

# Hospice Horizons

NEWS FROM HOSPICE OF THE CAROLINA FOOTHILLS

## Hospice Makes Room for Growth

*New addition is underway*



"... patients and families getting the help they need ... it's what we're here for."

Five years after moving into their roomy new Administration & Program Center, Hospice staff and volunteers found themselves short of office and program space. New and expanded services and a dramatic increase in the number of people being served created the need for more

staff and volunteers. Consequently, many staff members are sharing offices; medical supplies and records have been moved to the basement; and room for family consultations, individual counseling and educational programs has become very restricted.

When Hospice broke ground on their new building behind St. Luke's Hospital in July 2000, the 7,300 square feet of space was more than adequate for the 16 employees and 85 volunteers who had been working out of a space half that size at Tryon Town Hall. That year, Hospice served an average of 23 patients per day, and had infinite room to grow. Or so they thought.

By the end of 2005, 40 employees and 130 volunteers were serving an average patient census that had doubled to 46 patients per day. All available space was taken, the patient census continued to rise, and the Palliative Care Program was added and Bereavement services expanded to meet the needs of residents in the service area.

As board and staff members began to plan for an addition, the patient census rose at an unprecedented rate through 2006, and more staff and volunteers were added to help deliver

care and services. The year ended with an average daily patient census of 87—an 89% increase in one year. Staff grew to 55 and volunteers, to 170. The five-year-old Hospice Center was bursting at the seams.

The 2500-square-foot addition that is now underway was begun on November 1, 2006. It was designed by the same architect who designed the original building, and great attention has been given to integrating the new space with the old in terms of thoughtful use of resources. Thanks to mild winter weather and a hard-working construction crew, the project is ahead of the scheduled completion date of May 1.

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### GRATEFUL FAMILIES

Thank you very much for all you did during Dad's illness. Dad desperately wanted to remain at home, and you helped me make that possible. Although it was difficult at times, I know caring for Dad was one of the most important things I will do in my life. Thank-you just doesn't seem adequate enough for all Hospice did to help me honor Dad's wishes.

— COLUMBUS FAMILY MEMBER

There are no words to thank the staff and volunteers for the love and care you gave Mother. All of us feel that we have made some special friends whom we shall never forget. Everyone was so professional and loving. I ask God's richest blessings on each of you.

— INMAN FAMILY MEMBER

# Hospice Serves More People

*Incredible staff & volunteers make it possible*



Jean Eckert

In 2006, Hospice of the Carolina Foothills completed 25 years of service to the community. Three hundred and thirty terminally ill residents of Polk County and the South Carolina foothills were served by 55 staff and 170 volunteers. We provided more than 28,000 visits to people

in their homes, in nursing and rest homes and in hospitals. It may sound like boasting when I say that Hospice of the Carolina Foothills has a supportive and hard-working board of directors, faithful and loving volunteers and an incredible staff of professionals. Many health care organizations have found themselves challenged as they recruit staff and volunteers in an extremely competitive market. Within this climate, your hospice has one of the most skilled, professional and capable groups of people any organization could hope for. I suppose they have earned us bragging rights.

In addition to the familiar and usual routine of caring for hospice patients and their caregivers, we launched several new initiatives. Bereavement services have expanded to include additional support groups, assistance in the local school system and a growing number of non-hospice clients who utilize the services and support of our staff counselors and volunteers.

A brand new program was launched in March of 2006, the Palliative Care Support Team. The purpose of Palliative Care is to assist healthcare providers in maximizing the quality of life for people and families who are coping with chronic, life-limiting medical conditions. The team operates on a consultation basis reimbursed by Medicare, seeing patients referred by the attending physician or nursing home. The first resident to receive a palliative care consult was visited by a board certified palliative care physician and a master's prepared licensed clinical social worker in their home on March 1st.

Since then more than 350 visits to 140 people have been made. Forty palliative care patients are currently being followed by the team.

Many of you may already know that in August of 2006 we received permission to construct a 12-bedroom Hospice House to offer acute and residential care to the residents of the area we serve. This year will be spent firming up plans, raising funds and beginning construction. Providing all things proceed as expected, a Hospice House will be opened for those of us who reside in these beautiful foothills of the Carolinas in the summer of 2008.

Throughout this issue of *Hospice Horizons*, you will read about several other exciting happenings, like the first director of development joining the hospice staff; the construction of a 2500-square-foot addition to the Administration & Program Center to house a growing team of staff and volunteers; and the important relationship with the local church community through the Good Samaritan Program.

A new and exciting year lies ahead for Hospice of the Carolina Foothills. Please keep our organization and the people it serves in your thoughts, in your giving and in your prayers. ■

Jean Eckert  
Executive Director



Hospice staff and volunteer, family and balloons surround Camp Care resident Moda Brown on her 92nd birthday.

## HospiceHorizons

A HOSPICE OF THE CAROLINA  
FOOTHILLS PUBLICATION

Serving Polk County,  
North Carolina and up-  
state South Carolina

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*Executive Director*

Garry Snipes, MD  
*Medical Director*

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### Mission Statement

Hospice of the Carolina Foothills promotes and provides compassionate end-of-life care, meeting the medical, emotional and spiritual needs of individuals and their families.

### Contact Information

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### Newsletter Editor

Marsha Van Hecke

# Hospice Names Its First Director of Development

*Beth Child joins the Hospice team*

In another step that measures growth for the organization, Hospice of the Carolina Foothills has named Beth Child as its first director of development. The need for this newly created position quickly became apparent when HoCF received approval in August of last year to build a Hospice House for its service area. According to Executive Director Jean Eckert, Child initially will be very involved in raising the funds to build the much-needed facility for our community. “Beth has been busy since January 2, her first day on the job, attending planning meetings, organizing events and writing grant proposals to foundations—all a part of the busy, but ‘quiet’ phase of the campaign that began the day we were granted permission to build our Hospice House. Within a few weeks, we will go public with our campaign, and her job will get even busier.”

Child spent five years as the Executive Director for the St. Luke’s Hospital Foundation. “I loved working there,” says Child, “and it was a difficult decision to leave. But I was attracted to the Hospice mission and the growth and wanted to help Hospice be of more help to more people in the community.”

This is not Child’s first exposure to hospice work. When she first moved to Tryon six years ago, she took the hospice volunteer training and did some work as a patient companion with hospice patients and families. It was that expe-

rience, she explains, that sold her on the hospice mission and work. “The families I helped, in turn, helped me,” Child explains. “There’s something about a family facing together the death of one of their family members that makes you think about your own life and what’s important to you. And I got to see first hand the work that hospice staff members do. These experts go in at a stressful time and help with both physical and emotional pain. They help a husband know how to talk with his dying wife. This is important work, and I want to be a part of it!”

Child is looking forward to getting more people involved and showing them what their money and their time can mean in terms of more people being able to get the hospice care, palliative care and bereavement support that they so desperately need. “This organization has a reputation for excellence that has not changed in 25 + years,” Child says in conclusion. “And that is a good reason for serving more people: because we do such excellent work.” ■



Beth Child, Director of Development

## HOSPICE HOUSE UPDATE

There is a lot of work being done behind the scenes to build the much-needed Hospice House for the people of Polk County and Upstate South Carolina. The architect and project manager are busy; and staff, board and campaign committee are raising money from foundations and lead gift donors.

Very soon, you will be hearing more about this safe and peaceful “home-away-from-home” for people with terminal illnesses who need specialized short- or long-term care.

Meanwhile, if you have questions or want to read information about Hospice House, don’t hesitate to call us at 828.894.7000 or 800.617.7132.



Exterior rendering by architect John Walters.

## FAST FACTS

# Good Samaritan Program

*Good Samaritans open the door to end-of-life services*

### WHAT IS THE GOOD SAMARITAN PROGRAM?

The Good Samaritan Program brings together the ministry provided by churches and the care provided by Hospice of the Carolina Foothills (HoCF) through a member in each church who, as the Good Samaritan, acts as a liaison between their church and HoCF.

### WHAT IS THE PURPOSE?

HoCF wants to establish or deepen the relationship it has with each church in our service area so that, together, we can better provide end-of-life care (hospice care, palliative care, bereavement care and education) to those who need it.

### WHAT DOES THE GOOD SAMARITAN DO?

As a trained Hospice volunteer, the Good Samaritan tells the people in their church about the resources and opportunities available through HoCF. They schedule presentations and post and provide information and printed materials. They connect people who need help with those who can provide it. In this role they “open the door” to the help that is available when it is needed.

### HOW DO I GET INFORMATION ABOUT HAVING A GOOD SAMARITAN IN MY CHURCH?

Contact Diane Nelson, Good Samaritan Coordinator, at 828.894.7000, 800.617.7132 or [dnelson@hocf.org](mailto:dnelson@hocf.org) about this special ministry.

### WHICH CHURCHES CURRENTLY HAVE GOOD SAMARITANS?

We are grateful for the following individuals who open the doors in their churches in Campobello, Columbus, Fin-  
gerville, Green Creek, Inman, Landrum, Mill Spring, Saluda, and Tryon to the work of Hospice of the Carolina Foothills:

Columbus Baptist .....Julie Gliner  
Columbus Presbyterian.....Sue Brooks & Sue Wallace  
Columbus United Methodist .....Laurie Ellenberger  
Congregational Church of Christ .....Barbara Halliday &  
Joy Soderquist  
Coopers Gap Baptist.....Nell Bennett  
Episcopal Church of the Holy Cross .....Cam Lawrence  
Episcopal Church of the Transfiguration ....Alice Waddill  
Fairview Baptist .....Janet Painter  
Faith Baptist .....Linda & Jerry Padgett  
Fingerville First Baptist .....Cathy Bullman &  
Brenda O’Shields  
Fork Creek Baptist .....James Metcalf  
Garrison Chapel Baptist .....George Fant  
Gowensville First Baptist .....Pat Ryan-Kissam  
Grace Baptist .....Janet B. Lawter  
Green Creek First Baptist .....Callie Jackson  
Green Creek Missionary Baptist .....Jennie L. Smith  
Holly Springs Baptist .....Joan McDade Nichols  
Holston Creek Baptist .....Isaac Bryant  
Ingleside Baptist .....Melissa Johnson  
Inman Presbyterian .....Sonya Steele  
Jacksons Grove United Methodist .....Elaine Belk  
Landrum First Baptist.....Helen Johnson  
Landrum Presbyterian.....Mary Ulmer  
Landrum Springs Baptist .....Frances Moore  
Landrum United Methodist .....Marge Nowak  
Lebanon United Methodist.....Louise Elliott

Midway Baptist.....Frances Phillips  
Mill Creek Church of the Brethren .....Wilma G. Rowe  
Mill Spring First Baptist .....Diana Pack  
Motlow Creek Baptist.....Kay Anderson Essey  
Mount Zion Baptist .....Lucille Simmons  
Mountain Page Baptist .....Janice Russell  
New Bedford Baptist .....Pat Doggett  
New Hope Baptist .....Becky Pierce  
Oak Grove Baptist.....Othelia Hill  
Pacolet Hills Baptist .....Ellen Flynn  
Pea Ridge Baptist .....Ann Carswell &  
Reba Hudgins  
St. John the Baptist Catholic .....Rochelle Tyson  
St. Luke’s CME Church .....Viola Suber  
Saluda First Baptist .....Nancy Weinhagen  
Sandy Springs First Baptist.....James Luckadoo  
Silver Creek Baptist.....Helen Tolerico  
Smith Chapel Baptist.....Jeraldine Flaherty  
Southside Baptist .....Joe Corn  
Tryon Church of God .....Suzanne Armstrong  
Tryon First Baptist .....Shelvie Foust  
Tryon Presbyterian.....Caroline Brown  
Tryon Seventh-Day Adventist .....Pat Carron  
Tryon United Methodist .....Dee Bunn  
Union Grove Missionary Baptist.....Pat Doggett  
Warrior Mountain Baptist .....Kim Henderson &  
Betsy Singleton

## SUPPORT & EDUCATION FOR THE COMMUNITY

Hospice of the Carolina Foothills is committed to providing support and education to the families of those we serve, and also to the community at large. Unless otherwise noted, all programs are held at the Hospice Center behind St. Luke's Hospital, and all are free. For more information, or to schedule a presentation or program for your church or civic club, call 828.894.7000 or 800.617.7132. Upcoming programs and events include:

### NEW PROGRAM OFFERING

#### "On My Own"

**Saturday, March 3, 1 – 3 p.m.**

Free seminar of practical information for widows, widowers and others age 50 + who are living on their own. Register now to join a group of individuals who will find out more about:

- Financial Planning with Andy Millard
- Cooking & Nutrition with Sandi Sox
- Stretching for Health & Well-being with Beverly Moore

Call right away! Enrollment is limited to 25 participants. Registration deadline is March 1st.

#### Grief Support Groups

**First Tuesday of each month, Noon – 1 p.m.**  
**(March 6, April 3, May 1, June 5)**

This ongoing group, facilitated by a Hospice staff member, offers encouragement and comfort in a safe and confidential environment to anyone in the community grieving the loss of a loved one. Bring a bag lunch if you wish; drinks and dessert will be provided.

**Last Thursday of each month, 6 - 7 p.m.**  
**(March 20, April 26, May 31, June 28)**

This evening group offers the same safe and supportive opportunity for those whose schedules are better suited to a nighttime group. It, too, is open to the community.

#### Men's Friday Breakfast Group

**Every Friday at 9 a.m. at T.J.'s Café in Tryon**

Good food and conversation with men who share the pain of loss. Newcomers are welcome.

#### Volunteer Training for Support Volunteers

*(office assistants, bakers, crafters, Good Samaritans)*

**2nd Tuesday of each month**  
**(March 13, April 10, May 8, June 12)** Call for times and locations.



Veteran volunteers mentor trainees during a training session dinner break, October 2006.

#### Volunteer Training for Patient Companions

**Tuesday & Thursday Mornings — Saluda NC**  
**(March 13, 15, 20 & 22)**

**Monday & Wednesday Afternoons — Columbus NC**  
**(March 19, 21, 26, & 28)**

Fourteen hours of comprehensive training led by Hospice staff and volunteers. Prepares people like YOU to work directly with patients and their families in homes and nursing facilities. Registration is required. ■

*All programs are free and registration is required only where noted. Contact Hospice for more information.*

#### ROOM FOR GROWTH ... Continued from page 1

The extra space will once again relieve crowded working conditions at Hospice, and allow the staff to reclaim consultation, counseling and education areas in the current building. Executive Director Jean Eckert, who has helped see Hospice through a lot of change in her 25 years on staff, has this to say: "The adding of more space because of growth is exciting, because growth at Hospice means that more patients and families are getting the help they need during a difficult time. It's what we're here for." ■

Staff and volunteers in Medical Records move into the Medical Supply Room, which was temporarily relocated to the basement.



The Palliative Care Support Team do good work in shared space.



Board by board, brick by brick, the new space takes shape.

# In-kind Contributions

*This issue of Hospice Horizons is dedicated to the many generous individuals, organizations, businesses and churches who make in-kind contributions.*

## ANOTHER WISH LIST

### Can You Help?

The latest "Wish List" includes items for patients and families submitted by Hospice staff. If you as an individual or group wish to donate items, or earmark donations for items, please contact Beth Child.

- Baby monitors
- Hand-held tape recorders
- CD players
- DVDs and VHS tapes of a variety of movies
- CDs of a variety of music

An "in-kind contribution" is a non-cash gift which can be assigned a cash value. It can, and has, come to Hospice in many forms: a waived fee for services; discount on purchases; and donations of time, goods or space.

In-kind donors make it easier to do a better job of caring for patients and families through hospice, palliative care and bereavement services. Their gifts are often nourishing, nurturing and life-affirming. And, what's more, they're tax-deductible! HoCF sends you a gift receipt, acknowledging your contribution of goods and services. You determine the dollar value of the gift.

Listed below are some of the many individuals, businesses and organizations who have contributed "in-kind" in the past:

A Gift for All Seasons, Inman  
Crys Armbrust  
The Bookshelf, Tryon  
Brock's Cleaners, Tryon & Landrum  
Marion & Norm Brannon  
Chick-Fil-A, Spartanburg  
Columbus Office Equipment  
Food Lion, Columbus  
Gigi's Café, Inman  
Horsefeathers, Landrum  
Jan Impey

Inman Mills  
Kiln on the Hill, Tryon  
McDonald's, Columbus  
Polk County High School students  
Saluda Forge, Tryon  
Silver Fox Gallery, Hendersonville  
Simple Simon's, Tryon  
Spex Optical, Spindale  
Gwen Suesse  
Thermal Belt Rotary Club  
Tosh's Whistle Stop, Saluda  
Tryon Daily Bulletin  
Vines & Stuff, Tryon  
Wendy's, Columbus  
Whistle Stop Marketplace, Landrum

In-kind contributions from area churches have been forthcoming in the form of toiletry items selected from a "Wish List" for patients. Our Good Samaritan Churches (listed on page 4) continue to keep our caregiving staff supplied with items that make our patients look, feel and smell more comfortable.

If you have a question about an in-kind contribution, please contact Beth Child.

- 828.894.7000
- 800. 617.7132 or
- [bchild@hocf.org](mailto:bchild@hocf.org)



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