

#### MISSION STATEMENT

Hospice of the Foothills affirms life and promotes dignity at the endof-life by providing professional, comprehensive, and compassionate care to our patients, their loved ones, and our community.



530.272.5739

www.hofo.org

11270 Rough & Ready Highway • Grass Valley, CA 95945



Calendar year 2015 was a year of significant change for Hospice of the Foothills. I accepted the Executive Director position in February. I had already been here on an interim basis and was excited to be starting a new job. I knew that the Compassionate Care Home (CCH), our inpatient facility, had been losing money since before it opened in 2010. I felt confident that with my previous experience with a 16-bed hospice house, a great team of directors and staff, and a supportive Board of Directors, we would be able to make some positive changes.

We tried everything we could think of to increase the community's use of the CCH. At one point we hit an all time high of 8 patients which gave us hope, but that lasted only 24 hours. In reality, we typically ran a census of 2 – 3 patients. By July, it was obvious our low utilization was depleting our cash reserves and we needed to make some difficult, but necessary changes.

Our financial loss had been shared with staff throughout this period, so it came as no surprise in July when we made the decision to restrict annual merit increases. We also evaluated our organizational structure and started the painful process of eliminating positions. Administrative Staff (myself included) took mandatory bi-monthly furlough days without pay. We reduced staff and carefully reviewed all contracts for any savings opportunities.

By October, it was clear we could not continue to support the CCH. When our last patient left on November 24<sup>th</sup> and there was no one scheduled for admission, we closed the doors.

I met with our major donors who had so graciously contributed to the construction of the Home. I met with the original planning committee. I met with the Board of Directors. I met with the staff. Everyone could see we could no longer keep the Home open without risking Hospice of the Foothills' core business of caring for patients and families at home. While meeting with the CCH staff to tell them of the closure, which eliminated their jobs, they actually thanked Hospice and the Board of Directors for being so transparent and kind. I had the staff comforting me! The Home was officially closed December 31, 2015.

Looking back, I realize the stress on everyone was dramatic. Through it all our staff, HOF Board President Frank Santos, Board of Directors, and community were understanding and supportive. Ridgeline Pediatric Day Health & Respite Services is now leasing our house. Former staff members have successfully found other jobs. Our amazing team has been able to focus on our primary business of taking care of patients in their homes, where they want to be. Hospice of the Foothills is now on a path of sustainability, although we must still rely on the support from Friends of Hospice events, the Gift and Thrift Stores, and our generous

community. We believe the future is bright and looking much more secure.

I am looking forward to our continued presence here in Nevada and Placer counties for a very long time.



**Carolynn Peterson** Executive Director

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# Memorial Quilt Patches Hearts

ourteen years ago, a group of local women started The Silver Threads quilting group. In 2012, their dear friend and group member, Elinor Campbell, grew ill and became a patient of Hospice of the Foothills. The ladies knew the support Hospice of the Foothills provided Elinor and her family was important, but it wasn't until 2014 that they understood the full impact. That year, Lois York's husband, Harry, passed away. Less than two weeks later, Anne Brunckhorst also lost her husband, Neal. Still reeling from their loss, the quilters were faced with yet another tragedy when Theresa Kohlmeister's husband, Rudy, died from heart disease complicated by Parkinson's. All three couples benefited from the compassionate care of Hospice of the Foothills. "Rudy was so well taken care of," said Theresa. "There's a lot Hospice can do for the patient and family way before you think to involve them," she continued. Silver Threads member Vicki Mooney added, "I never had a personal experience with hospice before, but through this group I learned how much education and assistance Hospice of the Foothills provides." Lois concluded by saying, "the staff at Hospice was so helpful. I don't know what we would have done without their guidance. They were with me through every step."

As Lois, Anne and Theresa began the healing process, the ladies took advantage of Hospice of the Foothills' Grief and Bereavement Support program. As part of their grief journey, the group decided to make a memorial quilt to honor their husbands. When completed, the quilt would be donated to Hospice of the Foothills to help raise much needed funds.



Theresa had beautiful fabric just waiting for a project. Vicki Mooney and Betsy Bertram designed the pattern and led the project. The group came together to support the making of the quilt with ideas, suggestions and hands on efforts. Each snip of fabric and stitch of the needle helped the widows adjust to their new lives. In late 2015 it was time to take the difficult step of letting the quilt go. "I knew it was going to be very difficult to part with," said Theresa. She knew it was time to turn their work over to Hospice of the Foothills for its intended purpose.

Both Lois and Theresa echoed the same thought upon reflection of their Hospice experience. "We should have called earlier. If we had one piece of advice to share, it would be to get hospice involved as soon as you can. It was such a relief when Hospice of the Foothills came to our homes, and to know we had 24-hour support was so important," they jointly concluded.

# A Year in Pictures

Volunteer Cydne Grimsby tends to the gardens on the HOF campus.



Members of Hospice of the Foothills' staff prepare to serve volunteers at the annual Volunteer Appreciation Tea.



Dennis Fournier & DeVere Mautino attend a Hospice of the Foothills event.



Hospice Gift & Thrift staff and volunteers have a little fun.



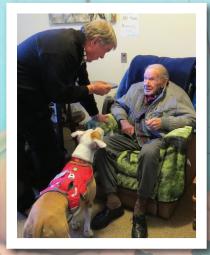


Extended members of the Fowler family accept their Dame Cicely Award on behalf of B&C True Value.

Friends of Hospice volunteers set up the Remembrance Garden for their annual Butterfly Garden event.



We Honor Vets volunteer Dick Delisser presents veteran Kenneth A. Baker with a commemorative pin for Veterans Day.





# A Jewel in the Crown

arlier this year, the son of a former patient, upon hearing the news of the Compassionate Care Home closing, said "Such a horrible shame. It was the Jewel in the Crown of Hospice. If it was not for that facility, I do not know how my family could have gotten through my dad dying."

We ended up having a long conversation about the jewel it truly was. We discussed the origin of Hospice of the Foothills (HOF) and the journey that board members and staff have traveled since the start of HOF in 1978; the many nurses, social workers, caregivers, and volunteers who have provided quality, compassion and comfort to thousands of patients and their families over the years. We talked about how the medical insurance industry works and the inadequate funding for hospice services in general, and more specifically for in-patient facilities like the Compassionate Care Home. He knew about the care provided for his father and family until his dad's death in the Compassionate Care Home, but wondered about the other families served.

I shared that we had a total of 100 patients receiving care in the Home in 2015. It was a wonderful haven for a family who struggled to cope with the loss of a young life. Also for a patient whose living situation was not able to provide comfort in their last days, but our facility provided a comfortable bed and caring hearts by the patient's side as they took their last breath. Despite those who used the facility, the vast majority of

the patients receiving our care choose to spend their final days in their own homes.

Recently, I heard from this man again after the death of a very dear friend. He was able to experience first-hand the extent to which the entire HOF clinical team was able to help this friend and were by her side as she died. He believes he was wrong when he called the Compassionate Care Home THE Jewel in the Crown. He knows now that, "It was just one of many Jewels in the Hospice Crown". He stated that the community and donors would be very proud of the care given to those at the end of life by Hospice of the Foothills.

Currently, the inpatient facility is home to Ridgeline Pediatric Day Health and Respite Services. It continues to serve as a Jewel for them, as it provides a comforting, home-like setting for medically fragile children and their families. In addition, our hospice patients can continue to receive intensive inpatient care at our local hospital, and routine and respite care at many of our local skilled nursing facilities or residential care facilities, with HOF by their side.

It was truly a sad day when the difficult decision was made to close the Compassionate Care Home, but it was the right decision. We continue to work hard to support patients and families and provide the best end-of-life care to our community, wherever the patient is living. I appreciate the support our community gives us in this quest.



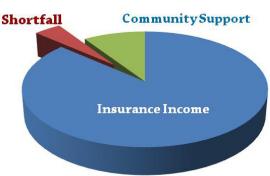




Most people know a person or family who has benefited from the compassionate care of hospice. However, you may not be aware that Hospice of the Foothills illnesses, regardless of their ability to pay. While much of our revenue comes

provides care to those with life-limiting through reimbursements from Medicare, Medi-Cal and private insurance, these reimbursements are not keeping pace with the rising costs of healthcare. The substantial difference between care and cost is an ever increasing financial challenge for Hospice of the Foothills. Fundraising events, revenues from the Hospice Gift & Thrift stores, and

donations help bridge the growing gap between insurance reimbursements and the cost of comprehensive, whole-family care. But we still have a shortfall and need to completely close the gap. Please make your thoughtful gift today to support your community nonprofit hospice. Our first priority will always be caring for this community's patients and



# The Compassionate Legacy Society

families.

Remembering Hospice of the Foothills (HOF) in your estate through a planned gift is one of the most meaningful ways you can ensure compassionate end-of-life care continues to be available for patients and their families in our community for years to come.

Many of our loyal supporters include HOF in their estate plan because they have experienced the comfort hospice brought to someone they love—a parent, a sibling, a child or partner, and wish to make sure these services continue for the next generation. By naming HOF in your estate plan, you can help ensure that comprehensive medical, emotional, spiritual and bereavement support will be available for patients and their families for years to come.

If you have already made this provision

in your will or trust, we would appreciate knowing your intention. 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 and acknowledge your commitment.

For additional information on making a planned gift to Hospice of the Foothills, please contact Kristin Donahue, Director of Fund Development at 530.272.5739 or kdonahue@hofo.org.

Hospice of the Foothills does not provide legal or tax advisory services. Please remember to consult a financial advisor to make the most of your bequest. If you do not have your own legal or tax-planning counsel, the Gold Country Estate Planning Council at http://estateplanningcouncil.net has a list of professionals who would be willing to assist in the preparation of your bequest.



# A Family Builds a Legacy

aVonne and Frank Amaral became involved with Hospice of the Foothills in 2003 when Executive Director Dennis Fournier met with them about the plan to build a new facility. Both Frank and LaVonne were instrumental in fundraising for the capital campaign and planning of the building project.

When Frank's health began to decline, he called his family together to discuss his desire to leave a legacy to the community by naming HOF in his will.

"Dad received care from HOF during the last 18 months of his life," said his daughter Julia Amaral. "It was a very long period of time, starting with occasional visits by his nurse and social worker, and as his needs escalated and the end became near, the hospice team became more involved. They were never intrusive and the care he received was perfect." After Frank's death, Julia became a member of the Board of Trustees, where she currently serves.

LaVonne, too, has been receiving care from HOF. When asked about her hospice experience, LaVonne shared "Hospice of the Foothills is doing very well by me; they are great people who are very good at what they do."

HOF is very grateful to the philanthropy of the entire Amaral family. They have strengthened the organization with their time, talent and financial support.



LaVonne & Frank Amaral attend a 2006 Friends of Hospice event.



Picutred left to right: Julia Amaral, Mark Strate, LaVonne Amaral, and Lance Amaral receive a 2016 Dame Cicely Saunders award for outstanding family support.

# Circle of Care Donors Dedicated to Compassionate Care

Hospice of the Foothills is pleased to recognize our 2015 donors to the Circle of Care, our premier stewardship & donor recognition program.

#### Caring Benefactors (\$5,000+)

#### Julia Amaral & Mark Strate\* Lance Amaral\* LaVonne Amaral\*

Charles Fowler Friends of Hospice Gold Rush Subaru Leo & Gayle Granucci Hansen Bros. Enterprises Larry & Sue Haynes Jack Hoss Max A. Kane Lynn & Camille Kerby/Kerby Family Foundation Renz Family Trust Frank & Vida Santos John & Dottie Scott Olga Thorson United Auburn Indian Community of the Auburn Rancheria Timothy & Susan Wilson Gregory Wolfe Chuck & Betty Zavitz

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#### Caring Sustainers (\$1,200+)

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### **2015 Community Support**

# Hospice of the Foothills is deeply appreciative of every gift we receive!

Because of our donors, we are able to provide the high quality end-of-live programs and services our community's patients and families need. Due to the high cost of producing and distributing our annual report, we've decided to list donors who have given \$250 or more in the printed annual report.

#### Donors (\$250+)

Jane L. Ackerman
Virginia Addotto
Anna R. Sejerman Trust
AT&T Employee Giving Campaign
Annette Aurrecoechea
Bob & Karen Baldwin
Louis & Sheryl Bartolucci



Circle of Care members Gayle & Leo Granucci

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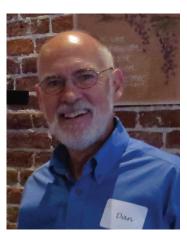
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Circle of Care member, Dr. Dan Bibelheimer



Circle of Care member, Charles Fowler

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## Volunteer of the Year Awards

ach year, Hospice of the Foothills honors five individuals for their commitment to volunteerism and making a real difference for our patients and families. The contribution of volunteers is priceless to Hospice of the Foothills. If we had to pay wages for the important work they do, our annual expenses would increase by well over \$950,000.

The Volunteer of the Year Award recognizes one outstanding volunteer from each of four different business areas and one recipient of the Marianne Murphy Volunteer of the Year Award.

Thank you to our award winners and all of our volunteers that selflessly give their time and energy with enthusiasm and dedication to our community.



Pictured left to right is Linda High (Patient Support), Donna Mack (Friends of Hospice), Judy Lay (Professional Services), Marilyn Miller (Gift & Thrift), Barbara Belmer (Marianne Murphy Volunteer of the Year).

## Caring for Our Community

Hospice of the Foothills provides patient care & support for families when and where they are needed:

- Care in the Patient's Own Home
- Care for the Caregiver
- Care for the Community

Learn more about our programs and services call 530.272.5739 or visit our website at www.hofo.org.

# Did you know...

You can Support Hospice of the Foothills just by shopping!

Use an eScrip card when shopping at SPD or SaveMart. Up to 3% of your total purchase will be donated back to Hospice of the Foothills.

When shopping on Amazon, use smile. amazon.com and select Hospice of the Foothills as your charitable organization. Most Amazon products are available through AmazonSmile and .5% of your purchase will be donated to Hospice of the Foothills.

Donate items or shop at one of the four Hospice Gift & Thrift stores. Find exciting merchandise that changes daily. Our stores are in Nevada City, Grass Valley, Penn Valley, and Rough and Ready.

of the gifts & donations made to Hospice of the Foothills remain in the community we serve and help pay for our many underfunded and unfunded programs and services.

#### **Patient-Related**

Reimbursement GAP	\$1,164,698
Expenses*	\$ 6,458,482
Income:	\$ 5,293,784

#### **Net Fundraising Income:**

FOH Events:	\$ 130,174
Gift & Thrift:	\$ 186,507
Community Donations:	\$ 243,511
Grants:	\$ 7,000
Other	\$ 51,600

Total Net Fundraising \$ 618,792

\*all expenses include the cost of operating the Compassionate Care Home through December 31, 2015.



### The Bottom Line

Community Supported

618,792 Income: **TOTAL LOSS:** 545,906 LOSS PER DAY: 1,496 LOSS PER PATIENT PER DAY \$ 21

#### Volunteers MAKING A DIFFERENCE!

Total **VOLUNTEERS**  36,594 Total

Volunteer **HOURS** 

\$964,391

MARKET VALUE of Volunteer Time

#### Patient LENGTH of Stav

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0 - 7 days	29%
8 - 30 days	32%
31 - 90 days	22%
91 - 179 days	10%
180 - 1500 days	7%

#### Patient Admission by DIAGNOSIS

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Cancer	39%
Heart Disease	13%
Dementia	13%
Kidney Disease	2%
ALS	<1%
Lung Disease	8%
Liver Disease	1%
Stroke	6%
Other	18%

Volunteers

ncome





Care Matters is generously sponsored by:

Walker's Office Supply

VerusCare, Inc.

**Weiss Brothers Nursery** 

**SPD Markets** 

# 2016 Hospice of the Foothills' Board of Directors

From left:
Vida Santos, Jack Pascoe,
Judy O'Toole, Beverly Werntz,
Valerie Logsdon, Frank Santos,
Jenni Dallas, John Woodford,
Jim Heard, Sally Gallagher,
John Scott, Rick Kalb,
Linda Rasmussen,
Larry Meek, Bob Altieri.

