



hospice highlights

Hospice of Amador and Calaveras
is a non-profit agency serving primarily
Amador and Calaveras Counties

P: 209.223.5500 • F: 209.223.4964 • www.hospiceofamador.org • FALL 2009

Art Auction Update

In our last newsletter we reported raising over \$15K at this year's art auction. That was true but just how much over \$15K we had not yet realized. This year's event, in the midst of this most significant nationwide financial crisis, Hospice of Amador & Calaveras raised over \$25K in total and after expenses was able to net close to \$20K! Wow, thank you one and all for enabling us to continue to provide quality, end-of-life care to all in need, regardless of their ability to pay. Next year, we will again be located at the St. George Hotel for this fabulous event although we will be moving to a new location in the larger yard in the back. In this way we will be able to accommodate at least 50 more participants which is essential to our mission. This year we unfortunately had to turn people away who wanted to purchase tickets and support hospice. Next year's event promises to be another record breaking event. See you then and thanks so much for all you do for Hospice of Amador & Calaveras!

Calaveras Outreach

On October 16th at the Calaveras Senior Center located at 956 Mountain Ranch Road, San Andreas, Hospice of Amador & Calaveras will be hosting a free spaghetti dinner. Please join us to learn more about how we are providing more and more care to patients and families in Calaveras. Join us and find out how you can help by becoming a Thrift Store volunteer in Calaveras County. Help us get the word out to our Calaveras neighbors! Anyone interested in attending should call Ann at 223-5500.



The Hospice Team:

Hospice is about people caring for people. These are some of the dedicated and talented members of our hospice team. Not pictured are two new members of our team joining us over the past several months; Celine Drefs - CHHA, and Dorothy Casillas - CHHA. Also not pictured are Susan Bear - BSW, Karen Lilley - CHHA, Middy Walsh - RN, Jyoti Ratnaparkhi - CHHA, and Dede Gabree - RN. Each member of our team brings professionalism, compassion, and commitment to each and every one of our patients and families. Hospice of Amador & Calaveras salutes a fantastic Hospice Team!

Front Row

Mary Kruletich - RN, Dr. Donald Van Fossan - Medical Director, Ann Metherd - Volunteer Coordinator, Mark Koenig - RN, Suzan Cowan - LCSW, Caela White - RN & Director of Patient Care, Leslie Swager - LCSW, Janet Baechler - RN, Karen Mason - Administrative Assistant, Dr. Paul Beatty - Physician Designee.

Back Row

Phil Crowe - CHHA, Julie Shelby - RN - FNP, Nancy Kearns - CHHA & Bereavement Coordinator, Michael Jordan - Chaplain, Kathy Graham - RN, Karin Ericson - RN, Susan Dominick - RN & Medical Records, Susan Moore - RN, Dan Riordan - Executive Director, Maria Michell - LVN, Dale Barrett - Chaplain, Carol Kuhns - Billing Specialist

Meet the thrift store team on Page 2

Meet our thrift store staff members

Pictured to the right, are the energetic and dedicated staff of the Hospice of Amador & Calaveras Thrift Store. Our amazing team is committed to making your thrift store shopping experience rewarding whether it be one time or time and time again. We appreciate all of your support for our Jackson store and we appreciate our Hospice Thrift Store staff! Come by the store and say hello to our friendly and professional staff!



From left to right:

Lynne Standard-Nightengale - Manager, Sara Mason - Clothing Specialist, Debbie Vasilovich - Housewares Specialist, Brandi Baker - Personal Shopper, Doug Smith - Intake Coordinator, Sarah Tremaine - Books Specialist, Penny Harris - Assistant Manager.

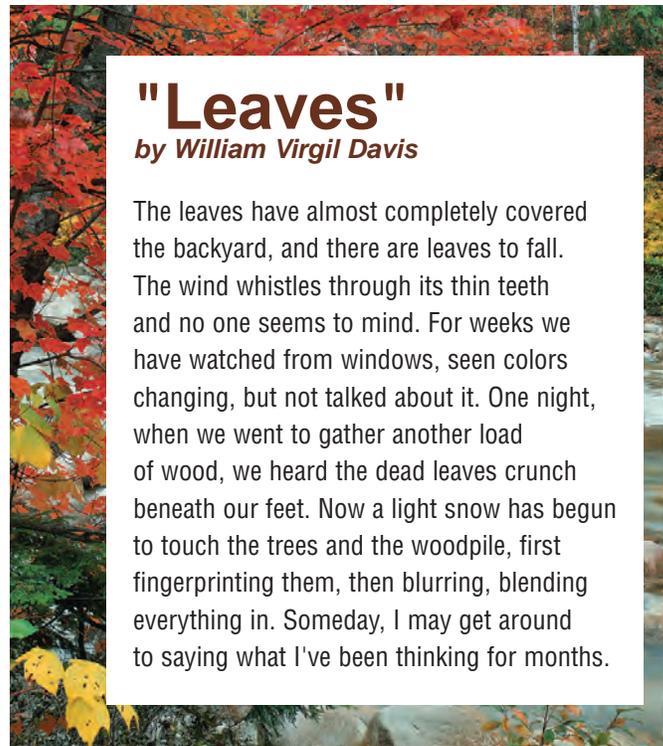
Autumn Greetings from Dan Riordan, Executive Director

I was wondering the other day why it is that so many of us seem to enjoy the fall season so much. Is it how the morning and evening light reflects and casts shadows throughout our landscape? Is it the sense of moving forward I wondered? Perhaps the cool evening breezes that remind us that winter is on the way? Then I read this poem by William Virgil Davis. ➔

As we enter this fall season my wish for each of us is that we re-commit ourselves to saying what needs to be said; to making the changes that need to be made (letting go); to accepting the darkness and the light; and to be grateful for all that life has to offer including the end of life (acknowledging impermanence).

Buddhist teacher Sharon Salzberg author of Loving Kindness says "Generosity has such power because it is characterized by the inner quality of letting go or relinquishing. Being able to let go, to give up, to renounce, to give generously - these capacities spring from the same source within us. When we practice generosity, we open to all of these liberating qualities simultaneously. They carry us to a profound knowing of freedom, and they also are the loving expression of that same state of freedom."

May we all be reminded during this fall season of our generous and caring nature whenever we think about hospice and how we might help. Thank you all for your continued support for Hospice of Amador & Calaveras.



DATES TO REMEMBER

Call 223-5500 for more info or go online to www.hospiceofamador.org and click on our new events calendar

Friday, October 16

Sutter Amador Hospital **Health Fair**
Jackson

Friday, October 16

FREE Spaghetti Dinner
Hospice Informational Dinner Meeting
(see front page) Calaveras Senior Center

Tuesday, November 10

Hospice **Informational Meeting**
Amador Senior Center

Tree of Lights

Sat., December 5
Calaveras Senior Center,
San Andreas

Sun., December 6
Hospice Thrift Store,
Jackson



"Leaves"

by William Virgil Davis

The leaves have almost completely covered the backyard, and there are leaves to fall. The wind whistles through its thin teeth and no one seems to mind. For weeks we have watched from windows, seen colors changing, but not talked about it. One night, when we went to gather another load of wood, we heard the dead leaves crunch beneath our feet. Now a light snow has begun to touch the trees and the woodpile, first fingerprinting them, then blurring, blending everything in. Someday, I may get around to saying what I've been thinking for months.

Hospice Statistics

Fiscal Year 2008-2009

During the past fiscal year Hospice of Amador & Calaveras provided hospice care to more patients and families than at any other time in our almost 30 year history. We hope you find this information helpful and informative.

Graph One:

The number of patients and families served by hospice over the past 3 years has grown significantly. We have experienced almost a 25% increase represented by an additional 48 patients served last year compared to 2007. We want you to know that we accomplished this increase in service while reducing our payroll expenses in the clinical area last fiscal year by over \$40,000!

Graph Two:

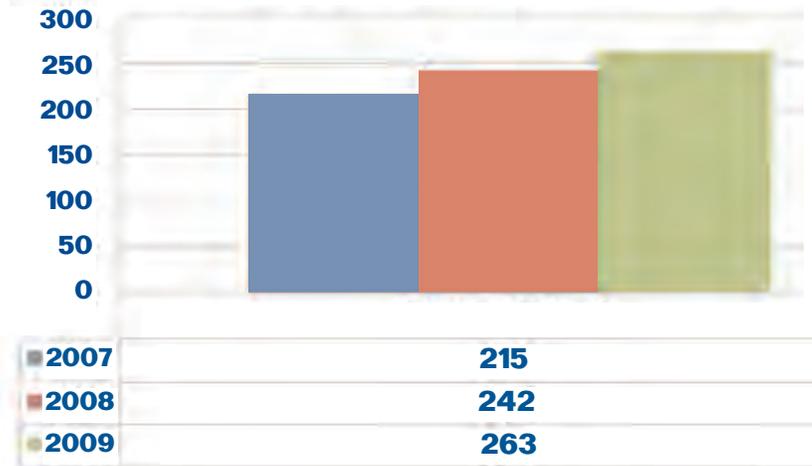
The Average Daily Census (ADC) represents how many patients we are caring for on average each day of the year. As you can see, last year we reached an all time high for Hospice of Amador & Calaveras. Of those served approximately 30% reside in Calaveras and this number continues to increase.

Graph Three:

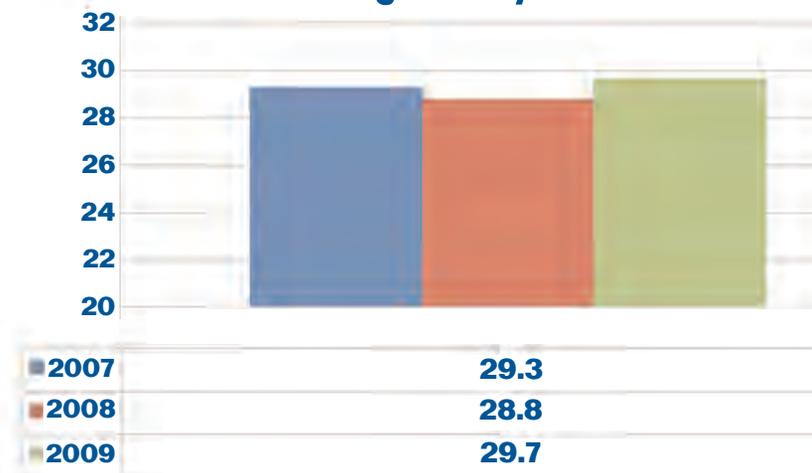
Last year during each day a patient was on hospice care we provided an average of 1.63 visits per day, 7 days per week. This number represents a 7% increase over the previous year. The number of visits a patient receives each day is based on what the patient needs in order to be well cared for and as comfortable as possible. The number of visits a patient requires is determined by their case manager and provided by members of the entire interdisciplinary team including: RNs, social workers, home health aides, chaplains, and volunteers.



Total # of Patients Served



Average Daily Census



Average Visits per Patient Day

