



HOSPICE OF YUMA'S

Hospice Matters

Vol XXXII | Issue 1 | Jan/Feb 2012

What Do You Have to Say?

In the next month, Hospice of Yuma will begin sending letters to those on the current newsletter list to provide information about the upcoming changes to the Hospice Matters newsletter. Along with the letter, a questionnaire will be enclosed asking for your input on the newsletter and its content.

One of the changes that will be outlined in the letter is the need to move the Hospice Matters newsletter from a printed format to an electronic format. As our constituency has grown, we have incurred increased cost of printing and postage for mailing the newsletter. As a non profit organization, we must be good stewards of the contributions we receive. We work hard to ensure that contributions from supporters like you are used for their intended purpose – patient care.

We ask everyone that receives our newsletter to join with us in making this transition a success. When you receive the letter in the mail, please take the time to fill

it out. Please update your personal information and, if applicable, please share your email address so we may add you to our electronic newsletter list and can keep you informed of our daily, monthly and event happenings. Please share your thoughts on the questionnaire, your input and concerns are what matter most to our organization.

Thank you for your support of our organization, and our continuing efforts to provide quality patient care at a time when it matters most. ■



Director's Corner

A Message From Executive Director John Williams

My Visits With Ruth

Over the last 6 years I have had the privilege of visiting with a special lady both in person and by phone. I want to share a little of our visits and how her conversations impacted me.

My first fall season as the Executive Director was busy. I was still getting used to the routine of my job duties and reviewing everything that came across my desk. I had piles for bills, piles for filing and piles for everything else I did not yet understand. As I opened a letter from the Yuma County Assessor's office I noticed a property tax notice that, even though it had Hospice of Yuma's address for delivery, it was a tax bill for another property with a person's name I did not know. I quickly went around the office to ask if anyone new what this was about. Sharon Chessum, the Director of Fund Development at that time smiled at me and said, "Oh that's Ruth's. You need to take the property tax assessment to her. Ruth would be a good person for you to meet." Sharon went on to tell me how Ruth had donated her property to Hospice of Yuma in a charitable trust and as the yearly tax assessments came in she would mail them to her or go by for a visit to make sure Ruth had the paperwork for her tax purposes.

I contacted Ruth by phone and after explaining who I was Ruth laughed and said, "Oh, you must have this year's property tax assessment." Ruth indicated that it was ok to mail it but if I wanted I could drop it off to her and visit. I went out the next day with Ruth's property tax assessment in hand. I thought I would introduce myself,

hand her the documentation, thank her for her contribution to Hospice of Yuma and be on my way. Ruth had other plans. When I arrived she quickly invited me in and poured me a glass of lemonade. She spoke to me about Hospice of Yuma and how hospice had helped her family. She talked with me about the Hospice of Yuma newsletter and gave me suggestions on what I needed to write about. In all I spent over an hour talking with Ruth and enjoyed every minute. As I left, Ruth smiled and told me that she would talk to me again next year.

Over the next few years we spoke every fall either by phone or by personal visit. Each conversation with Ruth seemed to pick up where it had left off the previous year. Ruth always had a kind word to say and I looked forward to our yearly conversation. Ruth always made it a point to thank me for what Hospice of Yuma had done for her family. I always made a point of thanking Ruth for her generosity and support.

Last fall was different as there was no phone call and no visit. Unfortunately, Ruth passed away over the summer after an illness. I had the privilege of visiting with Ruth once a year for six years. Her kindness and generosity will always be remembered. Her gift will live on as a part of her legacy and help Hospice of Yuma to care for the terminally ill in our community. ■



DO *you* MAKE the
BEST CHILI
in TOWN?

PROVE IT!

The 20th annual Chili Cook-Off will be held during this year's Roping Roundup, and we are looking for participants!

Prizes will be awarded for:

- 1st Place
- 2nd Place
- 3rd Place
- People's Choice
- Best Theme

All we ask is that your team members purchase tickets to the event. Please note a team is to have no more than four members. Chili entries can consist of meat and/or bean.

For official rules, regulations, schedule & entry forms:

www.hospiceofyuma.com
or Ashlie Davis at:
adavis@hospiceofyuma.com
(928) 343-2222

Celebrating 25 Years at the Roping Roundup

An Interview With Howard Gwynn

Ashlie Davis

Twenty-five years ago this year, what started as an idea pitched to the Hospice of Yuma Board of Directors became a reality – an event to raise awareness for Hospice of Yuma by way of a special event, the Roping Round-Up, Barbecue & Western Dance.

The inspiration came from Howard Gwynn, whose son, Ricky was dealing with cancer at the time. “When you’re dealing with something like that, you have all kinds of emotions; you can fight it, accept it, or get on with it. When you decide to get on with it is when you get inspired.”

Howard and his wife Carol were in their 40’s at the time and Howard was working with a company out of California. The company held an annual gala that, as Howard put it, “was more extravagant than you could imagine,” with a western motif, a nice dinner and two to three big name bands under a tent “the length and width of a football field. I thought, wouldn’t it be fun if we could do something like that in Yuma?”

So the idea was brought to the Hospice of Yuma Board of Directors as an event that could include the whole family, local ropers, a tri-tip dinner, face painting, kid’s games and many other activities. “At first, the goal was not to make money, the goal was to make people aware of what hospice did. At the time the organization was only five or six years old, and we were too young to think of how we could fail.” So it was, the first event was planned and held in February 1988. A core group came together forming

“phone banks” where everyone got together and made phone calls for support. This core group was responsible for making the event a success. Families and individuals such as the Jessens, Pam Cole, Larry and Cheryl Taylor, Fred and Carolyn Hoffmeyer, Cass Antle, the Zellers and Claborns, The Barkleys, Rob and Norma Ingold, the Pilkington Family, Lee Farms, the Curtis Family, McElhaneys and Odens, among others “were the nucleus of the group, they were just there, year after year – you didn’t have to call them, they all just came and got it done.” New faces would always show up, and there was always help to put the event on. “When you’re dealing with cancer, your hands are on an issue that affects a lot of people, and these people had all been affected in one way or another. Hospice helped alleviate the emotions and stress of dealing with cancer.”

Remember, the goal of the event was not to make money, and the first event barely broke even. The next year, a little bit of money was made, and a little more after that, and a little more the year after that. Eventually, by the tenth year, the Gwynns and all their supporters had profited over \$100,000.00 for Hospice of Yuma. It is estimated that over the last 25 years, the Roping Roundup has generated over 1.3 million dollars to help Hospice of Yuma fulfill the mission of providing quality end of life care to those in our community.

The event was held at Howard and Carol’s property for 20 years, featuring many entertainers including Highway 101, The Sweethearts of the Rodeo, John Anderson, Exile, Larry Gatlin & The Gatlin Brothers, Collin Raye, The Charlie Daniels Band, just to name a few. After 20 years, growth near the ranch forced the event to move to

the Yuma County Fairgrounds, where it is held now.

This year’s event will be held on Saturday, February 4, 2012. Gates open at 1:00 p.m. You can be sure to find face painting, kid’s games, the roping event, food and fun for the whole family. The day will end with a tri-tip dinner and concert featuring Left of Centre and headliner, Craig Morgan. Williams and Ree (also known as the Indian and the White Guy) comedy duo will also be there to provide comedic relief while the bands switch sets.

After 25 wonderful years, this event is still going strong, with the support and dedication of a new generation of volunteers, as well as the backbone that was there in the beginning. We wish to thank all of you for your support throughout the years, and your dedication to making this event a success every year. We hope you all come out and support us, and celebrate 25 years of a successful event! ■



Events *Calendar*

<p>■ Jan. 11, 2012 Men's Breakfast Club Join us for breakfast (on your own), RSVP Requested. <i>Mad Greek Restaurant</i> 8:00 am</p>	<p>■ Jan. 24, 2012 Support Group Week 1 of 5 - bereavement support group. <i>HOY Conference Center</i> 3:00 pm - 4:30 pm</p>	<p>■ Jan. 25, 2012 Men's Breakfast Club Join us for breakfast (on your own), RSVP Requested. <i>Mad Greek Restaurant</i> 8:00 am</p>	<p>■ Jan. 31, 2012 Support Group Week 2 of 5 - bereavement support group. <i>HOY Conference Center</i> 3:00 pm - 4:30 pm</p>
<p>■ Feb. 4, 2012 ROPING ROUNDUP Featuring Craig Morgan <i>Yuma County Fair Grounds</i> 1:00 pm - 11:00 pm</p>	<p>■ Feb. 7, 2012 Support Group Week 3 of 5 - bereavement support group. <i>HOY Conference Center</i> 3:00 pm - 4:30 pm</p>	<p>■ Feb. 8, 2012 Men's Breakfast Club Join us for breakfast (on your own), RSVP Requested. <i>Mad Greek Restaurant</i> 8:00 am</p>	<p>■ Feb. 10, 2012  Remembrance Walk Remember your loved ones with a walk in the park. <i>Sanguenetti Park</i> 3:00 pm - 4:30 pm</p>
<p>■ Feb. 14, 2012 Support Group Week 4 of 5 - bereavement support group. <i>HOY Conference Center</i> 3:00 pm - 4:30 pm</p>	<p>■ Feb. 21, 2012 Support Group Week 5 of 5 - bereavement support group. <i>HOY Conference Center</i> 3:00 pm - 4:30 pm</p>	<p>■ Feb. 22, 2012 Men's Breakfast Club Join us for breakfast (on your own), RSVP Requested. <i>Mad Greek Restaurant</i> 8:00 am</p>	
<p>SAVE <i>the</i> DATE</p>		<p>P.K. Hodges SW AG Golf Tournament to benefit Hospice of Yuma</p> <p>April 12, 13 & 14, 2012</p> <p>FOR MORE INFO VISIT WWW.HOSPICEO FYUMA.COM</p>	



HOSPICE OF YUMA
Thrift Shop

Visit our Facebook page!

1808 S. 8th Avenue
 Yuma, AZ 85364
 (928) 782-9593

Winter Hours:

M-F: 9am - 5pm | Sat: 9am - 1pm

ThriftShop*News*

Dorothy Toney, Hospice of Yuma Thrift Shop Manager

A Day In The Life

8:00 am: I arrive at the Thrift Shop to get the store ready to open. The phone starts ringing for donation pick-ups and general questions

8:15 am: Jerry and Butch (the 2 best “pick-up artists” in town) check in for the schedule of donation pick-ups for the day.

8:20 am: Furniture for delivery is loaded onto the truck and they leave for the days rounds.

8:30 am: Volunteers start to arrive ready to work. Today, a new volunteer is starting. She lost her husband last year and wanted to give back to Hospice. I start the orientation and training with her.

8:40 am: The back door buzzer sounds indicating that someone wants to drop off donations. Have to leave the new volunteer to make sure another staff member can answer the door.

8:45 am: The phone is still ringing, I’m still talking with the new volunteer and now the cashier is ready to pick up the beginning bank bag for the register.

9:00 am: The store opens. Large items for sale are moved outside in front of the store. Customers start coming in to look for treasures.

9:15 am: I finish the orientation with the new volunteer and she begins work in her assigned area. The volunteer that does the pricing of the miscellaneous items is out sick, so I try to fill in and get some pricing done so items can be put out on the sales floor. I get a few items done, but then the phone rings...again...

9:20 am: A customer just purchased a sofa and needs help to load it in her truck. I call for the “muscle men” to come and load the sofa.

9:30 am: Jerry and Butch come back with the first donations which include 2 recliners, some end tables and miscellaneous household items.

The furniture is evaluated for quality and the decision is made to move it into the Furniture Showroom. Of course, other items have to be moved to make room.

9:45 am: Finished moving the furniture to make room for the incoming furniture donation. Volunteers begin cleaning and vacuuming the new furniture.

10:00 am: Go back to the pricing room to get more pricing done. Did I mention the phone is still ringing?

10:15 am: Called to the front to answer a customer’s question. The volunteer in the Furniture Showroom also calls for a price on the new recliners.

10:30 am: A customer has decided to buy one of the new recliners and wants to schedule a time for delivery. I call Jerry to set up a time and do the necessary paperwork.

11:00 am: Called to the front to talk to a potential volunteer. The phone rings and another donor wants to schedule a pickup. Finish answering questions from the potential volunteer. She’s going to think about starting after the holidays.

11:15 am: Jerry and Butch come back with another load of donations. This time there’s a shower chair, a bedside commode and a walker among other things. I know there are customers on our waiting list for these items so I start making phone calls.

11:45 am: Called to the front to talk with a customer who has questions about the mobility chair. He has many questions and wants to see how it works. We take the chair outside so the customer can take it for a test drive. He will bring his wife back to see it.

12:15 pm: Head back to the pricing room to continue pricing. Cashier calls on the intercom

to ask if we have any canning jars for a customer. I remembered seeing some in the donations Jerry brought in earlier. I bring the jars in and have the volunteers clean them and then take them to the cashier for the customer. I head back to the pricing room to try to do some more pricing. Did I tell you the phone was ringing again?

12:45 pm: The afternoon volunteers begin arriving to relieve the morning volunteers. I balance the register with the cashier. Geez, the day is half over and I don’t feel like I’ve accomplished anything yet. Head back to the pricing room.

1:00 pm: Called to the front to talk with a customer. He wants to know where he can get a hospital bed for his Dad. In talking with him, it sounds as if his Dad may be eligible for Hospice care. I take him over to the main office to speak with the patient navigator.

1:30 pm: The pricing room is still calling me... just can’t seem to find the time to get any work done. And, yes, the phone is still ringing....

2:00 pm: Called to the back to talk to a donor who wants to donate an entire household of furniture and household items. He praises Hospice for taking such good care of his Mother and thanks me.

2:30 pm: Oops, forgot about lunch. I head to my office to take a break. The day is almost over and I haven’t gotten much accomplished yet. As I eat my sandwich, I think about the last donor I spoke to and a realization hits me. I have accomplished something today. I did my job. The sales from our Thrift Shop helped provide the revenue necessary for the clinical staff to take care of our donor’s Mother. We also provided that donor with satisfaction in knowing that his Mother’s possessions will benefit other patients. To the new volunteer that started today, we provided an opportunity for her to find meaning in her new life without her husband. For the customers who purchased items today, we made them happy with a clean and comfortable store and good quality treasures. For those that came in looking for help, we provided information and peace of mind at a difficult time in their life. So, yes, I did accomplish something today...I made a difference.

I have to go now. I have to write a newsletter article and the phone is still ringing... ■

Centurions, Memorials & Honorariums

Centurions

Oct-Nov 2011

Platinum

Mr. and Mrs. Robert Dunn

Gold

Mr. John Loghry in memory of Mary Loghry

Silver

Dr. William Lyle in memory of Shirley Lyle

Mr. and Mrs. Robert Meiser

Mr. Richard A. Taylor in memory of Joan Taylor

Member

Mrs. Antoinette M. Adkins in memory of John Adkins

Mr. Martin Clifton

Ms. Shyrl Faria in memory of Earl Faria

Mrs. Florence M. Ostrander in memory of Robert Ostrander

Ms. Stephanie Ridout

Mr. Joe Wardle in memory of Shauna Wardle

In Honor

Oct-Nov 2011

Fred Kuhn

Ms. Karen Reika

In Memorium

Oct-Nov 2011

Jo Ann Abbas

Mr. Teus Abbas

Evelyn A. Ackley

Ms. Martha Bayless

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Oct-Nov 2011

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***Correction:**

In the Nov/Dec issue of Hospice Matters, we listed an honorarium gift as a memorial. Our sincerest apologies to the honoree, Bob Klein, and our donors, Pat and Karen Griffin.



Hospice Matters

Hospice of Yuma
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Yuma, AZ 85364

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- Please send me a complimentary Personal Estate Planning Notebook.
- I prefer to receive an e-newsletter

My e-mail address is :

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