

# Hospice Matters

A PUBLICATION OF HOSPICE OF YUMA

*Comfort & Compassion When It's Needed Most*

January/February 2010

## HEALTHCARE REFORM PROPOSES DEEP CUTS FOR HOSPICES

Despite the debates raging in Washington, DC; it is impossible to predict how healthcare reform legislation will unfold. The one theme that has permeated throughout the past few months has been that healthcare providers, including hospices, will be called upon to do more with less money. I have waited until now to comment because I simply did not know what direction our leaders might go. With the House of Representatives narrowly passing legislation and the Senate now working on their version of healthcare reform, it is clear that if it is passed that there will likely be deep cuts for hospices across the United States.

As the federal government began their fiscal year, Hospice of Yuma suffered initial cuts in Medicare reimbursement. Even though these reimbursement cuts have posed new financial challenges for us, they are tiny compared to what could be in store for hospice organizations in the near future. If current health care reform legislation in the Sen-

ate passes, it is likely that hospice organizations across our country will see Medicare cuts totaling 11.8% over the next ten years. These deep cuts will impact every hospice organization differently. Rural hospices will be hit the hardest and many will struggle to keep their doors open as they face the cost of caring for dying patients. The economic consequences of these future cuts will severely impact many hospices' ability to meet the ever-increasing demands for quality end-of-life care.

There are a variety of healthcare providers that accept Medicare reimbursement, but only hospice has been independently proven to reduce overall Medicare cost for patients. Researchers from Duke University found that hospice care reduced Medicare costs by an average of **\$2,309.00 per hospice patient**. Additionally, the study found Medicare costs would be reduced for seven out of ten hospice recipients if hospice had been used for a longer period of time. Author Don H. Taylor, Jr.,

Assistant Professor of Public Policy at Duke's Sanford Institute of Public Policy, stated "Given that hospice has been widely demonstrated to improve quality of life of patients and families...the Medicare program appears to have a rare situation whereby something that improves quality of life also appears to reduce cost." It is ironic and unfortunate that even though hospice care has proven to save the Medicare program money that hospice will now face significant cuts in reimbursement.

As we enter the year 2010, I ask for your help as we continue to advocate on behalf of Hospice of Yuma and all hospice programs. Please take the time to contact your senators and share with them what hospice care means to you and the terminally ill. Ask them to please support amendments to current healthcare reform legislation that would stop further cuts to hospice reimbursement.

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# 2010 ROPING ROUND-UP, BARBECUE & WESTERN DANCE

Hospice of Yuma's 23rd Annual Roping Round-Up, Barbecue and Western Dance is fast approaching! The event takes place February 6, 2010 at the Yuma County Fairgrounds. A full day of fun; the Roping Round-Up is our largest yearly fundraiser.

This year's event will feature an afternoon of team roping, barrel racing, children's games, and food; along with our 2nd Annual Washoes Tournament and the ever popular People's Choice Chili Judging and Tasting. The afternoon goes smoothly into the evening with a tri-tip dinner cooked by 3 Amigos catering; complete with beans, coleslaw and tortillas. As night falls, get ready for Left of Centre and featured country artist **Clay Walker!**

Clay Walker is one of the most successful country acts of the past decade. He first topped the Billboard country singles chart in 1993 with "What's It To You" and followed with his second consecutive No. 1 hit, "Live Until I

Die." Since then he's placed 31 titles on Billboard's singles chart including such additional chart toppers as "Dreaming with my Eyes Open," "If I Could Make a Living," "This Woman and this Man," and "Rumor Has It." He has consistently been one of the busiest artists on the road; scoring four platinum-selling albums.



Like Mark Chesnutt and Tracy Byrd, Walker made a name for himself on the competitive Texas honky tonk circuit before graduating to success on a national level. Walker's first break was in 1993 with his first single on Giant, "What's It To You," flew up the chart and landed at No. 1. His smooth,

evocative voice and energetic stage presence quickly established Walker as the latest Texas export to find national acclaim and a lengthy string of hits has followed.

It's an impressive feat, made even more special because Walker was diagnosed with multiple sclerosis 10 years ago. "if you'd asked me when I was diagnosed that first day if I would still be alive, I would have said 'No' because that's what the doctor's said," he admits. "Here I am, 10 years later and actually I'm probably healthier than I was 10 years ago."

After more than a decade in the national spotlight, Clay Walker believes the best is yet to come. Clay Walker has a new album coming out early spring of 2010, "Rumor Has It" featuring his new single "She Won't Be Lonely Long."

*For more information, please contact Ashlie Davis at (928) 343-2222.*

## Schedule of Events

12:30 p.m.	.....	Gates Open
1:00 to 4:30 p.m.	.....	Team Roping, Barrel Racing, Children's Games
1:30 to 4:00 p.m.	.....	People's Choice Chili Judging & Tasting
2:00 to 4:00 p.m.	.....	2nd Annual Washoes Contest
4:30 to 6:30 p.m.	.....	Tri Tip Dinner
6:30 p.m.	.....	Roping Awards Presented
7:00 p.m.	.....	Left of Centre
8:30 p.m.	.....	<b>CLAY WALKER</b>
11:00 p.m.	.....	Gates Close



## Ticket Prices

Single: \$50.00 each

Family (includes 2 adults & 3 children): \$125.00

Under 3. free

(Tickets must be purchased in advance and are on a first come, first served basis. NO ticket refunds.)

**Order tickets now!! Please make checks payable to Hospice of Yuma, 1824 S. 8th Avenue, Yuma, AZ 85364 (928) 343.2222**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address (include ZIP): \_\_\_\_\_

I am ordering:  Single Tickets @ \$50.00 each  Family Tickets @ \$125.00 each **TOTAL DUE: \$** \_\_\_\_\_

## INVESTING IN HOSPICE

### “Nani’s Best” Lettuce Seed Means Income for Hospice of Yuma

Louis Didier delivered a \$2,275.00 check to Hospice of Yuma in November to honor National Hospice Month. The money came from the sale of “Nani’s Best” lettuce seed, named in memory of Carol Didier by Louis and his children. This is the third year Hospice of Yuma has received a Nani’s Best check for a total of \$8,775.00.

Carol was a member of the Hospice of Yuma Community Advisory Board for several years before joining the Board of Directors for a three-year term. She was always full of energy, and delightful to work with. Carol enjoyed her

family immensely, and took great pride in caring for her granddaughter, Isabelle.

Our heartfelt thanks go out to Carol’s family for their continued support of Hospice of Yuma.

We have recently received a contribution from the **Estate of Bob and Marilyn Adams** in the amount of \$9,429.25. Their legacy ensures that Hospice of Yuma can continue to help those in our community living with terminal illness for years to come.

We wish to extend a very big thank you to **Alexander Ford Lincoln Mercury** for their contribution of \$2,650.00 in honor of National Hospice Month. Alexander Ford was one of the participators in donating \$25.00 for every new car sold in the month of November.

We also wish to thank the **Yuma Women’s Club, Christ the Redeemer Anglican Church, and Sundance RV Park Chapel** for their contributions. We truly appreciate your unwavering support.



From left: Ashlie Davis of Hospice of Yuma, Chad Pierson and Everett Dawson of Alexander Ford

## IN RECOGNITION...

We would like to recognize Sharon Chessum for the 18 years of dedication, heart and hard work she has put into Hospice of Yuma. As many of you know, Sharon has been “retired” a while now, but has been back to help with fundraising events. At the end of November, Sharon fully retired. She is now off to spend some

much deserved time with family.

Sharon has raised millions of dollars for Hospice of Yuma, allowing us to care for many patients. Her work and volunteerism with other community organizations has earned her the respect and admiration of many in the Yuma community. Thank you

Sharon; your hard work and devotion over the years mean more to Hospice of Yuma than you will ever know. We will miss you.



## DR. ALAN WOLFELT SEMINARS

It was long awaited and finally, Alan Wolfelt, Ph.D. (author, educator, counselor) arrived in Yuma for two Hospice of Yuma sponsored presentations; one on November 17 for the community, the other November 18 for caregivers/professionals. Attendees were from multiple organizations and represented numerous disciplines (physicians, counselors, clergy, nurses, social workers, assisted living/skilled nursing facilities, victim services, volunteers and others) as well as bereaved. Dr. Wolfelt’s presence and message spoke to all that were present. The programs provided per-

sonal and professional support and Dr. Wolfelt was able to reach out to individuals who, through program content or personal conversation, received a life enrichment that will not be forgotten. Thank you, Dr. Wolfelt, for coming to our community.

The Wolfelt programs were supported by numerous staff and volunteers. Facility coordination, set-up, decorations, day of program assistance and Wednesday’s luncheon could not have happened without the help of staff members Alysia, Tracy, Elizabeth, Gina

and Genevieve; Hospice of Yuma Volunteers, Lisa Robbins, members of the Hospice of Yuma Community Advisory Board, Kathy of the Civic Center and Karla Billdt of Karla’s Kreations. Thanks as well to Hospice of Yuma leadership (Executive Director and Board of Directors) for allowing this community event.

We also wish to thank those who sponsored the event; All Season’s Florist and Sunset Vista Funeral Home and Crematory. Your support and generosity are truly appreciated.

## A POTENT BREW



Father Paul Gambling

As I compose this article, it is the beginning of the Church's season of Advent, the season of anticipation that precedes the Christmas-tide and looks forward to the greatest gift of all. Many people by now have long since finished putting up their Christmas decorations, have adorned the tree and have lit the exterior, twinkling lights almost turning the darkness of night into a fair approximation of daylight. Not so at our house. Traditionally we wait until much later in the season to festoon our abode and make it pretty for the Holy Day. But there is one tradition that we follow that takes us through the Advent season - the Advent Calendar.

Many years ago we were given a Calendar that we have used every Advent since. It is not one that contains chocolates or pithy quotations from Scripture or pretty pictures. It contains instead, in its twenty-four compartments little figurines that, over the course of the days, are assembled into the Manger Scene complete with seven angels playing a variety of musical instruments, three Kings, two Shepherds, an Innkeeper, the Holy Family and a variety of animals. We have opened the doors many times, and we have seen the figures come out over and over again, and still there is the wonder! As each piece is revealed, we remember having seen and experienced it before, but we still enjoy and appreciate it almost as much as we did on the first occasion, and they help to recall all of the locations that we and they have been a part of over the years.

Memories, like fine wine, mellow and somehow become stronger the more we visit them, especially those that are joyful and recall the "special times." Our figurines are tangible reminders of those times; you may have your own ways in which you recall your own times and events. Cherish them, let them age and mellow and become "heady," especially memories of loved ones and wonderful moments and special Holy Days. I realize Christmas is very difficult for some, and by the time of this newsletter, it has already passed. It is a curiosity of the human condition that we feel sadness *because* of happy memories, especially when they are associated with a loss. Cherish them still, because they are associated with love - the most "heady" wine of all.

Pax, Paul

## HOW DO YOU KNOW YOU'RE FEELING BETTER?



Gay Anderson  
Bereavement Services

Although everyone has her/his own style and timeline of grief, you can measure your progress by certain feelings and behaviors which come about as you feel better.

As your sense of humor returns,

and you find yourself laughing, you know you're feeling better. As you find your mood swings not so high and so low, you can feel the time lengthen between upsets.

When you hear yourself giving some human qualities to your deceased loved one as you recall past moments, then you know you're moving through the worst of your grief. As you find yourself making major

decisions, you take responsibility for determining the quality of your life...you're feeling better.

When you are making new friends, you insure that you will have supportive people around you in the future and seldom have to be lonely. Finally, when you learn that your life is in your hands and that you are capable of taking charge, you'll know you're truly growing.

### YOU ARE INVITED TO ATTEND HOSPICE OF YUMA'S MEN'S BREAKFAST CLUB

Wayne Whittaker of the Hospice of Yuma staff invites you to join him for breakfast (on your own) at the Mad Greek Restaurant, 1725 S. 3rd Avenue

January 13, 2010, 8 a.m.

February 10, 8 a.m.

March 10, 8 a.m.

January 27, 8 a.m.

February 24, 8 a.m.

March 24, 8 a.m.



To RSVP or for additional information, please call (928) 343-2222

## THRIFT SHOP NEWS



Dorothy Toney  
Thrift Shop Manager

Remember when you were younger and how exciting it was to guess what was in all those brightly wrapped packages under the Christmas tree? You'd sneak down at night and silently poke, prod and maybe shake a package or two to see if you could figure out what was in it. Then, there was the excitement of Christmas morning when all the paper and ribbons were torn from the presents and at last, you could see the treasures. That's exactly how it is every day at the Thrift Shop with our donations. The boxes and bags may not be wrapped in pretty paper, but the excitement of discovering what lays inside is just the same. Our donors are

very generous to us and we never know what we'll find. Even the small unsightly boxes can yield the most beautiful treasures.

Recently, we received a donation of several boxes of items. There was nothing special about the boxes; in fact, they were quite old and worn. As he was leaving, the donor said "There's some pretty nice stuff in there". When we opened the boxes, the air was immediately filled with excitement because there was "some pretty nice stuff in there"! We discovered about 40 vintage purses, some of which are in excellent condition. A few have some minor damage, but, hey, they're old! We also discovered some vintage costume jewelry, several pieces of Depression glass as well as other vintage items. Talk about excitement! We have gotten antique items

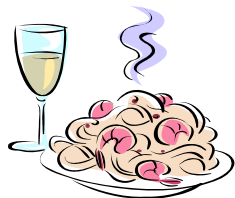
before...maybe one or two items at a time. But the excitement of getting this many items and so many of them in good condition made it feel just like Christmas morning. We are in the process of getting these items priced and displayed for sale. Be sure to stop in and see our latest treasures!

Our store hours were listed incorrectly in the last newsletter. We are open Monday thru Friday from 9am to 5pm and Saturday from 9am to 1pm. Remember, you can access our current calendar of sales at [www.hospiceofyuma.com](http://www.hospiceofyuma.com). Just click on the Thrift Shop button to view or print our current calendar.

## DINNER & DESSERT ...RECIPES FROM HOSPICE HOSPITALITY VI

### Artichoke Heart Salad Cheryl Haugo, DVM

2 c. marinated artichoke hearts, quartered  
2 c. fresh tomatoes, cut into chunks  
2 c. mushrooms, quartered  
2 c. red onion, cut into chunks  
3 lg. ripe avocados, cut into chunks  
Dressing:  
3 tbsp. garlic, minced  
1/2 c. red wine vinegar  
1/2 c. white vinegar  
3 tbsp. extra virgin olive oil  
Salt & pepper to taste  
Combine vegetables in a large bowl.  
Combine dressing ingredients and pour over vegetables. Toss gently; refrigerate 1 to 3 hours before serving.



### Spaghetti Carbonara for Two Nan Bain/Ciao Bella Ristorante

4 pieces crisp bacon, crumbled  
2 c. cooked spaghetti  
3 cloves garlic; finely minced  
2 eggs  
2 tbsp. cream  
1/2 c. good quality parmesan or pecorino  
2 tbsp. olive oil  
Have all ingredients ready, as this goes quickly...Whisk together the eggs and cream in a large bowl. Sauté garlic in oil for 2 minutes until fragrant while tossing the hot spaghetti in the egg mixture. Add spaghetti to garlic and quickly toss until all ingredients are hot and cooked, about 2 minutes. Remove from pan and toss with cheese and bacon. Garnish with fresh chopped basil. Serve immediately.

### Lemon Squares Jane Norton

Crust:  
1 c. butter 1/8 tsp. salt  
1/2 c. powdered sugar 2 c. flour  
Filling:  
4 eggs, beaten 2 c. sugar  
6 tbsp. lemon juice 1/4 c. flour  
For crust combine ingredients and press into a 9x13 inch baking pan. Bake at 350 for 15 minutes. Remove from oven and reduce heat to 325.  
Combine all filling ingredients and pour over crust. Bake for 25 minutes at 325. Cool & top with powdered sugar; cut into squares.

*Want more? Our Hospice Hospitality VI Cookbooks are on SALE for \$10.00 each and make fantastic gifts! Just combine with cooking utensils and dry goods, and voila! A simple, fabulous gift!!*

**IN MEMORARIUM**  
**October - November**  
**2009**

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**IN HONORARIUM**  
**October - November**  
**2009**

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**Bob Marshall**

Mrs. Bob Marshall

**Bertha Quintero**

Mr. Bill Cline

**Wayne Whittaker**

Johnson Mortuary & Desert  
Lawn Memorial Park  
Mrs. Lori Mitchell

Our heartfelt condolences to  
the family of Victoria Murray  
Cline. An avid golfer,  
Victoria served for many  
years on the P.K. Hodges SW  
Agricultural Golf Tournam-  
ent committee, and was  
always pushing people to  
donate that extra dollar.  
Victoria was a wonderful,  
spirited woman and she will  
be missed.

**Robert Anaya**

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*(Gifts are tax deductible)*

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- I wish to volunteer.
- I have included Hospice of Yuma in my will.
- Please send me a complimentary Personal Estate Planning Notebook.
- I prefer to receive an e-newsletter  
My e-mail address is :  
\_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Address \_\_\_\_\_

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Please mail this form to Hospice of Yuma, 1824 S. 8th Ave., Yuma, AZ 85364-5517, or call (928) 343-2222.