

## Summer Get-together and Quarterly Meeting

### New Programs for Volunteer Services

**Director of Support Services Isabel Cordua**, kicked off our Quarterly Meeting in August with a description of new programs for Volunteer Services.



**1. Vigil Volunteers:** Being present with patients at the end of their lives.

**Bethan Read** Co-lead gardener gave a personal testimony on how the vigil volunteer service could have helped when her brother was here at Hospice.



**2. Vet to Vet:** A nationally recognized program where volunteer veterans are partnered with veteran patients to facilitate the patients in "telling their story".

**3. "Tuck In" program:** A program designed to give reassurance to our new patients and their families when faced with their first weekend alone. Requires phone calls once a week.

**4. "Thinking of you" cards:** Uplifting cards written to patients and their families monthly. Hospice Ministries will furnish and mail cards.

**5. Sensory Quilts:** A craft program where volunteers are trained to make sensory quilts for our Alzheimers and Dementia patients. Can be made anytime.

Details on all of these new programs are on the *Communication Page* of the web site. If you are interested in participating or want to learn more please give Jeri a call.

### It's A Family Affair -- "We are Family"



Volunteers **Anita Jemison** and **Sonya Lee** did a spectacular job coming up with our theme of "It's a Family Affair" and "We are Family" for our summer get-together of 2011.



Volunteer **Bobbie Artigues** uses the big red ice bucket to fill her cup for tea. So many volunteers came together to create this feast, it is

difficult to thank them all. However, I want to say "thank you, "the snacks were fantastic!"



**Sonya Lee** is seen in the photo to the left taking pictures of volunteers enjoying their snacks and visiting.

**Ken & Bobbie Artigues, Mary Clare Hogan, and Karen Delatte.**



New volunteers **Diane Marler, Linda Cooper** and **B.J. Phillips** were chatting together after they had enjoyed the afternoon snacks.

This time is about networking and meeting old and new **friends**. New volunteer **Angela Newman** met **Jody Walker**. Jody was a volunteer in 2005 and has returned to work with Hospice Ministries.



Thank You all for such a wonderful afternoon. I feel as if you are a family of angels.

## Meet Zach

Terri Spurk, Volunteer

Meet Zach, the newest addition to the furry volunteer team of Therapy Dogs here at Hospice Ministries. He joins **Sam, Dr. Houston's Pet Therapy dog**. Zach is a 5-year-old golden retriever from Florida and, like **Sam**, is a registered Pet Therapy dog with **Therapy Dogs International** which is based in New Jersey. Zach shares the same bloodline as **Dallas**, the previous golden retriever who visited Hospice Ministries.



**Dallas** forged many friendships during his years of therapy work and one of those relationships was here at Hospice Ministries. We visited a patient for several months and the patient often referred to Dallas as

**Dallas** his "Angel with fur." He read poetry to Dallas, told him stories about his days at sea and often shared his morning toast with him. He requested Dallas's presence during his final hours and Dallas faithfully stayed by his friend's bedside.

One of the most memorable visits I've had with Zach was eerily similar to a series of visits I had with Dallas at an extended-care facility. Zach and I were at another facility recently and the elderly patient was essentially non-responsive. The patient's nurse knew the patient had had a love for animals and wanted to see if a visit from Zach would elicit any response.

When we went into the patient's room the nurse said, "Look who we brought to visit with you today!" The patient's eyes flickered open, she looked at Zach and began trying to sit up. She was so happy. She believed her dog from many years ago had come back to her. She told everyone that he was her dog and called him by name. The nurse arranged the patient's bed and had Zach join the patient which made her so very happy. She was glad to see him, was glad he had returned to her and couldn't stop touching and cuddling with him. She rubbed his soft ears and belly and called Zach by the name of her dog from many years ago. Zach cuddled into her embrace and freely accepted her outpouring of affection. When that happens, I don't correct the patient. The staff member who's with me lets the patient bask in the joy that comes with seeing what they believe is a long-lost companion. The patient and the therapy dog are living "in the moment" and the happiness and mental stimulation that comes with that kind of connection is something that can't be provided through IV's and medications. The patient's daughter had tears in her eyes. She hadn't seen her mother so evidently "there" in quite a while. We stayed until the patient became drowsy again and I told her we would be back.

Those are the kinds of things that pet therapy is all about and why I've been involved with it for ten years. Time and again I've seen the bond between patients and dogs and breakthroughs of communication. Often times medical facilities are bland and impersonal. Therapy dogs help to bring some sense of normalcy or a sense of home into a hospital or hospice stay.

Terri Spurk

### **Patients' Needs:**

With the season changing soon, I wanted to alert you to some "needs" for our patients this winter. As you prepare for the season's change, check and see if you have any extra items that may help .

- \* **Pantry:** There is always a need for canned food, frozen casseroles or dishes, Ensure, soft sauces or puddings.
- \* **Heaters:** With the changing weather there will be a need for portable heaters, as some of our patients may be without enough heat.
- \* **Blankets and bedding:** These are always needed, but more so in winter.
- \* **Magazines :** Magazines are always needed for the Inpatient facility, as are inspirational books. Large print books are a favorite with some families as are color picture magazines.
- \* **Coloring books & crayons:** Any activity books are great for patients or family members who want to keep their minds and hands busy.
- \* **Music:** CD's books & music, are needed. Hymns, Gospel and Instrumental music are favorites of the patients.

If you think of something, please give Jeri a call. Please watch for emergency emails and check our Communication Page on the website for emergency needs.

# Catholic Heart Work Camp returns to Hospice Ministries.



Left to Right: Maria Salamanoa, Lake Wales, FL; Hannah Hall, New Braunfels, TX; Sarah Doktyez, Knoxville, TN; Bill West, ( Adult leader) Acworth, GA; Jordan Boudreaux, Beaumont, TX; Megan Obi, Marietta, GA; and Nolan Grant, Lakeland, FL

For the past five summers kids from the Catholic Heart Work Camp have spent a week with us at Hospice Ministries helping us build, mend or clean areas of our facility in Ridgeland. They have worked in oven type temperatures in our gardens, or as the picture above shows, repairing one of our fountains. These teens come from around the country to help non-profits in any way they can. Our teens worked in hot unbearable heat with unnatural speed and achieved unbelievable success .



CHWC volunteers, **Nolan Grant** and **Hannah Hall**(left) painted the bathroom of the nurses station in one day. While **Megan Obi** and **Maria Salamanoa** (right) reorganized and checked for out-of-date items in our pantry.



During the day the group cleaned and reorganized our storage area. Jordan and Nolan posed for a photo while they hung our decorative fall wreaths.



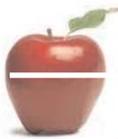
One day the girls helped **Susie Cook**, Volunteer services assistant with assembling our training books.



They also painted one of our benches in the garden area.

From painting, organizing, repairing and plain old hard work these teens gave their all. We look forward to next year's projects and the Catholic Heart Work Camp group.

## Volunteer Calendar of Events FALL 2011



### September

**Saturday, September 3rd**

*Labor Day Goodie Bags*

10:00 a.m. in Dining Room

Cookies & candy

**Saturday, September 3rd**

*Gardeners Day*

8:30 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.



**Sunday, September 11**

*Remembering September 11 with "Hope & Healing"*

Chapel 3:00 p.m.

Everyone is invited

**Friday, September 23rd,**

*Volunteer Training*

5:30 p.m - 8:30 p.m.

Board Room

**Saturday, September 24th,**

*Volunteer Training* continued

9:00 a.m. - 5:30 p.m.

**Sunday, September 25th,**

*Volunteer Training*

continued, 1:00 p.m. - 5:30 p.m.



**Saturday, October 15th**

*Troubadours sing*

10:00 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

Chapel

**Saturday, October 29th**

*Fall Festival Goodie Bags*

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

Dining Room

Candy and cookies needed.

### October



**Sunday, November 13th**

*Memorial Service*

*Join us as we remember our patients from the past year.*

**3:00 p.m** - Chapel

**Tuesday, November 15th**

*Fall In-Service & Quarterly Meeting*

6:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.

Board Room

**Saturday, November 19th**

*Thanksgiving Baskets*

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

Dining Room

Cookies and candy needed.



### November



**Saturday, December 3rd**

*Decorate Christmas trees*

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

Join the fun & help decorate our Christmas trees.

Dayroom

**Saturday, December 10th**

*Cookie Connection*

10:00 a.m. - 12:00 -Dining Room

### December



# Volunteer Happenings for Summer 2011

Please welcome our Volunteer Training class of June, 2011



Left to right, front to back: Susie Cook, *Volunteer Services Assistant*, Onyebuchi (Leonard) Nnaji, Helen Haygood, Roy Povall, Libria Butler, Bob DeVille, Kandra Kilbert, Lou Runnels, Betty Jane Phillips, Jean Anderson, Diane Marler, Jonita King, Linda Cooper, Angela Newman, Bobbie Artigues, Kenneth Artigues, Nancy McGhee, Edna Smith, Mary Falconi, and Ebony Welch.

This summer's training class was the largest class we have ever had. The class was an absolute delight. Everyone was excited and ready to get started. We were very pleased with the group's enthusiasm, and the large diversity in their backgrounds and training. We are delighted to have them join us!

**Susie Cook**, Volunteer Services' assistant instructs the class at the left on how to complete their volunteer timesheets.



Chaplain **B.B. Watson**, discussed the Chaplain's role and how volunteers can assist with spiritual services.



Inpatient RN **Karen Cooper** educated the trainees on the role of the nurse.. Karen has worked for both in-home care nurse and inpatient nurse. She discussed the differences and common features in both areas.



Bereavement Coordinator **Carla Wilson** presented a delightful talk on the benefits of working with the Bereavement department and the expectations of these volunteers.

## Memorial Day Treat Bags for Patients



Volunteers gathered to help create Memorial Day treat bags for our patients in the in-patient facility to brighten their day. The group even

sang some patriotic songs for the patients.

Volunteers are from left to right: **Julie Cockayne, B.B. Watson, Vangie Hughes, Bob Perry, Kathy Hilton, Carol Perry, Susie Cook, Joshua Street, Helen Haygood, Mayra Prado and Anita Jemison**

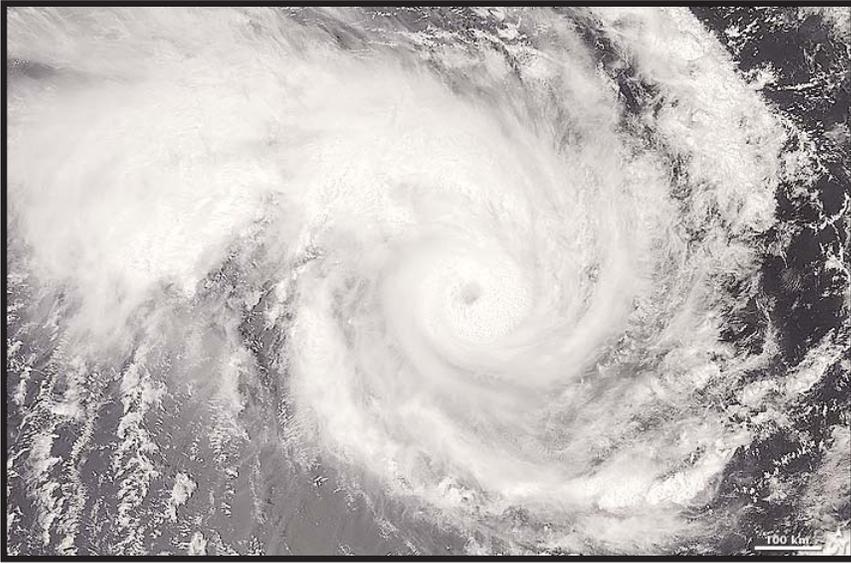
## Troubadours

The Troubadours went on the road in June and August singing to patients and their families. In June we revisited Carey Bufkin and his lovely wife Libby for a repeat performance. In July, the Troubadours sang to the in-patient facility during the delivery of our *Fourth of July Goodie Bags*. The first weekend of August we sang for another patient and her family in Byram. The Troubadours have a wonderful time brightening patients' moods and sharing love. If you would like to join them, give Jeri a call.



From left to right are: Ellen Ford, Mayra Prado, Ebony Welch, Helen Haygood, Kandra Kilbert B.B. Watson and Bob Perry with Carey & Libby Bufkin.

# Learn Steps to Prepare for Hurricanes and Severe Weather



As we enter into hurricane season, the **Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA)** is urging residents, especially those living in coastal areas, to closely monitor storms and follow the advice of their local officials.

The National Hurricane Center expect some storms to move close to land and they could approach areas along the southeastern or coastal regions of the United States. Although it's still too soon to know exactly how many or what impact storms could have on our region and other states, FEMA encourages residents in the southeastern and coastal areas of the U.S. to take steps to be as prepared as possible, in advance of severe weather.

The most important thing for people living in a storm's potential path to do are:

- \* ***listen to and follow the instructions of their local officials,***
- \* ***know your local evacuation routes so you and your family are prepared this season.***

For more information and helpful tips, visit **[www.Ready.gov](http://www.Ready.gov)**.

FEMA, through its regional offices in Atlanta, GA., New York, NY and its Caribbean Area Office in San Juan, Puerto Rico, remains in close contact with partners at the National Hurricane Center, Virgin Islands Emergency Territory Emergency Management Agency and the Puerto Rico Emergency Management Agency.

History has taught us that storm tracks can change quickly and unexpectedly - and it's critical that all members of the public that live in coastal areas get ready.

Here are a few tips to keep you safe:

- \* Monitor weather conditions and listen to the direction of local and territory officials, which for the Virgin Islands and Puerto Rico could include sheltering in place.
- \* If local officials give the order to evacuate, be sure to know your evacuation route.
- \* Know what supplies you and your family will need to shelter in place, if that is the advice given by local officials.

Hurricanes.gov continues to be the official source for the latest tropical weather forecast from the **National Hurricane Center**. And if you're on your phone, check out their mobile site for the latest information, or visit the FEMA mobile site for tips on staying safe before, during and after a tropical storm or hurricane.

Follow FEMA online at **[blog.fema.gov](http://blog.fema.gov)**, **[www.twitter.com/fema](http://www.twitter.com/fema)**, **[www.facebook.com/fema](http://www.facebook.com/fema)**, and **[www.youtube.com/fema](http://www.youtube.com/fema)**.

Also, follow Administrator Craig Fugate's activities at **[www.twitter.com/craigatfema](http://www.twitter.com/craigatfema)**.

The social media links provided are for reference only.

FEMA does not endorse any non-government web-sites, companies or applications.

FEMA's mission is to support our citizens and first responders to ensure that as a nation we work together to build, sustain, and improve our capability to prepare for, protect against, respond to, recover from, and mitigate all hazards.

# The Fruit of the Spirit is...

# Kindness

**"A Heart Like His"**  
Mike & Amy Nappa

Pause for a moment right now and answer this question:  
What is the greatest act of kindness you've ever received from someone?  
Was it the compassion of a mother?  
The support of a friend?  
The encouragement of a neighbor?  
The generosity of a stranger?

Whatever it was, chances are it not only enriched your life, but made the world a better place for others as well. That's because, like basic mathematics, kindness multiplies, spreading from you to others who in turn continue spreading it across the globe. May your work with Hospice Ministries encourage you to be *a multiplier of kindness* in the lives of others today, because if it does, we all will feel the benefit.

*"But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control."*  
Galatians 5:22-23 NIV



*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>***