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P.O. Box 595
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Four ways you can Support Hospice

- 1 Every time you receive a Hospice **newsletter** donate \$25.00 to Hospice. If everyone who received the newsletter did this it would generate **\$20K per year!**
- 2 Log on to www.hospiceofamador.org and click on the "How You Can Help" button. Donate whatever you can! It's safe, it's easy, it's tax deductible, and best of all it will enable your local Hospice to continue providing quality end of life services to anyone who needs them.
- 3 **Volunteer** by calling Ann @ 223-5500. There are many ways to volunteer. Call Ann to learn more.
- 4 **Donate** your lightly used articles of clothing and home furnishings to the Hospice Thrift Store (10776 Argonaut Lane, Jackson)

Fall/Winter
Calendar of Events
Save the Dates
Page 2!



Executive Director
Dan Riordan

Board of Directors
Paul Cherry • Stephen Larson
Wayne Garibaldi • Sally Kornegay
Marilyn Hoopes • Deon Tadlock, MD
Ken Nakamura • Melissa Cuevas

hospice highlights

Hospice of Amador and Calaveras County
is a non-profit agency serving Amador, Northern Calaveras,
Eastern San Joaquin and Sacramento Counties



P: 209.223.5500 • F: 209.223.4964 • www.hospiceofamador.org • FALL 2008

A Conversation with Joe!

Joe has lived in Jackson for twenty eight years. About a year ago he was diagnosed with lung cancer. For about six months Joe was treated with chemotherapy until he finally made the decision that enough was enough. In Joe's words he decided "I don't want to be miserable while I am dying." Recently Dan Riordan, Executive Director with Hospice of Amador & Calaveras visited with Joe. Here is part of that conversation.

Dan: What did you do for a living Joe?

Joe: I worked with CDF in Tuolumne County. I ran a fire fighting crew. One day I was pulling a woman from a wrecked car and hurt my back. I had to retire after that.

Dan: Have you lived here in this house for a long time?

Joe: I have lived right here for 28 years.

Dan: And when did you get sick?

Joe: Well here's the story. I got diagnosed with the lung cancer about a year ago. I started the chemo therapy and did that for about six months. The mark on the lungs

was not going away and then I lost the feeling in my left hand. So, they did a brain scan and found a tumor in my brain that was causing that.

Dan: That's a lot to go through.

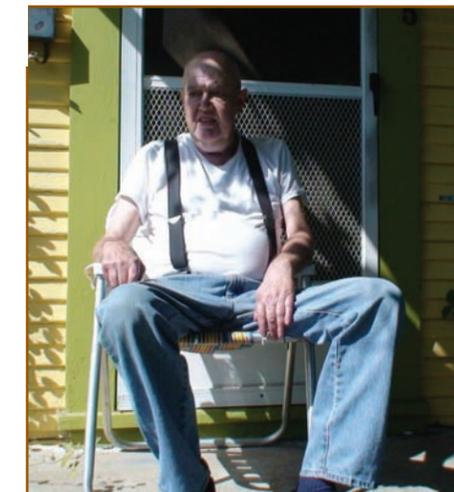
Joe: Well after about six months of the chemo I told my doctor I can't take any more of this chemo. I was sick everyday and my place was a wreck. I just couldn't keep up with it.

Dan: Did the chemo help?

Joe: Well we thought it was at the beginning I think. But then I started getting that numbness though my left hand. I finally went in to see the doctor and asked him about hospice. I asked him how much time he thought I had and he said maybe six months. I just didn't want to be miserable while I was dying.

Dan: Was the chemo pretty bad?

Joe: Oh yes. And it really had an effect on my feet. Lots of nerve pain. I call it the fire-works. And so I have to take medicine for



Sitting on the stoop at the end of the day.

that now. And the cancer wasn't going away. The doctor agreed it was probably a good decision to call hospice.

Dan: Well how has it been since you came on Hospice?

Joe: Let me tell you! I think I called over on a Monday. On Tuesday Caela showed up and that was that. She told me all about it. She told me what to expect and how hospice could help.

cont. on page 2

Signs of the Times

Hospice of Amador & Calaveras recently had their signage updated and repainted by Randy from Sandy Gulch Signs. We think they did a great job and also want to thank Joy Elhard (designer of this newsletter) for her design work on the new signs. We hope you enjoy them too!



Talented Volunteers

Every Wednesday morning finds Hospice of Amador & Calaveras Volunteers Mary Van Zanten and Leeanne Strickland taking apart and then recreating a new center display in our Jackson Thrift Store. Hospice is very fortunate to have these two very talented women do our display work. Mary has a degree in Interior Design and worked for over thirty years as an Interior Design professional specializing in hospitals and large commercial facilities. Leeanne is a clever amateur who is always able to find just the right items to add flare and "pop" to their designs. Working solely with donated items, the displays are so attractive and enticing that we have customers waiting at the door on Wednesday mornings to buy the merchandise they have admired during the previous week. Mary and Leeanne are just two of the fifty or so Volunteers that make our Thrift Store such a unique and special place to shop in Amador County!



Mary Van Zanten



Leeanne Strickland



Are you ready for Halloween? Assemble your costume from items found at Hospice!

Joe cont. from page 1

Dan: And has it helped?

Joe: It's FANTASTIC! The whole team is fantastic. Kathy, the nurse comes out and everybody comes over and does everything for me. Nancy comes out and Karen. They all take care of me. They really care about me and it's fantastic! I don't have to worry about anything.

Dan: What were some of the things you were worried about?

Joe: Well, I was worried about being alone and just worried about when the end comes what would I do. I have a brother in Placerville and he comes over once a week. I know he was worried too. But now I just don't worry. You see, they didn't just help me, they helped my brother too. They're just fantastic!

Dan: I really appreciate you allowing us to share your story with the folks in the community. I think it is important that people learn more about hospice.

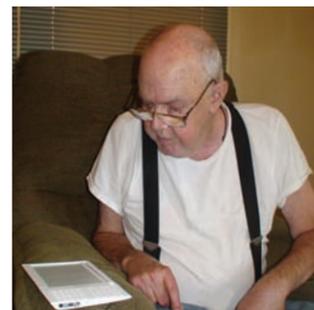
Joe: I wish I would have gone on hospice six months ago. I talked to a friend the other day who told me about a friend of hers who has cancer. I asked her was he on hospice? She said no. You know what I told her?

Dan: Nope.

Joe: I told her to tell him to get his "BLANK" on hospice! I tell everybody that. I think I have a good attitude. I don't worry about what's going to happen down the road. I like to laugh and when they come over (the hospice folks) sometimes we joke around. It's really wonderful. I just feel so good about the whole thing.



Joe died peacefully in his bed at home on 9/22/2008.



Joe shows off his electronic reading machine from Amazon.com

Fall/Winter

Calendar of Events Save the Dates

December 6 & 7 Tree of Lights Celebration



This annual event will take place Saturday, Dec. 6th at the Calaveras Senior Center, 956 Mountain Ranch Road, **San Andreas** and Sunday, Dec. 7th at our Thrift Store, 10776 Argonaut Lane (At Hwy. 49 & 88) in **Jackson**. Festivities begin at 5pm and include music, lighting of the tree, and refreshments. For each **\$10.00 donation**, a light will be placed on the tree in memory of your loved one and their name listed on a plaque at the site.

More information to follow.

Valentine's Day Take a Chance on Love (NEW!)

This Valentine's Day, Hospice of Amador & Calaveras will hold a fabulous raffle including a spectacular **Diamond Ring** and a fantastic **Fishing Trip to San Diego on a private yacht**. Stay tuned to the hospice hot line for additional information.



March 10-12 Family Support Volunteer Training.

Training to be held at the Calaveras Senior Center.

More details to follow.

Message from Dan Riordan, Executive Director



During the past year HoA&C has undergone a series of significant changes. These changes include; adding Calaveras to our name, a new executive director, a new director of patient care, four new board members including a new board president, two new social workers, a new billing specialist, two new thrift store employees, ten new Griebuster volunteers, eight new family support volunteers, a new interim bereavement coordinator, a new way for nurses to enter electronic patient records, new Medicare regulations, and a significant reduction in Medicare funding!

Wow, it has truly been a remarkable year! And you know what? In the midst of all of that change, hospice has continued to provide outstanding, end-of-life care to over 240 patients. This is more patients and families cared for than any previous year in our 26 year history.

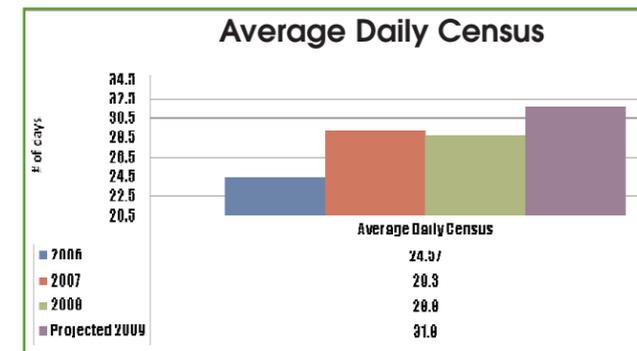
When I joined hospice in November 2007 I knew I was in for something very special. I was right. Hospice of Amador & Calaveras represents to me the single most important work I have ever been involved with. I am honored each and every day knowing that something we do

today is going to make someone's life better. We ease the pain and offer hope during one of life's single most important thresholds. Our staff gives 100% each day to help improve the lives of our patients and families. Our volunteers make a difference every time they show up to support a family in need, a child who has suffered the loss of a loved one, or to help support our Thrift Store whose income helps support the hospice mission.

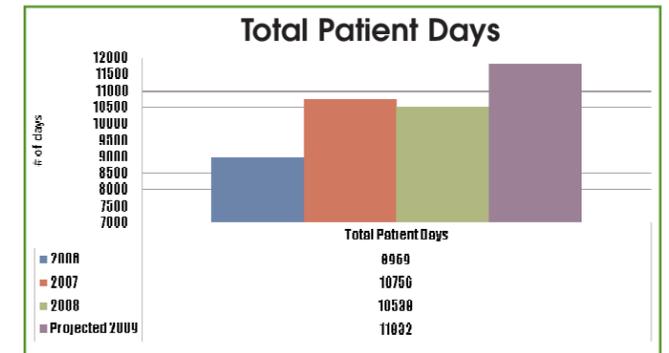
We salute our entire staff for the wonderful job they do within our hospice community. This year we celebrate these individuals during November, **National Hospice and Palliative Care Month**. And a special thank you to all of you for your continued support of Hospice of Amador & Calaveras. And remember, if you or a loved one would like more information about hospice services please call our office at 209-223-5500.

Your Hospice is a GROWING Concern

These three charts display information about 3 key indicators in the business of hospice. The **Average Daily Census** chart displays information about the average number of patients who are receiving hospice services on any one day during the past 3 fiscal years. Then, based on July and August this year, we projected our growth for fiscal year 08-09 in all three charts. We hope you find this information interesting and can appreciate the considerable growth your hospice is undergoing. Your continued support is so important to our ability to provide services.



The **Total Patient Days** chart measures the number of days a patient is on hospice services times the actual number of patients served throughout that particular year. Once again, we see a trend of significant growth. (see chart, next col.)



The **Average Patient Visits** chart measures the actual number of visits made by hospice staff to the patients under our care. We schedule patient visits based on individual needs.

