

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 • SPRING 2008

Hospice of Amador & Calaveras

Welcomes new Executive Director

Dan Riordan joined Hospice of Amador & Calaveras as a Family Support Volunteer late in 2006 and spent a half a day a week over the next 12 months supporting patients and their families. It was during this very special time that Dan discovered the Hospice mission and made a commitment to provide whatever support he could to the success of this very important non-profit organization.



Dan Riordan spent 10 years managing the local Blue Shield office in Jackson. As a leader Dan believes that the most effective solutions come from the team members actually doing the work. "Sometimes people expect managers

In November 2007 he joined the Hospice team as the new Executive Director after spending a year with another quality local non-profit, First 5 Amador. Dan's background uniquely qualifies him for this very special position of leadership. Dan has a bachelor's degree in business management and

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Hospice Has Gone to the Frogs



Hospice of Amador & Calaveras has been serving the residents of Calaveras County for many years. We are currently working on officially changing our name to include Calaveras and we are excited to announce plans to open a small informational office at the Senior Center in San Andreas. Some of our clinical staff will be using this office as a home base in order to provide improved service and save Hospice travel time and expenses. Stay tuned as we discover and implement more ways to better serve our patients in Calaveras County.

Up close and personal with - Rosemary Savone

The following interview was conducted in the charming and delightful home of Rosemary Savone. Hospice of Amador and Calaveras is grateful to Rosemary for sharing part of her story with us.



Rosemary Savone

Rosemary greeted us at her door surrounded by the silence and tranquility of this lovely setting as we were welcomed into her family home just beyond Daffodil Hill. Kathie Praetorius and I had come for a visit with Rosemary to learn more about her relationship with Hospice.

Tell us about how you first got involved with Hospice.

Well, it sounds funny but I first got involved after meeting Ursula Tocher (Hospice Board Chairperson) at the beauty parlor. Both of us had husbands who were invalids at the time. The woman cutting our hair said we had a lot in common and so she introduced us.

Was Hospice able to help you with your husband's situation?

Well Pete was on dialysis at the time and his pain from severe osteoporosis was becoming worse and worse. It was quite a struggle for all of us to come to grips with a decision to stop the dialysis. When you stop dialysis you know you will only live for a few days and so there was serious discussion about whether or not this might be considered a form of suicide.

That must have been tough.

It was but Kathie Praetorius (Hospice Chaplain) was able to help counsel all of us and supported us as we worked through this

very emotional and spiritual dilemma. She had very meaningful discussions with our entire family including our children who were really struggling with the decision. In the end we made the decision to stop the dialysis.

What did Hospice do then?

Hospice was able to help manage Pete's pain so that he did not suffer as much. The nurses and home health aides also provided physical help that was beyond imagination. It really brought me peace of mind to know that Pete was being bathed and cared for in a way that

"Well, it's just that I feel humble. This is not really painful for me. It's just part of the walk. It's not frightening..."

I just couldn't do. Do you want to know what Kathie told us?

Hospice: Yes

She said, "When you have learned all you are supposed to learn, and you have taught all you are supposed to teach, then God calls you home. So I guess I still have more to learn!"

Well, I don't know. It seems that with your situation now you are teaching all of us

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11th Annual Art Auction, "Art on the Lawn" will be held on Friday June 27 at the St. George Hotel in Volcano!

1500 South Hwy. 49
P.O. Box 595
Jackson, CA 95642



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Bulk Rate
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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 When your tax refund arrives log on to www.hospice-ofamador.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)

Doing our part...

In an effort to save money, we have not included a donation envelope in this newsletter. Here are 3 ways you can donate to Hospice...

✉ mail

a check to the address on the front

👉 log on

to our website: hospiceofamador.org, then click on HOW YOU CAN HELP

☎ call

make a credit card donation by calling the office at: 209-223-5500

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about how we might be able to be with our own deaths. Are you comfortable talking about your own situation?

Yes I am. I am lucky you know. So lucky. I am not experiencing fear. I suppose I should be but I'm really not.

So, you were diagnosed with cancer?

Yes, I was diagnosed with lung cancer about 14 months ago and now it has spread to various places including my bones. But the doctors won't say how long I have to live. How could they? They don't really know. I think they said a year or two. But I feel absolutely blessed being exactly where I am supposed to be.

Tell me more about what you mean by that.



Rosemary

Well, it's just that I feel humble. This is not really painful for me. It's just part of the walk. It's not frightening. I mean there is really nothing special about me. I should be afraid shouldn't I? But I'm not. It's as if everything is exactly as it is meant to be in my life right now and somehow that brings me great comfort. I've already told my doctor that I want Hospice. He says it's too soon. I must have more to learn!

Why do you want Hospice Care?

Well I am already calling my friends at Hospice. It's really wonderful. I do have some hip pain and I know I will be able to call anytime and get the help I need. I really think the people who do this work are special people.

You volunteered with Hospice over the past several years didn't you?

Well yes. I did some menial work in the office. I helped Ann Metherd when she was putting the Family Support Volunteer training manual together. I did editing and that type of thing. I had done lots of care giving so I was not up for being a family support volunteer myself.

With your years of association with Hospice what would you like to share with people who might be considering getting involved somehow?

JUST DO IT! That's what I would say. Get involved. If you have any reason at all to be associated with Hospice you should do it... For any reason. I can't imagine anyone who would not benefit hugely by associating with hospice. There are lots of ways to serve. They accommodated me quite well with my willingness to do what I could do.

We took a break then as Rosemary took us on a walking tour around her home. There we saw the garden, the indoor lap pool, the peaceful and expansive valley, listened to stillness in the trees, and visited the face garden. Many of these sculptures were created by Rosemary. Beautiful aren't they?



Kathy P hugged Rosemary and bid her farewell. Kathy was heading to her next family meeting. Rosemary and I sat at her kitchen table chatting and drinking tea. As the afternoon passed I felt honored and grateful. I knew I was sitting across the table from an extraordinary woman. A woman who loves life, loves family, a woman of faith, and a woman who loves Hospice. Speaking for Hospice, we love you too Rosemary! Thank you for sharing part of your life with us.

You are our hero. You are an inspiration.



Top Photo: Rosemary with Dan Riordan, Executive Director, Hospice
Lower Photo: Rosemary and Kathy Praetorius (Hospice Chaplain)

Calendar



Griefbusters Training Dates:

Monday & Tuesday April 7 & 8 from 8:30 AM-4:30 PM & Friday May 9 from 8:30 AM-Noon. Individuals learn skills to work with children ages 3-17 who have suffered a loss through death. Please contact Ann Metherd, Volunteer Coordinator @ 223-5500. Individuals must submit an application and go through an interview process prior to the training.

Family Support Volunteer Training:

Mondays & Wednesday May 5, 7, 12 & 14 Sessions on Mondays and Wednesday May 7 begin at 8:30 AM and continue to 4 PM and the Wednesday May 14 session will be from 4-6 PM. The training provides individuals the information needed to work with terminally ill patients and their families. Those interested can contact Ann Metherd @ 223-5500. An application must be submitted and each individual will be interviewed prior to the training.

National Volunteer Week is April 27 – May 3, 2008

Hospice kicks off the season by celebrating their volunteers on Friday April 25 with the...

Annual Volunteer Appreciation Dinner.

For additional information, contact Ann Metherd or Karen Mason at the office, 223-5500 or contact Lynne or Penny at the Thrift Store, 223-4964.

11th Annual Art Auction, "Art on the Lawn"

will be held on Friday June 27 at the St. George Hotel in Volcano, California.

Join us for an evening of music, good food and beautiful & whimsical art. The evening begins at 6 PM with food and beverage and viewing of art work. The live auction begins promptly at 7. A silent auction, as well as, raffle will also take place throughout the evening. Contact Ann Metherd, 223-5500.



Hospice at Kit Carson

Did you know? Kit Carson Convalescent has a dedicated Hospice team that serves the needs of patients in that facility at the end of life.

The team includes an RN, LVN, HHA and volunteers, plus the services of the Hospice Chaplain and Social Worker.

Hospice at Kit Carson is designed to optimize end of life services in the facility. Hospice services enhance care provided to the resident and the resident's family. Additionally, Hospice is a resource for the facility staff in pain and symptom management, addressing complex psychosocial issues and complying with regulatory and facility standards and requirements.

Hospice is available 24/7 for pain and symptom consults and visits.

Brought to you by Mary Kruleich, RN



Pictured above: Mary Kruleich and Doctor Donald VanFossan, MD (Hospice Medical Director) pictured at Kit Carson.



Pictured from left to right: Michelle M. Tiopiano, RN, Mary Kruleich, RN, Jastin Martinez, CAN and Shawn Tinnel, CAN



Pictured above: Mary Kruleich with Facility Administrator, Meredith Miller

Executive Director, cont. from page 1

and leaders to have all the solutions. In my 25+ years of management experience that has never been the case. The answers to most of the day-to-day challenges we face at Hospice will come from the folks actually doing the work, providing the services, working with the families. I like to think that my job is to lead by giving voice to the team."

Hospice faces many challenges every day.

■ *Overcoming the fiscal challenge based on the fact that the payments received from Medicare and other insurance providers do not cover the costs of providing end of life services.*

■ *Geographically we are challenged by the*

logistics of getting out to the patients homes spanning all the way from Rancho Murrieta to Mountain Ranch.

■ *How to balance the need for maintaining a highly qualified and skilled Hospice clinical staff with a shifting budget driven by our ever changing census.*

■ *Continuing to offer the community an exceptional thrift store that helps support the great mission of Hospice.*

These are just some of the challenges that greet Dan every day as he arrives at work. "I think this is the most important position I have ever held. Hospice work is a real balancing act between heart, mind, and soul. I am grateful to

be serving in this position and am extremely optimistic about the future of Hospice in both Amador and Calaveras Counties!"



Executive Director
Dan Riordan

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