



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 • SUMMER 2009

Hospice and the RCFEs

To hospice patients, home can mean lots of things. Our patients who chose to die in the comfort of their own home sometimes live in residential care facilities. Here in Amador County, hospice partners with four Residential Care Facilities for the Elderly (RCFEs) to provide quality end of life care. The facilities include Amador Residential, Gold Quartz Inn, Jackson Gardens, and Oak Manor.

The primary RN Case Manager working in the RCFEs is Janet Baechler. We asked Janet a few questions to learn more about hospice care in the RCFEs.



From Left to right:
Janet Baechler, RN Hospice of Amador and Calaveras, Lynn Skidmore, Rana Hills, Nadine Self and Jessica Hills. Gold Courts Inn, Senior Retirement Home in Sutter Creek

1. How are residents in the RCFE referred to hospice?

RCFE residents are referred to hospice by their own request, the request of the family, or by their physician. The RCFE administrators may also make a referral to hospice on behalf of their residents.

2. What are the benefits of hospice care to the residents of an RCFE?

The benefit to the resident is that they are able to continue to reside in the RCFE at the end of life rather than being moved to a skilled nursing facility. The State of California issues the RCFEs a special waiver which allows them to provide end-of-life care. This is a much higher level of care than

Cont. on Page 3

In Loving Memory Nancy Norris

June 27, 1936 - June 14, 2009



Nancy Norris joined Hospice of Amador & Calaveras in September 2000 as a social worker. Since that time she has generously, skillfully, and lovingly touched the lives of hundreds of hospice patients, families, and co-workers. We were lucky to have spent time with her and our community was lucky to have been served by her. We miss Nancy and love her dearly.

New Thrift Store in Calaveras?

The need for our hospice to begin providing more services in Calaveras County is growing fast. In order to support that endeavor we are seriously considering opening a thrift store in Calaveras County. If you would like to learn more about how you can help support this new store by volunteering your time or by making material donations of slightly used items, please call Lynne at 223-4762. We will need volunteers to help process donations by sorting and pricing items as well as

volunteers to cashier, stock shelves and assist with displays.

**Call Lynne at
223-4762**

If you have other ideas about how to help make this new store a big success please join our start-up team by calling Lynne today. A thrift store in Calaveras will not only provide much needed revenue supporting our ability to provide increased services in Calaveras County, but will also serve as a community outreach center enabling us to become more involved in the Calaveras community.

12th Annual Art Auction - What a Night!

The 12th annual art auction fundraiser was a tremendous success this year boasting over 150 participants and well over \$15K raised for hospice care. This year Herb Boxhorn provided beautiful music and many of our local vintners provided delicious local wines resulting in a mellow yet highly energetic evening. Dave Vicari once again took on the auctioneer's role and did a fantastic job. Also this year, with the support of Goldmine Jewelers, we added a bonus to our raffle. The first 25 individuals who purchased \$50 worth of raffle tickets automatically became a winner of a \$50 gift certificate to the jewelry store.

Donations, artwork, time and energy were provided by well over 50 generous and community-minded individuals who all helped make this year's event the best ever. Thanks to our community for the support we need to continue providing hospice care to patients and their families regardless of their ability to pay.



DATES TO REMEMBER

Sunday— July 12

West Point Community Fair

Stop by and pick up information about hospice services and how you can help. Enjoy a lovely day in the hills! Bring the whole family. See you there!



Monday - September 7

LABOR DAY!

Annual Labor of Love Fundraiser.

You'll receive a written invitation to help support the important work of hospice. It's easy. Just return our mailer with your donation!



Friday - October 17

Senior Center Gathering - San Andreas

Hospice get-acquainted evening - learn about hospice services and involvement in Calaveras County. We look forward to meeting you!



VOLUNTEER!

It will brighten your day in an unexpected way!

Children's Clothing Returns to Thrift Store

In February of this year a Federal Consumer Product Safety Law went into effect making it illegal to sell or resell children's goods that had not been tested for a variety of toxic materials, including lead and phthalates. During the past few months our thrift store has not sold any children's items; instead the clothing, so kindly donated, has been passed on to other groups for free distribution within the community.

Recently Wal-Mart began donating new items to hospice that have been returned and will not be resold. Among these items are children's clothing with their tags mostly intact. With the Product Safety Law still firmly in mind, we are allowed to legally sell new items, as the large companies like Wal-Mart are now testing all their new products.

Many of our donors and customers have been concerned by our policy regarding the children's products, so we want to assure them that we discontinued these items primarily because of our concern for children's health and safety as well as our obligation to comply with the law. As a part of the larger hospice organization, the thrift store must operate within the legal constraints of both state and federal regulations.



Thank you to everyone who supports our efforts by donating and shopping at the Jackson Hospice Thrift Store. Your generous community support enables us to provide hospice services to patients and families regardless of their ability to pay for those services.

RCFEs *cont. from page 1*

generally permitted in the assisted living facilities.

3. Are there special challenges to providing care in a RCFE?

Yes there are. Again, the state governs the care in these facilities which in turn means hospice must also abide by these regulations. Hospice staff works closely with the RCFE caregivers to support and educate them in end-of-life care, including hospice philosophy, medications, personal care, and emotional support for the hospice patient and their family.

4. What would you like the community to know about hospice care at the RCFE?

First and foremost I want the community to know that hospice care is available to residents of the assisted living facilities. Hospice works closely with caregivers and other staff members to ensure that the hospice patients get the best possible care at the end of life.

Message from Dan Riordan, Executive Director

People ask me sometimes, "Isn't it hard working at hospice?" I can see the concern in their eyes and I get a sense of their own anxiety about dying and all that entails. The fact is that dying is not really a subject that many of us spend much time discussing or exploring. Most of us cringe at the thought and would really rather talk about almost anything else. So, I answer the question, "Sometimes it is hard, but I'm lucky to be working with hospice." That's how I honestly feel. Like our entire team, I feel a sense of honor and I am grateful to be able to play a part in such a significant and oftentimes challenging time of life.



As our patients prepare to die, each of them do so in

their own way. They, along with their families, live through this process each and every day. With hospice care we are able to provide symptom management, comfort, and dignity to our patients. To the families we are able to provide respite, compassion, and understanding. Without judgment, our team enters the lives of our patients and families and takes on a role of total and holistic support. Yes, sometimes it is hard working at hospice but I know I speak for our entire team when I say there is no place we would rather be and nothing we would rather do.

