

October, 2012

# Bringing a Loved One Home

Compassionate care inspires a legacy of comfort and community.

In the spring of 2011, 29 year old Kyle Sutherland noticed a small "bump" low on his left jaw. The Arizona State University graduate was a robust athlete—golf high on his regimen of sports activities—and taking courses to prepare for nursing school.

A visit to his dentist suggested nothing amiss, although he began to experience discomforting pain in his left shoulder, back, and hip. As these symptoms became more acute, in early May Kyle's physician ordered an MRI. The resulting diagnosis was shocking; osteo sarcoma, a malignant cancer, that would require extensive surgery and many rounds of chemotherapy and radiation.

On the advice of his physician and with the support of his parents, Alta Sierra residents Dan and Debe Wilson, Kyle sought treatment from specialists in Seattle. Once there, following days of testing, the family was informed that Kyle's cancer had metastasized to his femur, lungs, shoulder, and spine. The new diagnosis—active renal cell, Stage IV cancer—was devastating. Accompanied by his mother, Kyle returned to Arizona for treatment. By August 2011, the spinal tumors were causing severe pain and reducing

#### inside...



Meeting Community Needs

PAGE 3



Celebrating the Circle of

PAGE 4



Donors Dedicated to Compassionate Care

**PAGES 5-10** 



2011/12 Facts & Figures Message from Executive Director

PAGE 11

(cont. from front page)

Kyle's mobility. Without surgery, Kyle would soon be paralyzed and unable to walk. For this former athlete, independence was essential to his quality of life and dignity.

Following his back surgery, Kyle's mother Debe traveled between Grass Valley and Scotsdale, AZ overseeing the increasingly complicated care of her son. After months of this back and forth, Kyle agreed to move to his parents' home in Alta Sierra. "He knew then," Debe said, "that he would never go back to Arizona."

ne rainy day in February when he was admitted to Sierra Nevada Memorial Hospital, his local physician, Dr. William Newsom, encouraged Kyle and his family to include the professional care team at Hospice of the Foothills in his plan of care. Soon thereafter, Kyle began receiving hospice care at home until the round-the-clock professional care available in the Compassionate Care Home was needed.

"He felt really safe here," Debe said, her glance taking in the Compassionate Care Home. "He knew his needs were being attended to; his pain was being managed and he was receiving emotional support. Kyle bonded with his caregivers and the staff. Katherine and Brad were among his favorites. Kyle was a talker and Katherine took time to listen. Kyle loved music and Brad came in frequently to play the guitar and visit." Kyle's Pomeranian, Cocoa, and Debe were a constant presence at his bedside, reassuring Kyle that he was not alone.

In the serenity and security of the Compassionate Care Home, Debe and her son talked and talked; they talked





about how he would have loved to have had time enough to be a father and about life before, life during, and what after life might be. Debe treasures these intimate hours with Kyle and is grateful for the comforting environment of the Home that made them possible.

Kyle passed away on April 1, 2012. In the preceding several days family members, friends, and loved ones

had come to say goodbye. But late that evening, it was just mother and son. "We started his life together," Debe whispered, "and we ended it together."

"He felt really safe here...he knew his needs were being attended to; his pain was being managed and he was receiving emotional support..."

Debe Wilson

In the following weeks, numerous gifts in Kyle's memory were received by Hospice of the Foothills and he was memorialized on a leaf on the Memorial Wall in the garden adjacent to the Compassionate Care Home. In addition to these generous donations, members of the Alta Sierra Country Club Women's Club knitting group, inspired by Debe's experience, began making prayer shawls to be given to family members of patients in the Compassionate Care Home.

"I was truly comforted by the beautiful shawl I was given while Kyle was in the Compassionate Care Home," Debe said on the August day 22 shawls were presented to Hospice of the Foothills during a moving ceremony in the Home's chapel. "Having my friends and neighbors undertake such a meaningful project in honor of Kyle is a legacy of care and comfort that will be passed on to other patients in the Compassionate Care Home and their families."

# **In-Service to Our Community**

Meeting the needs of veterans, seniors, the bereaved & underserved

Hospice of the Foothills has a long history of serving those in our community with life-limiting illnesses who most often do not seek or receive the care and support they need—our veterans, seniors, the bereaved and underserved. For a variety of reasons, many of them are isolated from the mainstream of public services, community healthcare, familial support, and programs that sustain dignity and quality of life. Hospice of the Foothills offers programs that connect them with the care and support they need and deserve.



#### **Veterans**

As a 2009 Veterans Administration "Reaching Out" grant recipient, Hospice of the Foothills helped pave the way for the National Hospice and Palliative Care Organization's WE HONOR VETERANS program launched this year. Hospice of the Foothills provides education programs for care professionals and the community about end-of-life care and services and the unique needs of Veterans. As a hospice and supportive care provider, Hospice of the Foothills collaborates with the Veterans Health Systems and Outpatient Clinics throughout the region to provide our veterans with the highest quality of care with dignity that they deserve.

Hospice of the Foothills is privileged to serve those who have served us.



#### Seniors

In collaboration with our community healthcare partners and agencies, Hospice of the Foothills provides supportive services to seniors with life-limiting illnesses. These services include advanced care planning, care coordination and referral, bereavement and spiritual care counseling, and other health and safety related services through our *Transitions* program.



#### The Bereaved

Comfort and support for grieving loved ones is provided by bereavement professionals as a community service of Hospice of the Foothills. Weekly bereavement support groups are open to community members as well as Hospice families and include a general bereavement group for adults and a widow/widower group for men and women whose spouses have passed away. Hospice also hosts a monthly men's breakfast for widowers and Ruth's Group, a monthly widow's social luncheon. All bereavement support groups meet at Hospice of the Foothills. Bereavement services are confidential and free of charge.



#### The Underserved

Hospice of the Foothills is committed to help our underserved population stay connected to the community services they need and deserve. HOF's Transitions program provides case coordination services to those in our community with lifelimiting illnesses and their families. It does this through a process of referrals and collaboration with our community healthcare partners covering a wide range of services essential to health, safety, quality of life, and dignity.

#### Contact Hospice of the Foothills for Assistance & Services

To join a **bereavement group** or to learn more about grief counseling services, call Allied Services Supervisor Cynthia Meilicke, MS, CT at 530.272.5739.

To access **Transitions** program services, call Transitions Coordinator Lorraine Starr at 530.272.5011.

To learn more about Hospice of the Foothills community service programs, visit our website at www.hofo.org.

# Dedication Celebration Honoring Loved Ones, Donors, & Friends

## The Memorial Wall

More than 100 patient families, friends, and donors attended the May 5, 2012, dedication of Hospice of the Foothills' Memorial Wall. The wall is adjacent to the



Compassionate Care Home and Cece's Garden.

On the south wall is an inspirational artwork oak tree designed and crafted for Hospice of the Foothills by local artist David Burns. The names of 128 loved ones, memorialized on the tree's engraved leaves, were read by HOF Bereavement and Allied Services Supervisor Cynthia Meilicke, MS, CT,

and Spiritual Care Coordinator Brad Helmuth, MDiv, during the moving dedication ceremony. The Memorial Wall is open to anyone desiring to memorialize their loved ones in a serene setting surrounded by the beauty of art and nature. For information on how to place the name of a loved one on the Memorial Wall call Karen Wood at 530.274.5115.

#### Cece's Garden

Family and friends of long-time Hospice benefactor and volunteer Cece Fowler also celebrated the opening of the garden they helped "grow" through their generous gifts. Cece's husband, Charles Fowler, and daughter, Kim Fowler Janousek, fondly recalled Cece's affiliation with the Ridge Road Garden Club as well as her many years of service with Friends of Hospice. A permanent plaque recognizing those who made donations to "grow" Cece's Garden was mounted on the garden's east wall. HOF very much



appreciates the donation of materials and labor from B&C True Value Home & Garden Center, BP Landscapes, Hansen Bros. Enterprises, & MK (Mark Tintle) & Sons.

A festive punch and cookies reception was held in the Kerby Conference Room and on the Ethel Gordon Patio following the ceremony and celebration.

## Circle of Care Donor Recognition

The dedication celebration included the recognition of the 2011/12 donors to HOF annual fund's *Circle of Care*: Caring Benefactors, Caring Sustainers, & Sustaining Circle. Caring Benefactors Charles S. Fowler, Friends of Hospice, Lynn & Camille Kerby, and Olga Thorson were each presented with a handsome plaque in recognition of their multi-year support of patient care and services through their gifts to the annual fund.

Circle of Care is Hospice of the Foothills premier stewardship and donor recognition program. All donors to Hospice of the Foothills of \$500.00 or more in a single year are members of HOF's annual Circle of Care. Members will be recognized each year in HOF's Community Report and will be invited to an appreciation event in recognition of their support. To learn more about Circle of Care membership, call Karen Wood at 530.274.5115.

# Circle of Care

# **Donors Dedicated to Compassionate Care**

Hospice of the Foothills thanks the donors of \$500.00 and above in fiscal year 2011/12\* for supporting our mission, programs, patients and families.

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Charlene Thompson & Patricia

Reardon, GD

Carolyn Thornton, GD Olga Thorson, AF Patricia Tillman, AF J. & Diane Timko, MEM John Timmer, GD Michael & Miriam Timrott, AF John & Connie Tingle, GD Mary Todd, MEM Tops CA 1739, MEM John & Bonnie Torres, AF Louis Townsley, AF Nancyan Tracy, MEM Sharon Tremaine, MEM Donald & Patsy Tremewan, MEM T. Bruce & Barbara Truesdell, MEM Stan Truex, AF Truist, GD Ralph & Janice Turner, DES, GD Charles & Kathy Tuttle, AF Gary & Carolyn Twing, AF Amy Umpleby & Tom Phillips, MEM Donald Unger, MEM United Association of Journeymen and Apprentices, MEM United Way, GD United Way Mile High United Way, GD United Way Of Nevada County, GD Carola Upham, MEM Anthony & Bobbie Urata, GD, MEM USS Maddox Association, MEM John & Mary Valentine, MEM Dianne Van de Carr, MEM Robin Van Metre, MEM Roy & Gail Vandenheuvel, MEM Priscilla Vanderpas, MEM Terry & Sandra VanEtten, MEM Mildred & Richard Vasey, GD R. M. & L. F. Vial, MEM Joe & Margaret Vielbig, MEM Mary Vignassa, MEM Valentina Waddell, AF, MEM Richard & Margaret Wagner, MEM Aryliss Walby, MEM Edna Waldo, MEM Edward & Kay Walker, AF Daniel & Lori Walsh, MEM Joseph & Janet Walsh, MEM Mary Wamser, AF David & Sally Ward, MEM Greg Ward, GD James Ward, MEM Mary Warner, MEM Warren G. Bender Co., MEM Allyn Washington, GD Fusako Wasley & Betty Reason, MEM Georgine Wasley, MEM Gerald & Nancy Wasley, MEM Eleanor Wasson, AF Waste Management Inc, GD Waters Construction, MEM Victoria Webb, MEM Patricia Weeks, MEM Duane Wehrs, MEM

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Thank you for remembering Hospice of the Foothills in your will or trust.

Hospice of the Foothills welcomes notification of any omissions and/or misspellings.

# facts & figure

#### patients

FISCAL YEAR	PATIENTS & FAMILIES SERVED
2009/2010	435
2010/2011	477
2011/2012	542

**Did you know...**the total number of hospice patients served increased by 22% from the prior year?

**Did you know...**we serve patients in Placer, Yuba & Nevada counties?

#### **Patient Care & Program Expenses for** 2011/2012 were \$7.4 million.

The average *unfunded* costs are \$1,460 per day.

Patient needs are growing and so is Hospice of the Foothills!

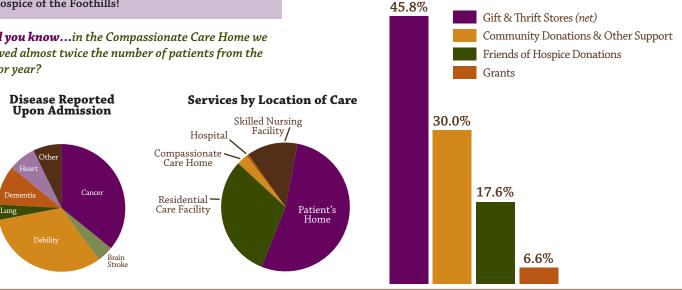
Did you know...in the Compassionate Care Home we served almost twice the number of patients from the prior year?

#### volunteers make a difference!

	number of volunteers*	# of volunteer hours
Direct Patient Care	72	2,373
Clinical & Administrative Support	40	2,238
Gift & Thrift Store Support	176	20,982
Friends of Hospice (fundraising)	221	7,526
*unduplicated volunteers	509	33,119

Did you know...Hospice of the Foothills gives back to the community? As a major employer with over 90 employees, we support local households through payment of more than \$4.4 million in wages and benefits.

**Non-Patient Support** 



# Hospice of the Foothills' Community Connection

A Message from Hospice of the Foothills' Executive Director, Vanessa Bengston, RN, CPHQ



Hospice of the Foothills' Community Report nurtures our connection with the community by sharing the stories of how your support connects to the care and comfort we provide to those with life-limiting illnesses, their families, and the bereaved, as well as to our veterans, seniors, and the underserved.

To bridge the "connection," we've stepped up our collaboration with our community healthcare partners and sought needed funding from grants. We are building on a 2009 "Reaching Out," grant from the U.S. Dept. of Veterans Affairs and the National Hospice and Palliative Care Association to collaborate more effectively in serving veterans in rural areas. Next month, we will participate in the "WE HONOR VETERANS" program with professional education, outreach, and best practice to ensure quality end-of-life care for the almost 150

Veterans HOF serves each year.

Through another significant "connection," in 2012, HOF received generous grants from the Joseph & Vera Long Foundation and **Catholic Healthcare West**, **Dignity Health**, for advanced care planning and supportive care services for seniors. These grants have enabled us to build stronger connections with families and our healthcare partners for the safety, quality of life, and dignity our seniors deserve. Connections keep us in touch with the needs of our community. Thank you for staying connected with us to help meet those needs through your generous support.



11270 Rough & Ready Hwy. Grass Valley, CA 95945

#### **Mission Statement**

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



#### **Board of Directors**

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Contact us...WE CARE 530.272.5739 www.hofo.org

#### A message from Hospice of the Foothills Board of Directors President



Dear Friends.

On behalf of Hospice of the Foothills' Board of Directors and staff, I am pleased to provide you with our annual Community Report highlighting the organization's patient programs and community services in fiscal year 2011/12 and, most importantly, your role in supporting our mission, patients, and families with your gifts to our annual fund's Circle of Care.

In fiscal year 2011/12, Community Support provided \$189,453.00 from 1,038 donors enabling us to meet the needs of more than 500 patients and families in western Nevada County and the surrounding communities. The graphs on page 11 show how HOF used these funds to sustain and grow our patient programs and services.

Hospice of the Foothills provides care to those with life-limiting illnesses regardless of their ability to pay. While more than 70% of our revenue comes through reimbursements from MediCare, MediCal, and private insurance, the gap continues to widen between reimbursements and the rising costs of healthcare including hospice care. Our community services, which include our bereavement and spiritual care programs, the Hospice-sponsored Transitions care coordination program, and programs that meet the needs of Veterans and seniors are provided by HOF at no cost to recipients.

The shortfall between care and cost is an ongoing financial challenge for us. Our Circle of Care annual appeal gives you the opportunity to help us meet this challenge. This year, gifts to HOF of \$500.00 or more will be recognized by membership in our Circle of Care, Hospice's premier stewardship and donor recognition program. By selecting one of the giving opportunities described in the enclosed appeal envelope you will be contributing to the compassionate care and support our patients and their families need and deserve.

On behalf of our patients, families, and community we serve, thank you for your ongoing generosity and support.

Sincerely,

Leo Granucci, President, Hospice of the Foothills Board of Directors