



care matters

HOSPICE OF THE FOOTHILLS

provides compassionate end-of-life support for our patients, their families, and the community.



hospiceofthefoothills.org



A Reflection from Viv Tipton, E.D.

As I finish my fifth year as Executive Director, I find myself thinking back on my introduction to this incredible work we get to do. Just days after accepting this position, my father was diagnosed with pancreatic cancer. Being by his side during his end-of-life journey with Hospice of the Foothills was the most intimate on-the-job training



Viv Tipton
Executive Director

I could imagine, and was his final gift to me. Thank you Pops! Since then, I have had the privilege of walking alongside many friends as they navigate a terminal illness, and it has

been one of the greatest privileges of my life to have been invited into this very personal space.

Every day I am reminded of how fortunate I am to be a part of this phenomenal organization, where I get to experience the care provided by our extraordinary team. For those of you who make this care possible through your engagement and support, thank you! Your gifts of time and treasure really do matter.

As a community nonprofit hospice, we belong to you. Please feel free to reach out to me any time.

With Gratitude,

Viv

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Sharing the Love



Subaru of America believes in making the world a better place. That is why they created 'Share the Love'—a fundraising campaign to support both local and national non-profits. This year, Gold Rush Subaru of Auburn 'Shared the Love' with Hospice of the Foothills, their hometown designated charity.

"Our family has benefited from the care provided by Hospice of the Foothills," said Scott Taylor, Gold Rush Subaru's General Manager. "The care your organization provides to this community is so important. It is our privilege to present you with this donation of \$25,000."

We are extremely grateful to have been chosen from among the many esteemed nonprofits in our region. This type of community support helps Hospice of the Foothills continue to provide skilled and compassionate end-of-life services, tailored to the unique needs of each patient and family.

Gold Rush Subaru's General Manager Scott Taylor, Office Manager Susan Taylor, Salesperson Jessica Jasper, and Love Encore Delivery Specialist Tiffany Maggio present a check for \$25,000 to Executive Director Viv Tipton as HOF staff and board show their gratitude



Happy Trails to a Beloved Friend & Volunteer

Ed Thomas lived life to the fullest, and when he made a commitment, this cowboy was in 100%.

This was evident in his 63 year marriage to Barbara, the love of his life, who he met when she was 15 and he was 16. Ed and Barbara were married in their late teens and soon after celebrated the birth of their two children, Debbie and Royce.

As newlyweds, Ed attended the University of Oregon, earning a degree in accounting, while Barbara worked in the home tending to the family. After graduation, he worked for Arthur Andersen for many years, then started his own CPA firm in the Bay Area.

“The house was so full of love, it got me through this very difficult time.”

Barbara Thomas

Community engagement was fundamental to their lives. Their love of people and desire to make the world a better place led them to be involved in a myriad of organizations and causes. After retiring and moving to Nevada County in 2005, the Thomas' became involved with many civic and charitable organizations and these “heart connections” were felt by everyone they touched!



Barbara & Ed Thomas

One of Ed's many passions was Hospice of the Foothills, where he volunteered for 15 years. Ed learned a lot about death and dying in his role as respite volunteer, giving family members a break from caregiving; bereavement volunteer, listening to those who are grieving a loss; and dying vigil volunteer, being a supportive bedside companion during the final hours of life. He and Barbara also became dear friends with staff through their engagement.



In August 2021, after receiving a terminal cancer diagnosis, Ed called Viv Tipton, Hospice of the Foothills Executive Director, letting her know that his next role at hospice would be as a patient. Soon the family was surrounded with the support and compassionate care they needed. “I thank heavens for hospice”, said Barbara.

Ed's cancer soon made daily life difficult and he made the courageous decision to choose the end-of-life option rather than enduring pain, distress and loss of autonomy. His family was not initially onboard, however, Ed was emphatic that he had lived a full and happy life and was ready to go. After talking as a family, they agreed to respect and support Ed's decision.

His final weeks were spent surrounded by countless friends, family and compassionate caregivers. “The house was so full of love, it got me through this very difficult time”, said Barbara.

On the morning of November 5, 2021, Ed knew he was quickly declining—it was time. He knew if he waited he would no longer be able to self-administer the prescribed aid-in-dying medication. The family gathered around Ed's bedside, each with a glass of Dom Pérignon champagne (including Ed) to toast his departure from this life. They lifted their glasses while singing the old cowboy tune, “Happy Trails,” with tears in their eyes. Ed peacefully slipped away with Barbara by his side.

When some people die, the chasm they leave is massive. That is a life well lived.

2022 Dame Cicely Saunders Awards

Congratulations to the 2022 recipients of the Dame Cicely Saunders Awards. These awards invoke the name of the founder of the modern hospice movement, and recognize the extraordinary contributions of those who share her mission of providing compassionate care to the terminally ill.

The Dame Cicely Saunders awards are presented annually to those in our community who share her vision and epitomize this same commitment for exemplary care.

This year's awards were presented to three incredible women who have furthered the mission of Hospice of the Foothills; Deborah Wilson, Rebecca Wiles, RN, and Rev. Karyn Packard.



Pictured from left: Debe Wilson, Rebecca Wiles, RN, and Rev. Karyn Packard

Moonlight Magic

Hospice of the Foothills is incredibly grateful to our sponsors for supporting Moonlight Magic despite our decision to cancel due to health and safety concerns.

We appreciate all our ticket holders and sponsors who generously converted their ticket purchase and sponsorship funds to a charitable contribution.

A special thanks to all of our 2021 sponsors below:

**Thank you to
our Sponsors!**

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Hospice of the Foothills is pleased to recognize our 2021 donors to the Circle of Care, our premier stewardship & donor recognition program.

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facts & figures

2021-2022

COMPASSIONATE CARE PROVIDED TO
485
HOSPICE PATIENTS & THEIR FAMILIES

"Thank you for holding our hands and being there in our time of need. Your help through mom's final earthly journey brought laughter, joy and calm."

"You all have a special calling to meet the ever changing needs of your patients. Your services are unmatched!"

DONATIONS & EVENTS RAISED

\$511,196 from 1355 donors

277 VOLUNTEERS GAVE
16,355 HOURS IN 2021

"You have been a valuable support system helping us through probably the most difficult period of our lives. You all have a special place in our hearts!"

"Thank you for the care and comfort you gave me during a very difficult time. It is very hard to let go of a person you have loved for 73 years."

GIFT & THRIFT STORES RAISED

\$1,218,806 (gross)

6 BEQUESTS WERE RECEIVED
TOTALING **\$958,335**

"There are no words to express our gratitude for the kind, loving and compassionate care my husband received from each of you who came into our home."

"As a longtime resident of Nevada County, I have witnessed the many ways you have touched the community, and now our family."



A Cowboy at Heart



Mark Hicks was a husband, a father, a grandfather and a great grandfather. Just shy of age 93, he had lived a full and happy life of service, with a strong faith in God and a passion for adventure. He was also a cowboy at heart!

Mark and his wife of 66 years, Liesel, shared a love of riding and packing horses throughout their married life. Whether it was competing in the rodeo circuit or training horses for trail riding, horses were a significant part of who Mark was.



Mark with his favorite horse, Shadow

Mark's daughter, Christina Smith, inherited this fondness for horses. She and her husband, Gary, have two on their vineyard in Grass Valley. It was there, at the age of 87, that Mark took his final ride alongside Christina. He knew it was time to admire these majestic animals from the ground!

As Mark's health declined in the summer of 2021, the family decided he

would spend his final months at home with Christina and Gary rather than a nursing facility. Hospice of the Foothills provided the care and equipment needed to make him comfortable. "We are so grateful; the sweet moments we had during those last few months would not have been possible in a facility or hospital," said Christina.

Father and daughter made daily excursions to the pasture to spend time with the horses. These were special hours spent together, and when Mark was no longer physically able, they repositioned his bed so he could enjoy them from his window.

As his decline progressed, Christina sensed her father was ready. On February 17, 2022, she asked, "What are you waiting for, dad? You have the greatest adventure of all waiting for you in heaven." At that moment, with her blessing, Mark drew his final breath.

As the family gathered at his bedside to say their goodbyes, they were startled to see the horses peering through the bedroom window, as if to join in the farewell. They had escaped the pasture and traveled quite a distance to the house. Their presence at his window was a poignant moment the family will never forget.

"We can't write how a person's life will end," said Christina, "but for us, it could not have gone any better. Hospice of the Foothills gave me the gift of walking my dad to the gates of heaven."

"...the sweet moments we had during those last few months would not have been possible in a facility or hospital."





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Leaving a Legacy

When we reflect about what we leave behind when we are gone, most of us try to live lives that feel meaningful, purposeful and engaged. We want to believe we have made a difference, and that the world is a better place because we were in it. We want to leave a mark that transcends our time on earth.

Leaving a legacy through a planned gift can be one of the most gratifying final acts of a person's life.

We want to express our sincere thanks to those Legacy donors in 2021/22 who have provided for our future sustainability through their gifts.

Dean V. & Patricia F. Ekstam
Eleanor J. Mulch
Edna C. & Morton D. Chase
Jeanne & Christopher Newman
Douglas C. & Antoinette D. Vernon
Ethel May Short

If you have already made this provision in your will or trust, we would appreciate knowing your intentions. We want to make sure your charitable goals are satisfied and that your gift is used solely for the purpose intended. We would also value the opportunity to thank you.