



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 • SPRING 2010

Calaveras Thrift Store Grand Opening

The new Calaveras Hospice Thrift Store celebrated its grand opening in Angels Camp on Saturday, February 27, 2010 with hundreds of Calaveras county citizens attending. The store, located at 570 No. Main Street is truly a gem, packed with high quality and affordable clothing, kitchen wares, house wares and more. This grand opening marks the beginning of a terrific partnership between Hospice of Amador & Calaveras and the Calaveras community at large. "We think we have found an important way to really demonstrate our commitment to the community in Calaveras and we look forward to connecting with more and more folks there," says Dan Riordan. The community has already demonstrated their commitment by providing a very strong volunteer base without whom, the store simply could not operate successfully.

Like the Jackson Thrift Store, the new location will serve the hospice in many important ways. First of all it provides an excellent platform for outreach and community involvement. Says Lynne Standard,



Chairman of the Board, Paul Cherry leads the Ceremonial Ribbon Cutting while children enjoy face painting.



Thrift Store manager, "We want everyone in Calaveras County to know that we are here for them. They can count on us to provide quality

MORE grand opening photos and story on page 3!



Pictured left to right: Mary Brownell (Golf/winner), Lynne Standard-Nightengale (Thrift Store Manager), Kay Winters (Diamond earrings/winner)

Take a Chance on Love Update

THANK YOU!

The results are in and my, oh my, we are fortunate to live in such a generous and passionate community! Our annual, Take a Chance on Love Raffle raised over \$24K this year through the dedication and hard work of a host of volunteers and merchants who partnered with us this year to purchase and to sell tickets! To all of those who supported this important fund raiser this year we say thank you from the bottom of our heart! This year's lucky winners include:

1. Trip for 4 to Cabo San Lucas valued at over \$10,000 - Sharon Merzlak
2. 1 ct. Diamond earrings valued at \$3,000 - Kay Winters
3. 3 nights at Monterey Bay valued at \$1,300 - Ron Floyd
4. 12 rounds of golf valued at \$750 - Mary Brownell

Spring CALENDAR

Save the Dates

Saturday, April 17



**Celebrate
our Children
Amador
County**

Griefbusters will provide
craft projects for children
and their parents

Friday, April 23



**Annual
Volunteer
Appreciation
Dinner**

Volunteers... Build
a Better World

Saturday, April 24



**Children's Fair
Calaveras
County**

Griefbusters will
provide craft projects for
children and their parents

Sunday, May 16

**Memorial Candle
Lighting Service.**

Call 209-223-5500 for info!

Friday, June 18



**13th Annual
Art Auction
St George Hotel
In Volcano**

Champagne, food, wine,
music and our fantastic
raffle and auction. For infor-
mation please contact our
hospice office at 223-5500
Mark your calendars.

Meet Pat Grady



Pat Grady lives in Sutter Creek and has been on Hospice service for a couple of months now. To listen to him tell the story, he's the luckiest guy alive! I met with Pat a couple of weeks ago to talk to him about living life as fully as possible on hospice.

Here is part of that conversation.

Dan: How's it going Pat?

Pat: Oh boy! For 60 years I've been able to do what I wanted to do. How many guys do you know who can say that? And now these hospice folks are taking real good care of me. I've got everything I need.

Dan: What kind of work did you do Pat?



Pat: I shod horses. My dad shod horses before that and he taught me how. I was a lucky guy to have the father I did.

Dan: Why's that?

Pat: Well ya know, he used to tell me, when you wake up in the morning this is your day. You can sit on that couch and drink beer watching TV, or you can decide to do something with your day. It's nobody's decision but your own. Now if you do some good work that day, when it comes time to go to bed at night you can feel pretty good about it. I live my whole life like that.

Dan: How long were you married Pat?

Pat: Agnes and I were married 53 years. Ya know I'll tell you something else. These people who say they never had a fight all the time there were married... Well, one of two things is going on there. They're either liars, or one of 'ems a wimp. Well I just think that you work it out that's all. No need to split up the way they do today. Just stick it out. It'll work out if that's what you want.

Dan: So why are you on hospice Pat?

Pat: Well I've got this stomach cancer and the doctors say I may have only six more months. Hell, if I keep feeling as good as I do now, I may live for another

couple of years. Karin (the hospice nurse) takes such good care of me. Every time she comes out she asks me how I'm doin'. If I am having trouble sleeping she figures out what might help me. If the pain gets too bad, I get something for that too. I think she takes good notes because she always says, "Well, let's see. The last time I was here we tried this. How's that working for ya?"

Dan: Are you getting everything you need Pat?

Pat: Oh God yeah! I'm telling you these people bring me everything I need. I gotta be careful because if I even mention it to Karin it shows up on my porch the next day! I got this hospital bed here. I got some oxygen if I need a little of that. Susan is the other one who comes out to make sure I get everything. Ya know I'm still driving but I can't go too far. I can't work as much as I used to. Look at these arms.

Dan: Yep, you got those old man arms don't ya?

(Said kiddingly...)

Pat: Hell, wasn't always like that.

Dan: I can tell. Shoeing those horses huh?. You must've been strong as an ox. Is this a picture of you up here with the little horses?

Pat: Yep, they are the mini-horses. This weekend we're going over to Coloma to check out the minis!



Dan: Your drivin' all that way yourself?

Pat: No, Eddie and Connie (son and daughter in-law) they'll take me over there. Hell, I made a lot of friends over the years working with those horses. It's kind of like a community. We'll go over for the day. Oh, I get around pretty good still!

I spent about an hour and a half with Pat that afternoon. He talked about his wife, his mom and dad, kids, friends, grandkids, and those mini-horses.

Pat's life has been filled with plenty of all the normal ups and downs of a seventy-eight year old. Pat has experienced the great joys and the terrible tragedies that most of us, if we live long enough, will have the opportunity to experience. But he wouldn't change a thing. Not even now, as he continues to live a rich, full and meaningful life with the help of his family, friends, and the hospice team.

Pat: Dan, I'm a lucky guy!



Grand Opening *Cont. from page 1*

end-of-life care to patients and families regardless of their ability to pay. Our beautiful store is another important way for us to earn revenues to support this mission!”

We hope everyone will come out and visit us at our new location just off Hwy. 49 North of downtown Angels Camp. We need donations, volunteers, and of course shoppers! The store is open six days a week and closed on Wednesday. Call 736-4830 for more information.



Something for everyone!

First Buck!

Dan Riordan, Sarah Murphy, (store manager) Debra Button (volunteer).

Spring MESSAGE

from Dan Riordan,
Executive Director:



It seems to me that this has been one of the wettest winters in recent years and what a blessing it has been for our parched county! Whenever I get tired of “all this rain” I just remember what drought looks like. We are fortunate aren’t we? We live in such a beautiful part of California. As the winter rains nourish the earth and the spring flowers begin to bloom, I am encouraged and uplifted by the cycle of life.

Hospice care is about supporting patients and families to live life as fully as possible during their end of life process. I am sometimes concerned because I think people misunderstand hospice care and what it can represent. Some people feel like it represents some type of failure or some other type of negative step toward their inevitable demise. We, at hospice, see it a bit differently.

Like the rain that nourishes our earth and the sunshine that encourages spring blossoms, hospice care can be a tremendous gift as we cross the threshold from this life



to the next. Hospice care, when provided to patients and families with enough time to really make a difference, can do just that. It can, and does make a big difference in helping patients and families live life as fully as possible as they navigate this inevitable dying process. If you or someone you know needs more information about hospice care please don’t hesitate to call us at 223-5500.

Family Support Volunteer Training

In March this year we trained an additional 16 family support volunteers. These special people participate in 20 hours of training and are provided with tools, tips, and practical guidance for how to serve patients and families who are receiving hospice services. When Medicare created the hospice benefit in 1982 they stipulated that at least 5% of the care provided to patients and families must be provided by community volunteers. This was, and continues to be, a terrific idea because it encourages hospices to reach out in the community they serve to recruit and train volunteers. Today, over 550,000 active volunteers support hospice across the nation. We thank our local volunteers deeply and encourage you to call 223-5500 to learn more about becoming a family support volunteer.



Front Row, Left to Right: Diane Graham, France Monk, Renee Davis, Sylvia Davies, Pat Siler, Joan Dionne, Phyllis Garman, Janet Laird, Ann Metherd. **Back Row,** Left to Right: Jeri Carson-Hull, Vicky Murphy, Daniel Marx, Madelain Bolton-Brown, Lauri Hughes, Charlie Berry, Barbara Nunnelley, Judy Boggess



1500 South Hwy. 49, Suite 205
 P.O. Box 595
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Angels Camp
 Grand Opening
 Celebration
 Story & Photos!



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 at 223-5500, there are many ways to volunteer. Call Lynne @ 223-4762 to volunteer at either thrift store.
- 4 **Donate** your lightly used articles of clothing and home furnishings to the Hospice Thrift Store (10776 Argonaut Lane, Jackson) & at 570 North Main, Angels Camp. Call for donation hours, 223-4762.

Need a speaker at your next meeting? ...

We would love to talk with your group about how hospice provides compassionate care and helps patients and families live each day to the fullest.




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 Dan Riordan

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