your advance care plan regularly to be sure that it still reflects your feelings, beliefs and values about end-of-life care.

My family will know what to do - why do I have to write it down?

Writing down your wishes helps to ensure your wishes are clear for everyone. You may believe that they know what to do - but perhaps they don't. You need to be clear about what that really means to you. Your family may also have questions about the choices that you've made.

These types of documents are only for old people, right?

You can't predict how and when you'll die. If you are an adult, you should have a plan. You can change your plan as often as you like, and as your life changes. But don't just write it down - the most important thing to do is to have a conversation with the person or people who will make decisions for you when you can't.



Personal Prayer

From the "blog" of Father Everett Hemann
posted on January 31, 2012

Some have inquired how my journey towards death has affected my prayer life. Initially very little. My prayer remained steadfast and focused primarily on thanksgiving and praise of God's goodness to me and to all of us and intercession for the needs of others. As I enter the final leg of this journey I find it more difficult to pray (it is more difficult to do everything!). But remembering what Cardinal Joseph Bernadine, dying of pancreatic cancer, wrote about difficulty in praying during his final weeks, I consider myself in good company.

Many years ago as a young priest I realized there are dry periods in my prayer life. Times when neither prayers in books nor personal prayer was satisfying. At that time in my life I began to compose my own prayers. They rose from the events of my personal life and frequently used the structures of the psalms or other scripture for expression. They became my personal prayer book. I have found myself using it more and more these past several weeks.

I invite you to consider writing your prayer book. Perhaps like me you might find the motivation to do so in the dry times of your normal prayer life.

Father Hemann is a terminally ill cancer patient, living in Ohio. His sister is one of our volunteers and has given us permission to use this post from his "blog".



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 MattersSM***