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# hospice highlights

Hospice of Amador and Calaveras  
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 • WINTER 2009



## Take a Chance on LOVE!

Take a Chance on Love this Valentine's Day by participating in our fabulous Valentine's Day Raffle. Purchase a raffle ticket for \$10 and have a chance to win a **diamond ring** valued at **\$5,750**, an **overnight fishing trip for 4** to San Diego on a beautiful and private 50 ft. yacht valued at over **\$3750**, or **3 nights for 2** in a beautiful oceanside condo on the Monterey Bay valued at **\$1300**, or **12 rounds of golf** with carts at three of our local golf courses valued at approximately **\$750**.

\$5,750.00 Value



15  
TICKETS  
FOR  
\$100

\$3,750.00 Value



Please support hospice by  
purchasing your tickets today.

Purchase **10 tickets for \$100**  
**AND RECEIVE ABSOLUTELY FREE:**

- An additional 5 tickets (that's 15 in all!)
- A delicious Valentine's Day Basque Cake from Andreas Bakery.

1  
TICKET  
ONLY  
\$10

DRAWING  
HELD ON  
FEB.  
14TH.

**Ticket Sales in Jackson:**  
**Gold Mine Jewelers**, 37 Main St.

**Hospice Thrift Store**  
10776 Argonaut Lane

**Hospice Offices**  
1500 S. Hwy. 49

**In Sutter Creek:**  
**FineEye Gallery**  
71 Main St.

To purchase tickets  
with your credit card,  
please call: 223-5500.

\$1300.00 Value



\$750.00 Value



## 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](http://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). Thrift store is open 7 days per week. Call for donation hours, 223-7728.

Winter 2009  
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

## An Interview with 3 Hospice Employees

### OUR QUESTIONS

- Q1. How long have you worked with hospice and what is your position there?
- Q2. What is it about hospice that draws you to work there?
- Q3. What are your greatest challenges working at hospice?
- Q4. What would you like every patient and family member to know about hospice?

### THEIR ANSWERS

#### Caela White

- A1. 6.5 years. Director of Patient Care Services.
- A2. As a nurse, I have always wanted to spend face-to-face time with patients and find ways to help people above and beyond what is expected. Hospice is a service that allows our staff the time to do that as well as be there for people during one of their greatest times of need.
- A3. Making all the people who need our help aware of the services we provide and helping them get hospice care without waiting too long.
- A4. That our experienced, well prepared staff really does care about each patient and their families. We want to help you through this difficult time.



#### Nancy Kearns

- A1. 2 years. Home Health Aide and Bereavement Coordinator.
- A2. My mother was a patient of hospice. I could not have cared for her at home without the help of hospice. After that experience I have had a heart for hospice and looked for a way to become involved. I am very excited about my work with bereavement. I learned through my mother's death that a lot of growth and learning can happen in the dying process and I feel honored to be able to be a part of that process.
- A3. Meeting people exactly where they are in their grief. Each person has their own history, experience and personality. Helping them find their path can be very challenging, but also very rewarding.
- A4. That hospice is a comforting, safe service provided by experienced, qualified, loving people. Caring for dying loved one can be very rewarding but also very draining and overwhelming. The support that hospice offers can make all the difference in making it possible for loved ones to die comfortably at home surrounded by family.



#### Janet Baechler

- A1. 5 years. RN Case Manager & Liaison to Residential Care Facilities.
- A2. I decided to become a hospice nurse after caring for my husband with a terminal illness. I enjoy working closely with the families and supporting them through the end-of-life process.
- A3. The job can be emotionally draining at times.
- A4. All hospice employees are unique individuals who work closely as a team to provide a variety of services to our patients and families.



## Winter 2009 Calendar of Events Save the Dates

### February 14 Valentine's Day Take a Chance on Love

This Valentine's Day, Drawing to be held at the Gold Mine Jewelry Store, 37 Main St., Jackson 11:00AM Need not be present to win!  
See front page for details!

### March 10-12 Family Support Volunteer Training.

Training to be held at the Calaveras Senior Center.  
**More details to follow.**

### Friday, March 27

We'll host our  
**Annual  
Volunteer  
Appreciation  
Dinner**



for our very special  
volunteers.

### Sunday, April 18

Hospice of Amador & Calaveras will hold the annual  
**Memorial Candle  
Lighting Service.**  
Additional information will be available as the date draws closer.

## Tree of Lights Ceremony - 2008

Once again, our tree of lights ceremony in December was a very special event. Held this year at both our Thrift Store in Jackson and at the Senior Center in San Andreas, we met with new friends and with old. Attendees gathered to celebrate the memory of their loved ones as each of us lit a candle to illuminate those memories. The opportunity to stand together and hold in our hearts the memory of our loved ones was a special event for each of us individually and for all of us as a community.

*Thank you to all who participated this year and who made generous donations to hospice.*



## Technology Improves Patient Care

In our continuing effort to provide the best available care to our patients and families, the hospice clinical staff is currently undergoing technical training. With their new laptops in hand, our nurses will be able to enter patient record information and have it available to our entire team almost instantaneously. This translates to even greater quality of care for our patients and families. Hats off to the hospice staff for their continuous efforts to improve patient care.

## Preston Makes Hospice Donation

On November 12, 2008, the James A. Weiden High School (JAWHS) Student Council presented a donation to Hospice of Amador and Calaveras in the amount of \$720.00. In 2008, Preston's youthful offenders and staff have donated more than \$4,000 to local non-profit organizations, such as the Amador Child Abuse Council, Operation Care, Hospice of Amador and Calaveras, and their December recipient, the San Joaquin Teenage Pregnancy Help Center. Hospice appreciates the spirit of giving that motivates the Preston



From L to R: Dan Riordan, Executive Director, Hospice of Amador & Calaveras, Marco Avina, Russ Harris, Principal JAWHS, Lynne Jensen-Smith, Vice Principal, JAWHS, & Paul Biehle, Vice Principal, JAWHS.

youthful offenders and staff as they give back to our community!

## New Years Greetings from Dan Riordan, Executive Director:

*As we enter the New Year with all of its financial challenges, I wonder how we, as individuals and as a community will greet these challenges. It seems to me that we have a clear choice in the face of economic adversity to either contract or to expand. The option to fear or to love. The option to hoard or to give freely knowing that at times like these it is more important than ever to continue to support organizations like hospice!*

*Some experts are forecasting the most challenging economic times in over 75 years. Not only your hospice, but each of the other non-profit organizations serving our community will need your support like never before. The tough reality is that during significant financial downturns people generally give less. This thought stirs my own fear as I worry about the future of hospice care in Amador and Calaveras*

County.

*I know that in my own life I may not be able to control the events around me like this difficult financial storm we find ourselves in. I do, however, have some control over my reaction to the storm. How will my own choices, my own behavior reflect who I am and what I value? Will I contract or expand? Will I fear or will I love? Will I continue to give or will the temptation to hoard be too great?*

*My prayer is that each of us will take a moment to contemplate our plans for giving during this coming year and make the conscious decision to expand, to love, and to give like our lives depended on it!*

