

Volunteer June Stevens wins “Heart of Hospice” Award from LMHPCO

No one will ever know how many lives have been touched by **June Stevens and her talented group of volunteers**. She has been an inspiration for others, sharing her love and compassion through her gift of gardening. The volunteer gardeners under June’s supervision have truly created a special place that brings comfort and peace to those who are in their final days of life.

Hospice Ministries’ gardens and courtyards are well known throughout the state as beautiful and peaceful areas of reflection. These gardens were created by a group of dedicated volunteers who, for over decade have given many hours of sweat, tears and yes even some blood to Hospice Ministries. June has always said, “Just knowing that these gardens bring peace to someone, is the best thanks we can receive.” We can only say thank you to this very humble group of committed gardeners for all their work.

In the early nineties Dr. Tom Stevens a retired physician and dedicated gardener, along with his loving wife June, volunteered to undertake the building of gardens at *Whispering Pines Hospice*. When *Whispering Pines* and *Hospice of Central Mississippi* merged to form *Hospice*



Dr. Tom Stevens & June Stevens

Ministries, in 1998, Dr. Stevens and June once again volunteered to create gardens from barren land.



Rebecca Allen and June viewing Dr. Tom’s rose garden



June and her dedicated group of helpers laying in the soil for the courtyard.

Over the past 10 years June has begged plants, trees, shrubs, grass, and garden materials from friends and nurseries around the area. Sometimes working on a full time basis, until late in the evening-tilling, planting, cultivating or watering the gardens- June along with her dedicated group of volunteer gardeners have created a wonderland of beauty for all of the senses.

In July we surprised June with a luncheon to tell her of the *Heart of Hospice* award. June had not known that she had been nominated by Hospice Ministries or that she was chosen from all the nominated from every hospice in Mississippi. Below Belinda Patterson, Executive Director of Hospice Ministries, is congratulating June on her award. As June walked out the door several staff



Belinda Patterson congratulating June



members gave her a standing ovation to honor her.

A very special *thank you* goes to Volunteer gardener, **Bethan Read**

for helping put together the beautiful presentation for June’s award



banquet in New Orleans.

The Core Gardeners: Bethan Read (New Co-chair), June Stevens, Jo Jones, Rebecca Allen (new Co-chair) and Bob Jones.

We would like to thank all of our volunteer gardeners for their dedication to the courtyards and gardens of Hospice Ministries. Some have been with us for years, some have just started, but all are so very wonderful. **THANK YOU**

Youth Groups volunteer at Hospice Ministries



Galloway United Methodist Church's Mission Fest starts work at Hospice Ministries

It to rt: Madison Curtis; Tiffanie Holland; Amy Rives; Zack Fisher; Katherine Murray; and Jackson Parker

Mission Fest is an annual program which started 19 years ago. Youth from all over the state come for a week of fellowship and mission work. They work with several different non-profits offering to help in any way they can. This past year they elected to worked with Hospice Ministries as one of their project missions. This year our group included; Madison Curtis (Tupelo), Tiffanie Holland (Tupelo), Amy Rives (Oxford), Zach Fisher (Brandon), Katherine Murray (Hattiesburg) and Jackson Parker (Brandon). We put them to work in several areas and hope they will join us again next year

Longtime Ridgeland volunteers give just a little more extra ...



Kathy Hilton, longtime volunteer helped stuff *Goodie Bags* for the July 4th holiday to give to our In-home patients. **Alice Rice & Dixie Myrick**, weekly

administrative volunteers are busy stuffing the bags for the patients of the In-patient facility for the holiday.



Longtime In-patient volunteer **Helen Anthony** spends her Saturday and sometimes Sunday afternoons visiting with our patients in the In-patient facility. She is seen here talking with one of our patients enjoying the companionship of "just visiting". Helen appreciates how very special this time is for our patients.

Ella Weston has been a volunteer for over six years. Although she usually runs the juice cart on Mondays, she also donates "larger type" *Reader's Digest Magazine* for our patients and families on the In-patient unit.



Longtime bereavement volunteer **Mary Ann Miller**, donated a stack of jig-saw puzzles for visitors and patients of the In-patient facility. She said she knows how long the hours can become for family members. She hoped these puzzles would help them.

Catholic Heartwork Camp Returns to Hospice Ministries.



Chris Kirn-Lexington, KY; M.J. Guilianelli-Austin, TX; Joe Greenwell-Frankfort, KY; Courtney Hall-Danville, KY; Ed Raispis-Danville, KY; Jason Looby-Frisco, CO; Scott DelChiae-Lexington, KY; seated, Shawnee Jimnez-Artesia, NM

June is an exciting time around Hospice Ministries as several groups of young people enjoy working at Hospice Ministries. Their energetic voices and willingness to help on any project was inspiring to us all. During June another fabulous group of young people from the **National Catholic Heartwork Camp**, gave Hospice Ministries a week of dedicated work. These teenagers from New Mexico, Kentucky, Texas, and Colorado added fun and excitement to our days during their stay with us. None of the students were accustomed to the weather of the deep south. Our hot summer sun and humidity became quite a learning experience for them, but soon adjusted beautifully.

The student volunteers were a big hit with administrative staff and helped with the Spring newsletter in the photo to the right.



The boys seemed to really enjoy helping with a few construction projects under the watchful eye of our facility manager.

The most moving time for all came on the last day, when a few **Catholic Heartwork Camp's** staff members dropped by with their guitars and became troubadours to serenade the patients and staff. Even the nurses became a little misty eyed as these wonderful young people strolled by with their voices raised in song.



We are looking forward of the return of these exceptional groups of young people next year and all the joy and excitement they bring to Hospice Ministries.

Hospice Ministries: Natchez



Memory Book Making In-Service for Natchez



Cindy Galloway, RN for the Natchez office, spent her Saturday morning on July 12th sharing with volunteers exciting and interesting ways to create pages for the *Memory Book Program* recently started at Hospice Ministries. Cindy has been instrumental in the development of this program. Her expertise with scrapbooking not to mention her vast knowledge of supplies and materials has helped the program get started in the Natchez area. Volunteers were excited about helping families create Memory Books for their loved ones while enhancing the life review aspect of the program. This new Memory Book program has picked up speed with volunteers. It promises to be a very rewarding program for our families.



Grace Woods, RN from the Natchez office, also helped with the program by working with volunteer **Tim Queen** on a few pages of his book for practice.

Grace agrees that this project will be instrumental to families who are facing the loss of a love one. Anyone who wishes to donate supplies to the program or would like to join it, please call Jeri at Ridgeland office or Cindy in the Natchez office.

Surprise the surpiser

Everyone enjoys celebrating birthdays but **Cindy Galloway, RN** always goes out of her way to give everyone a nice birthday celebration at the office. So when her birthday came around this year everyone in the office wanted her to surprise her so she would know how much she was appreciated. Cindy is seen here with **Grace Woods, RN** enjoying the wonderful snacks brought by all the office staff.

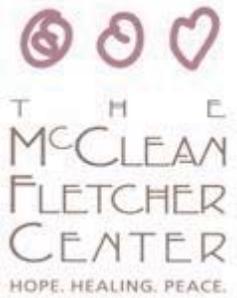


Volunteer Training September 20th in Natchez

Class starts at 8:30 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. Lunch will be served.
Please call **601-446-8000** for more information.



Fall Training Class for McClean Center



The McClean Center is kicking off the school year. The Center had their fall training in August and trained eleven new volunteers to be facilitators. Our groups at the Center started the week of August 25. Four groups are now meeting. We look forward to adding more as the year goes along.

New table donated to Center

We have many people who have wanted to volunteer their time to the renovation of the new building. One of those people is a high school student who is working on his Eagle Scout project and chose the McClean Center.

Elliot Guffin has built us a wonderful picnic/art table and benches along with 2 planters that we will be able to use in our outdoor



Elliot Guffin sitting at the picnic table he donated to the Center.



Elliot and his Dad dropping off the table at Hospice Ministries.

area at the new building. The pictures are of Elliot and his Dad dropping off the table at Hospice until the new building is ready. Elliot has also decided to continue his volunteer work at the Center and is working with the 4-6 year old group through the school year. Thank you Elliot for all your hard work!

If you have any furniture or items you would like to donate to the McClean Center or are interested in helping work with the new building, please contact Jennifer at **601-982-4405**

Hospice Ministries: McComb



Donna Evans, & Richard Brogan

"Faith In Action: A Team Take on the End of Life Journey"

Some thirty-five social workers and healthcare colleagues attended the first "Faith In Action: A Team Take on the End of Life Journey", held in

McComb at the Public Library. The guests were treated to a dynamic program by **Donna Evans, LSW**, with Hospice Ministries, Ridgeland, who, with her 12 years of stories, insights and experiences, shared her gifts with the attendees. Also on the program was *Faith In Action Project Coordinator Reverend Richard Brogan*, whose wife is the former **Catherine Dunn**, a Magnolia native. His topic included teaching caregivers on how to minister to the dying. **Tony West, RN, BSN, MHS**, presented the clinical role of hospice for the home patient as well as the inpatient. All were well received.

The program was designed for social workers, case management workers, clinical personnel, chaplains, and family caregivers to give them tools to help patients die with dignity, in comfort, and with peace, knowing their caregivers followed their wishes and provided for their needs.

A delicious meal prepared by the Hospice Ministries' Team in McComb completed the program and evaluations from attendees were glowing. This was the first program held in the McComb area regarding these topics and enabled area social workers to receive Continuing Education Units in their hometown.

Hospice Ministries plans future quarterly programs. Please call **601.249.3852** for more information or check the McComb page on the website.

Up-Coming Events

October:

Volunteer Quarterly Meeting

Thursday October 16th, at 10:00 a.m. We will be wrapping up our 2008 agenda.

Hospice Ministries: Brookhaven



In the Brookhaven office we recently honored our Home Health Aides with a surprise sundae party. Thank you, Aides for all you do for our patients.



Volunteer **Cheryl Banks** saved the day for us during the last several month by coming into the office and assisting with computer data. We could not have made it without her help.



A big thank-you goes to **Kathy Sutton, RN** for filling in as Supervisor for **Suzannah Britt** while she was with her family on a mission trip. As usual, she kept us in order, but not without a lot of laughs. Thanks Kathy for a job well done.

Wounded Warriors - In Service



Joyce & Billy Hughes

with **Mr. Garland Fort** attended and were excited about our commitment to honor our vets, both Mr. Billy & Mr. Garland are veterans.



Rayceine Reanden, RN and Vol. Garland Fort.

Looking Ahead:

October: 14th, 10:00 a.m.

Quarterly meeting at Brookhaven Office

We will be wrapping up our agenda for 2008.

November: November is *National Hospice Month*. We will be seeking ways to educate our community about Hospice. Please let me know of any event that we may be a part of to tell others about our mission.

December: Memorial Service Monday December 1st. State Room in Brookhaven. Please mark your calendars and make plans to be there. I can use some help with food prep, decorating and people to assist.

We are in need of Cotton material for gowns. About 3-5 yards will make a gown for a patient. We have been blessed with a willing and dedicated seamstress but need material. Let me know if you know of someone who might help.

Up Coming Events for Fall

September

Natchez:

Saturday, **20th** 8:30 am- 5:00 p.m.

Volunteer training



October

Ridgeland:

Thursday **16th**: 6:00 p.m.

Volunteer Quarterly Meeting;

Board Room

Saturday **18th**: 10:00 a.m. - 11:00a.m.

Fall festival Goodie Bags;

Cookies & candy needed. Contact 898-1053, 258



Brookhaven:

Tuesday, October **14th**: 10a.m.

Quarterly Meeting

Brookhaven office.

McComb:

Tuesday, October **16th**: 10a.m.

Quarterly Meeting

McComb office.

November

National Hospice Month

Ridgeland:

Sat. **8th** 8:30 a.m. - 5:30 p.m.

Sun. **9th** 12:30 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Volunteer training

Board Room 601-898-1053, 258

Saturday **22nd**: 10:00 a.m. -12:00 noon

Thanksgiving Goodie Baskets

Cookies & brownies needed.



Natchez:

Wednesday, **12th** 11:30 am- 1:00 p.m.

Volunteer "Pot Luck" luncheon and Quarterly Meeting

If we make our goal to live a life of compassion and unconditional love, then the world will indeed become a garden where all kinds of flowers can bloom and grow.

Elizabeth Kubler-Ross

Up-Coming Events continued...

December:

Ridgeland:

Sat. . **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**

Sat. **13th** 10:00 a.m. - 12 noon

Cookie Exchange

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

Call Jeri if you would like to participate.



Brookhaven:

Monday, December **1st**:

Memorial Service

State Room in Brookhaven.

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 don not remember how to use the Volulnteer Log-In call or e-mail Jeri.

With the Holidays are just around the corner...

Please don't forget about the two cookbooks on sale to benefit Hospice Ministries.

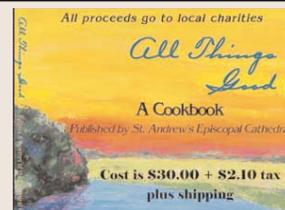


**Cooking with
Cox's Army II
\$22.00**

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 words of art from Mississippi artist, and 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's August Volunteer Training Class 08

Eight volunteers from different areas of Hospice Ministries participated on the *Volunteer Panel* during the training class on August 9th. They told stories and answered questions about their experiences with Hospice. Volunteers are the heart of Hospice and these volunteers discussed with their hearts all of the different ways one could help with Hospice.



Seated left to right were: Ella Weston, Leo Heller, Denise Nicodemus, Colleen Simmons, Jeanette Prescott, Bill Kopp, Kellum Wilson, and Bethan Read.



Ella Weston brought in the juice cart so she could demonstrate how easy it is to operate and how important it is to the patients and family members in the in-patient facility.

We have several days open for the juice cart. If you are interested please give Jeri a call.

Several speakers came to the class to describe the different areas of care of Hospice Ministries. Once again our "darling star", **Donna Evans, MSW**, delighted and entertained the class with informative stories about the Social Workers' role in Hospice.

Everyone agreed she should be on a comedy TV show.



Donna Evans, MSW

Another popular speaker was **Jean Nesbit**, our Bereavement Coordinator. Jean's humble good humor delighted the group as she discussed the role of the Bereavement department and how each family is contacted and helped through their individual grief. Jean also insists that her department has the most "fun" of all the departments.



Jean is explaining the Bereavement department.



Sandi Phillips RN, talking to the class about her experiences.

Not to be overlooked was the eye opening story that In-Home nurse **Sandi Phillips**, gave everyone about her bout with the West Nile Virus during one of the in-service programs given during each session.

Chaplain **Nash Noble** charmed the class with a talk on spirituality and the Chaplain's role. She sprinkled her talk with light spirited humor.

Chaplain Nash Nobles, explaining spirituality to the class



Our next training class will be held on the second weekend in **November**. If you have a story you would like to relay to new volunteers please give Jeri a call. The Volunteer panel is a helpful way in which new volunteers can understand the roles that are available as a volunteer for Hospice.

New programs for Volunteer Services

Memory Book In-Service



Jackie Kuriger with Memory Book Chairman, Denise Nicodemus

Scrapbook expert, **Jackie Kuriger** conducted a second In-service on constructing memory books for volunteers interested in helping families preserve their memories of their loved ones. The Memory Book Committee is set and ready to go. We should launch our new program for our patients and their families sometime in mid September. If you are interested in participating with this new program please give Jeri a call, **601-898-1053, ext. 258**.

Journaling for the Patient

In August, *Director of Support Services* **Isabel Cordua**, conducted an in-service on **Journaling with Patients**. We were enlightened with ways of drawing out feelings and memories to help one navigate life's review. It is a wonderful way to help those going through this difficult time and to remember how wonderful life has been. We may have another in-service this fall. If you are interested please give Jeri call.



Kellum Wilson, Millie Didlake, Paula Pearson, Nancy Vickery, Denise Nicodemus, Isabel Cordua, Susie Cook, Ronald Green, Sr. Micheal Doyle & Colleen Simmons



Safe At Home--Preventing Fires in Mississippi is about life and death. Our State has the highest fire death rate in the country. Everyone is at risk...men, women, and children...in houses, apartments, or mobile homes--fires just don't care. Cooking, heating, and smoking are to blame for most of the house fires in Mississippi. While fire tragedies can happen to anyone, they can be prevented. Safe at Home--Preventing Fires in Mississippi is working to make sure everyone in Mississippi knows what they can do to prevent fires. You can protect yourself, your family and your friends from fire.

Cooking

Cooking is the #1 cause of fires. Most cooking fires start when food cooking on the stove is left unattended. To prevent cooking fires:

Safety tips:

- Stay by your pan when cooking/frying on top of stove.
- Watch food cooking in oven
- Keep stove area clear of anything that can catch on fire
- Keep children and pets away from stove
- Keep loose clothing away from flames
- Always keep an oven mitt and lid handy
- Turkey fryers are very dangerous. Hot oil can tip over, splatter, or catch on fire.

In case of a small fire on the stove

- Put on the oven mitt and slide lid over the pan
- Turn off burner
- Slide pan off of the burner
- Keep the lid on the pan until cool
- If in doubt or the fire spreads, get everyone out of the house
- Call the fire department from outside your house
- Do Not pour Water on a grease fire--** the fire will spread
- Do Not spray a fire extinguisher onto a pan fire** - the burning grease may be sprayed around the kitchen.

In Case of fire in the oven or microwave oven

- Turn off the oven and keep the door shut
- If you can, unplug the unit
- Do not use the microwave again until it has been serviced

Heating

Home heating equipment causes many fires, especially in the winter. Chimneys and chimney connectors are to blame for more home heating fires than any other cause. Space heaters are the most deadly cause of home heating fires. Fires and fire deaths are often caused when clothes, furniture, sheets and blankets, or curtains are too close to a heater or fireplace.

Safety tips for space heaters & electric heaters:

- Make sure heater has a label stating it has been tested by independent laboratory
- Make sure space heater is legal in your community
- Follow the instructions for installing heater
- Use proper fuel for liquid-fueled heater
- Wait until heater has cooled before adding more fuel
- Do not use extension cords, plug directly into wall outlet
- Keep clothes, blankets, paper etc. away from heaters
- Turn heaters off when you leave room

Safety tips for fireplace & wood-burning stoves

- Use dry, seasoned wood in your fireplace or wood stove
- Use only paper or kindling to start a fire; do not use lighter fluid or gasoline to start a fire in your fireplace or wood stove
- Do not use artificial logs in wood stoves
- Put a fireplace screen in front of your fire to prevent sparks from flying into the room
- Keep clothes, blankets etc. away from fireplace or stove

General Home heating safety tips:

- Do Not use your oven to heat your home
- Protect yourself from deadly carbon monoxide
Make sure that fuel-burning equipment is vented to outside
Make sure vents are not blocked and entry point to house is sealed
- Install smoke detectors and test them monthly
- Install carbon monoxide alarm outside of your sleeping area.

Smoking

Cigarette fires kill the most people because they often happen at night when the smoker falls asleep. These fires kill others too, including children who are sleeping

Safety tips if you are going to smoke:

- Smoke outside and always use wide, deep ashtrays
- Never smoke in bed
- Stay alert when you are smoking- you won't be if you are sleepy because of alcohol, drugs or medication

Be prepared - Get ready now, in case fire does occur, you can save lives. Practice your escape plan.
Keep your home SAFE.



September is National Preparedness Month

Are You Ready?

The U.S. Department of Homeland Security's **Ready Campaign** (www.ready.gov) is sponsoring the 5th annual National Preparedness Month in September to encourage all Americans to take steps to prepare for emergencies before they happen.

“National Preparedness Month is an important reminder about each American’s civic responsibility to prepare for emergencies,” said Homeland Security Secretary Michael Chertoff. *“Those with the capacity and wherewithal to help themselves must do so in advance, so that in the event of an emergency, responders can first assist those who are unable to tend to themselves.”* From wildfires and earthquakes in California, to hurricanes and tropical storms along the Gulf Coast, to flooding in the Midwest, recent events remind us more than ever that we must prepare ourselves and our families for a disaster. This is the time, each year, when every American should ask the question. **“Am I ready?”**

For more information on the **Ready Campaign** please visit www.ready.gov or www.listo.gov. or call **I-800-BE-READY** or **I-888-SE-LISTO** for more emergency preparedness information.



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*