

Hospice Matters

A PUBLICATION OF HOSPICE OF YUMA

Comfort & Compassion When It's Needed Most

March/April 2010

Another Successful Roping Round Up

Although we had a little rain, it didn't stop people from coming out and having a good time at our 23rd Annual Roping Round-Up, Barbecue & Western Dance. The afternoon began with some sun; enough to get people out and enjoying the events of the day. In addition to the Roping event, there were children's games, face painting, People's Choice Chili Judging & Tasting, kettle corn provided by Bear Kountry Kettle Korn, hot dogs, peanuts and ice cream. In addition to the treats, the tortilla ladies once again made fabulous tortillas for everyone to enjoy as they walked around.

The Chili Cook-Off teams kept

the tasters warm on the inside while it was drizzling outside. For the 3rd year in a row, Super Bowl Chili (Mitchell's Merchant Patrol) won People's Choice, and donated their \$248.00 in winnings back to Hospice of Yuma. Thank you Mitchell's Merchant Patrol, and congratulations! First Place went to Medicinal Chili, Second Place to Legendary Chili and Third Place to Firehouse Chili. Both Medicinal Chili and Legendary Chili donated their winnings back. Thank you!!

The evening began with a delicious tri-tip dinner cooked up by 3 Amigos Catering and led right into the Roping Awards (for the list of

winners, see below) and opening band Left of Centre. Left of Centre put on a great show, getting the crowd pumped up for Clay Walker. At 8:30, Clay Walker took the stage and the crowd roared. The night ended with a fantastic show, and everyone had a great time.

Thank you to everyone who came out to support us in our 23rd year of the Roping Round-Up, and for all of those who supported us with sponsorships and in-kind contributions. Another very big thank you to the Hospice of Yuma Board of Directors, Community Advisory Board and volunteers who helped make this event a success for another year!

And the Winners Are...

HOSPICE CLASSIC ROPING

Saddle Winners:

Augie Oliaz & Lefty Moreno

Belt Buckle Winners:

Tom Edwards & Howard Gwynn

2nd Place Winners:

Buddy Rose & Brandon Bedoya

3rd Place:

Donato Castro & Robert McMahon

Horse Blanket Winners:

Augie Oliaz & Lefty Moreno

Open Barrels: Jacquie Hannon

Jr. Barrel Race: Gretta Hernandez

Open Poles: Rebba Wright

TRI-VALLEY CLASSIC

Saddle Winners: Augie Oliaz & Brandon Bedoya

Buckle Winners:

Buddy Rose & Brandon Bedoya

Steve Otto & Brandon Bedoya

Chuck Duncan & Brandon Bedoya

Augie Oliaz & Miguel Peralta

Buddy Rose & Clint Bedoya

Jon Nickerson & Brandon Duncan

Open Barrels: Mary Ellen Hannon

Jr. Barrels: Megan Hardt

Open Barrels: Savannah Mamer

State of Arizona Eliminates Acute Care AHCCCS Hospice Benefit



John Williams
Executive Director

In January, the newly appointed director of AHCCCS, the state of Arizona's Medicaid program, included removal of the Acute Care AHCCCS hospice benefit as one of many measures to reduce the AHCCCS budget as ordered by the Governor and State Legislators. At first glance, it might seem a logical cut as the state of Arizona is deep in the red due to the ongoing economic recession. The unfortunate and ironic truth is that by cutting the acute care AHCCCS hospice benefit will increase AHCCCS spending as patients will be forced to seek treatment at local hospitals rather than care being provided by hospice organizations in their homes; creating higher expense for AHCCCS.

Last year, 541 patients with acute care AHCCCS coverage were cared for by hospice organizations across the state of Arizona. Study after study indicates that hospice care saves both state Medicaid programs and the federal Medicare program thousands of dollars per patients. Hospital care for

these same terminally ill patients can be upward of ten times more when comparing what is being expensed through hospice. Providing a hospice benefit is not just morally right but is also fiscally prudent.

It saddens me to have to inform the community that due to the elimination of the acute care AHCCCS hospice benefit that Hospice of Yuma will not be able to accept acute care AHCCCS patients for hospice service. As the economy has hit every non-profit organization hard, we too are struggling with donations and fundraising monies being much lower than what we normally receive. At the same time we have experienced a 40% increase in our charitable care program with patients who have no insurance or ability to pay. We simply do not have the finances to provide hospice services for acute care AHCCCS patients for free. Patients who have acute care AHCCCS coverage do have other options for care under their current benefits. AHCCCS patients diagnosed with life limiting illnesses are encouraged to work closely with their primary physicians to determine which remaining benefits are available and utilize hos-

pital services in case of emergencies.

After weeks of attempting to get a handle on why our state would cut a benefit that was saving money, I have concluded that there is no good reason. I do not particularly care who made the decision, their reasoning behind it, or the finger pointing that has become common place after the fact. What I do care for are those terminally ill patients who will not be able to receive the end of life care at home when they need it. I care that we could be doing the right thing while saving money. I care that we have a win-win situation in the form of hospice benefits right in front of our eyes but we are too engrossed in numbers and politics to do anything about it. End-of-life care provided by hospice organizations across our state provides the most cost effective care available for terminally ill patients and should be included as a permanent benefit in the acute care AHCCCS program. I encourage all residents of Yuma County to join with us in contacting our State Representatives and State Senator in demanding that the acute care AHCCCS hospice benefit be re-instated and made permanent.

Upcoming Events

28th Annual Meeting and Donor & Volunteer Appreciation

March 13, 2010
2:00 p.m.
Knights of Columbus
3875 S. 4th Avenue, Yuma

Join us in celebration of our donors and volunteers at our Annual Meeting, Donor & Volunteer Appreciation Dinner. For more information or to make a reservation, please call Ashlie at 343-2222

Volunteer Training

Monday-Wednesday-Friday afternoons
Beginning April 19 - 31, 2010
1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.
Hospice of Yuma Conference Room

Hospice of Yuma volunteers contribute significantly to improving and enhancing the quality of life for terminally ill patients. Classes are over a period of two weeks. Volunteers must attend all class sessions prior to receiving an assignment.

To register, please call Elizabeth at 343-2222

Investing In Hospice

In November, we had our annual National Hospice Month campaign with the car dealers. Local new car dealers donated \$25.00 for every new car sold in the month of November. We wish to thank **Alexander Ford, Lincoln Mercury; Fisher Chrysler/Dodge Jeep; Fisher Chevrolet; Sonora Nissan & Zamora Kia** for their contributions. Thank you all for your continued support of our organization.

We wish to thank **Hidden Shores RV Village** for putting on their annual dinner to benefit Hospice of Yuma. This year, they hosted a spectacular chili dinner and raised \$1,170.00!

Thank you **Hidden Shores** for your enthusiasm and continued support!

Thank you **Robert & Diane Filler Charitable Fund** for your contribution of \$1,000.00.

We also wish to thank **John & Pam Osterman** for their grant contribution through the Arizona Community Foundation in the amount of \$294.50. John and Pam are long-time supporters of ours, and we truly appreciate their support.

Another thank you to **Wells Fargo Bank** for their community contribution of \$2,000.00; and to **Shepherd of the**

Hills LWMS for their contribution of \$720.00.

Our last thank you to those who continue to support us with ongoing contributions: **Sundance RV Park Chapel, Foothills Roadrunner Four-Wheel Drive Group, Smart Kofas, Christ the Redeemer Anglican Church and Desert Hills Women's Golf Association**. We truly appreciate the continued support of these community groups.

Please remember that although it is the beginning of the year, it's never too early (or late) to begin thinking about your charitable giving.

Caring for our Caregivers BEREAVEMENT SUPPORT

Community Bereavement Support Group

May 11, 18 & 25; June 1, 8, & 15
Hospice of Yuma Conference Room
1824 S. 8th Avenue, Yuma

Over a period of six weeks, these support group meetings will provide education on the grief and healing process through discussion, printed material and activities in an environment that allows sharing, questions and ideas. Input and participant requests and needs will add to the program's content.

Men's Breakfast Club

March 10 & 24; April 7 & 21
8:00 a.m.
Mad Greek Restaurant
1725 S. 3rd Avenue, Yuma

Hospice of Yuma Chaplain Wayne Whittaker invites you to join him for breakfast (on your own).

For more information on either of these support services, please call Hospice of Yuma at (928) 343-2222

Memorial Service

March 20, 2010
10:00 a.m.
St. Paul's Cultural Center
645 S. 2nd Avenue

Spanish Memorial Service

April 10, 2010
10:00 a.m.
St. Paul's Cultural Center
645 S. 2nd Avenue

Hospice Foundation of America National Living with Grief Teleconference Co-Sponsored by Hospice of Yuma & Sonoran Desert Oncology: Cancer & End-of-Life Care

March 24, 2010
10:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. (Lunch will be provided)
Clarion Suites
2600 S. 4th Avenue

The 2010 teleconference will address care options related to cancer diagnoses as well as loss and grief reactions for patients, families and professional caregivers. The teleconference will also examine psychosocial aspects of cancer, pain management and ethical issues related to the disease.

Space is limited. RSVP's are required.

Hospice of Yuma Presents Sr. Teresa McIntier

"Grief is a Journey: How to Travel it Safely"
April 14, 2010
9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.
Clarion Suites
2600 S. 4th Avenue

Sr. Teresa is nationally recognized in the field of bereavement counseling, especially in counseling grieving children.

For over 25 years, she has been providing bereavement services in the Metro-Phoenix area and for 15 years, she served as a faculty member for the American Academy of Bereavement. Sr. Teresa is a certified counselor and death educator through the Association for Death Education and Grief Counseling.

Space is limited. RSVP's are required.

The Desert Shall Rejoice



Father Paul Gambling

"The desert shall rejoice and blossom;
Like the crocus it shall blossom
abundantly"
Isaiah 35:1

The naysayers notwithstanding, I fully expect the desert around Yuma (and elsewhere) to be full of blooming flowers this spring. I base this on the several abundant rainy days that have occurred recently. I think, and hope, that it should be almost as impressive as it was twelve years ago when we

first arrived here - then Hurricane Nora had just touched the area with excessive moisture. The desert was alive (or more alive than normal) and it was a riot of color and new growth, the green was augmented with white, red, purple, yellow, blue and all various shades and hues.

The term "desert" implies a wasteland devoid of life, at least that is the perception; yet it does have life. And when rain increases that "life," that "growth," it is readily apparent that, rather than being "lifeless" it is more realistically "dormant," waiting to be woken up, the seeds are there waiting to be nourished and stimulated.

St. Paul (1 Corinthians 15) likens the physical, mortal body to a seed

that, when "planted," produces a new plant [that is the resurrection "body" in the Kingdom of Heaven] and that is why the "Desert in Bloom" is one for me an allegory of life and death. When this is coupled with the concept that humanity is in a wilderness existence (a term that has been used for several years), journeying and awaiting arrival in the Promised Land, I realize that life is a desert and Heaven is the place in which we "bloom" and reach our full potential and fulfillment.

In the meantime, until that eventuality, we should enjoy the miracle of the blooming "nothingness."

Pax, Paul+

Common Misconceptions ABOUT HOSPICE SUPPORT GROUPS



Gay Anderson
Bereavement Services

Hospice support groups are powerful tools to help grieving people move toward resolution of their grief. Each session provides a safe and caring setting in which participants may express their grief without judgment or fear of consternation from others. Friendships are often formed, not only within the support group setting but beyond group time. The support group therefore offers the expansion of one's own support system, including new friends who are experiencing similar grief reactions and can relate to the griever's circumstances.

Perhaps you're interested in attending a support group but wonder if it's appropriate for you. Here are

some common concerns expressed to hospice staff, followed by our responses. We hope this information is helpful as you make your decision.

My loved one didn't die from a terminal illness. He/she wasn't even a hospice patient.

Hospice support groups are open to any resident of Yuma County. Most participants in support groups are individuals from the community whose loved ones were not hospice patients.

It will be too depressing. It will make my own grief even more painful than it already is.

Because a bereavement support group provides a safe place for people to share and express their feelings, it also becomes a place of healing for them. What most participants quickly experience is relief, realizing that they

are not alone in this emotional journey.

My loved one's experience with death doesn't compare to someone whose loved one died more tragically.

The common bond with the support group is that everyone is grieving. It is a universal experience, but everyone's grief is individual, different, and personal.

I don't want to say anything in front of strangers.

Although the group is designed to help participants process and express their grief, no one is forced to talk. Participants are invited to talk if and when they are ready. Many people are often helped simply by listening to what others are sharing.

Thrift Shop News



Dorothy Toney
Thrift Shop Manager

There's a lot of excitement in the air at the Thrift Shop! Our new truck is finally in service and it is fabulous!

We are very grateful to Arizona Public Service for their very generous donation of the truck. We installed a flat bed with stake sides and a hydraulic lift on the back. Our logo, name and phone number are prominently displayed on all sides. There's definitely no mistaking who we are. Another advantage of having our own truck is that we are now offering furniture delivery (for a small fee) to our customers

who purchase items in the Furniture Showroom. We're very anxious to get our truck out on the streets, so if you've got some furniture (or anything else for that matter) you don't need anymore, give me a call to schedule a pick-up. You'll be the envy of your neighborhood when our beautiful truck stops at your home and proclaims to the world that you are supporting Hospice of Yuma.

Don't forget to check out our daily sales specials. You can always access the current calendar of sales on our website at www.hospiceofyuma.com. Just click on the Thrift Shop button to view or print our current calendar. Better yet, just stop in the store and pick one up. And while you're there, you might even find a treasure or two!



Come Swing
Fore!
Hospice of Yuma 
at the
25th Anniversary
P.K. Hodges Southwest Agricultural Golf Tournament
April 15, 16, & 17, 2010
Desert Hills Golf Course & Las Barrancas Golf Course

Player Entry Fee: \$250.00
Associate Sponsor: \$375.00
Major Sponsor: \$500.00

For more information, please call Hospice of Yuma at 343-2222

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December 2009 - January 2010

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IN HONORARIUM
December 2009 -
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Paul Gambling

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Lawn Memorial Park
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December 2009 -
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 My e-mail address is :

Name _____ Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

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