



CONNECTION

NEWSLETTER OF ALIVE HOSPICE



Mr. Butch Hunt (left) received "the biggest surprise in (his) life" when new friend Scott Sweeney (right) took him on a motorcycle ride.

Butch Hunt takes ride of a lifetime

There's just something about the roar of a motorcycle that gets a biker's blood pumping like motor oil through an engine.

Mr. David "Butch" Hunt rode motorcycles for many years until health problems forced him to give it up. Little did he know that he'd have the chance to ride again after becoming an Alive Hospice home-care patient.

It was a Sunday, the day after his 64th birthday. As far as he knew, he was going to spend a quiet afternoon at the park with his family. But then he heard a familiar sound. He turned and saw sunlight gleaming off of chrome as dozens of motorcycles headed his way. More than 60 bikes roared to a stop in front of him. Then he spotted his Alive Hospice social worker, Steve Reda.

"I said, 'What are you doing here?'" Mr. Hunt recalled. "He said, 'You'll see. You'll see.'"

Reda told him that he was going to go for a ride again. It was enough to bring a tear to his eye.

"That motorcycle ride ... was the biggest surprise in my life. I couldn't have ... thought something like that would be in my honor," Mr. Hunt said.

Reda kick-started this surprise with a conversation with Mr. Hunt's family and a visit to Boswell's Harley-Davidson of Rivergate. There, he spoke with employee Jennifer Marple about an idea he had. Marple put out the word to a local Harley-Davidson Owners' Group (HOG) and invited them to take part in something special for a fellow biker.

Before she knew it, more than 60 people had gotten involved. They chipped in to buy a Harley-Davidson T shirt and a set of tires for Mr. Hunt's old bike, which his daughter was keeping for him.

But that wasn't all they had in mind. It just so happened that one of the bikers owned a motorcycle with a sidecar that needed a passenger. At the park that Sunday, Mr. Hunt let out a cheer as he took his place in the car, and off they went.

(story continues on page 3)

From the PRESIDENT AND CEO

Dear Friends,

It is with great warmth and affection that I greet you with our Fall 2009 *Connection* newsletter. With each edition, we look forward to the opportunity to share with you the good work that Alive Hospice is doing and to thank you for helping to make that work possible.

We tell each Alive Hospice staff member and volunteer that, no matter how they serve, each person plays an important role in providing loving care. The same applies to our donors. With each dollar you give, you make it possible for terminally ill patients to know comfort at the end of life.

Your support has always played an important role in what we do, and its importance will only continue to grow. As our nation's leaders grapple with a troubled economy, health care reform has become a key measure in reducing government spending. As a result, cuts in Medicare reimbursements for hospices nationwide are on the not-so-distant horizon, and we worry about the effect these cuts will have on access to hospice care. Alive Hospice is not immune to these cuts.

As I've said before, while this will make it more difficult for Alive Hospice to carry out its mission, it will not hinder us from doing so. That's our promise, and it's one we intend to keep. In fact, we intend to grow. The need for hospice care will only increase over time, and

meeting that need is the reason we're here. But we can't do it alone. With less Medicare funding available to hospices, the need for that care among the uninsured and underinsured will rise. Donations are critical in helping us pay for that care, and every dollar helps make a difference.

We hope you will stay connected! Thank you for your support. It's needed now more than ever.

Sincerely,



Janet L. Jones,
BSN, FAAMA,
President and CEO



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HOSPICE HAPPENINGS



Missy Bordelon

Bordelon named CFO

Alive Hospice recently welcomed Missy Bordelon as its new chief financial officer. In that role, Bordelon directs the financial operations of Alive Hospice and plays a critical role in ensuring

the agency’s financial wellness; overseeing stewardship of resources; and strategic planning.

“We are so glad that Missy has joined our team,” said President and CEO Jan Jones. “Good stewardship of resources and fiscal health are more important than ever before for nonprofit organizations, and Missy will be a key asset to Alive Hospice in that regard. She has great experience to bring to the table and has hit the ground running.”

Prior to joining Alive Hospice, Bordelon served as director of revenue cycle at Lafayette, La.-based LHC Group Inc., a provider of home-based and facility-based post acute health care services, and was chief financial officer for Lifepoint Hospitals Inc. She holds an MBA from the University of Southwestern Louisiana.

Butch Hunt

(continued from page 1)

Reda likes for his patients to have experiences that bring smiles to their faces. The way he saw it, just because Mr. Hunt could no longer ride a motorcycle didn’t mean he couldn’t have that experience again, somehow.

Some may see hospice as the end of the road. True, there’s a limited life expectancy involved. But in Mr. Hunt’s case, what awaited him was the open road, thanks to the kindness of perfect strangers and an Alive Hospice caregiver.

That’s not to say that a grand adventure awaits every patient as in the film *The Bucket List*, but it’s a reminder that there’s still a lot of living to do. Even in the twilight of life.



Jazz Alive: Music to our ears

This year’s Jazz Alive concert benefiting Alive Hospice was a night to remember! Grammy Award-winner Patti Austin performed a selection of Ella Fitzgerald classics and greeted fans at a post-concert champagne reception. Austin, right, is pictured with Alive Hospice Board Chair Harriet Karro and husband Mr. Brad Karro, who were event sponsors.



A LITTLE LAUGHTER GOES A LONG WAY

Like family: Alive Hospice patients, caregivers share special bond

Mrs. Lynda Pond looked up as her nurse entered the room. In three blinks of an eye, a smile spread over her face and she chuckled as they talked.

It was nothing unusual, Mrs. Pond said. Laughter was a very common part of her visits from caregivers at Alive Hospice at Skyline Madison Campus. They even knew her children's names, something that told her quite a bit about the staff at the inpatient hospice unit.

"They fill in and fit in right with your family," she said. "They tell you, 'I'm here for you.' They show you they're here for you. That means a lot."

She came to know her caregivers so well that she could tell just by a knock on the door who had come to see her.

On this day, a Friday, Mrs. Pond's nurse entered to find her sitting in a chair next to the window. She was enjoying the sunlight and the view as she spent time with her son, Doug. Family photos surrounded her on the windowsill, along with



Mrs. Lynda Pond, a patient at Alive Hospice at Skyline Madison Campus, found that her caregivers were like family.

a star lily and two large, colorful balloons.

She reminisced about the travels she enjoyed with her husband, James, to Alaska, Canada, Hawaii and points in between. She spoke of her work as a travel agent who came to work each day with the goal of helping customers create memories that would last a lifetime. Her eyes shined as she spoke of her children, who had made her so proud.

Comfort comes in many forms. Often, it takes the form of a hospice physician or nurse who brings relief to suffering. Just as often, it comes in the form of social

workers, chaplains and volunteers, compassionate souls who help Alive Hospice patients find peace emotionally and spiritually as they complete their lives' journeys.

"There's more to sickness and more to your health than just the medical part. There's (the) mental and emotional," Mrs. Pond said. She added about her Alive Hospice caregivers: "They have a lot of encouragement for the patients."

Her son, Doug Pond, put it this way: "They make you feel like you're part of their family. I'm amazed at the staff they've assembled. It's a special kind of work they do here."



SOMETIMES, COMFORT COMES IN SMALL PACKAGES



Volunteer Nan Shinn with Mr. Morgan Davis and Baldwin the cat.

A cat named Baldwin

Mr. Morgan Davis reached out his hand to stroke the furry, four-legged visitor that had come to see him.

“Hi, kitty,” he said as he patted the placid creature, a cat named Baldwin.

A short-haired black cat known for his gentle bedside manner, Baldwin is one of several pet therapy animals that visits patients and families at Alive Hospice Residence Nashville. He has been making weekly rounds there with volunteer Nan Shinn for the last six years. It’s

hard to count just how many people they have called on in that time, but all told, they’ve logged more than 2,000 hours together.

It warms the heart to see the reactions Nan and Baldwin get when they drop by. Staff members grin at the sight of the golden-eyed critter, and they can’t help reaching out to pet him. Inside patients’ rooms, the reactions he gets are even sweeter.

“Come in, come in, come in!” many have said. “I didn’t know there were cats here!”

A certain transformation takes place when Nan and Baldwin are invited inside. Care-worn faces brighten with smiles full of childlike wonder as patients and family members get a peak at Baldwin, quite the unexpected visitor. He curls up with patients on their beds and sits as still as can be while they stroke his shiny coat. He’s been known to stay that way for an hour, sometimes even two. He breathes in and out, in and out in a slow and steady rhythm that could lull one off to sleep.

Sometimes, he nuzzles up against patients with his nose, giving what Nan calls “kitty kisses.”

Baldwin has heard thousands of stories in his time. Most often, snuggling with Baldwin brings out stories about patients’ own pets. Before long, Nan is caught up in a conversation about any number of things with someone she has just met, but nonetheless, someone who seems like an old friend.

It’s a way she and Baldwin can take people’s minds off of illnesses and the end of life, something they can do to make someone smile.

“I think it’s a bit of home. It’s a bit of comfort,” Nan said. “I think it just brings happiness to people. He is there to give them love.”

For information about volunteer opportunities, call 615-327-1085.



2009 HOLIDAY ORNAMENT COLLECTION



Alive Hospice is pleased to offer the 2009 collection of four handcrafted ornaments created by Hooven & Hooven Porcelain. We hope these ornaments will become treasured family heirlooms or special gifts for family and friends.

Made entirely by hand, the ornaments measure approximately 3 to 4 inches wide. If displayed in a window, light will shine through their intricate designs. Each keepsake is gently shipped in an attractive Alive Hospice gift box.

Individual ornaments are available for \$30 each, or purchase the entire set for only \$100. \$60 of each four-ornament set and \$20 of each individual ornament purchase is tax-deductible to the fullest extent of the law.

Limited quantities available. Order yours today!

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Amount	\$30 each	\$30 each	\$30 each	\$30 each	\$100

Return this order form and your donation to:

Alive Hospice
1718 Patterson St.
Nashville, TN 37203

You may also order by calling 615-327-1085 or visiting our Web site: www.alivehospice.org.



BECAUSE KIDS GRIEVE, TOO



Herby, Sam and Jackson Clark

Jackson's lesson: Once a big brother, always a big brother

Jackson Clark couldn't wait to have a baby brother, and when twins Sam and Sadie Clark were born, he couldn't have been more excited. He had the new brother he had yearned for, and just as special, a new baby sister.

The bond of two brothers knows no age, and Jackson didn't waste a moment of being a big brother.

"I liked to read books to him. He never really cared which one," 6-year-old Jackson said with a grin. "He just liked me to read to him."

He had a lot to teach his brother,

forts to build, adventures to share. But only months after Sam was born, Jackson's mom and dad were confronted with four words every parent fears: Sudden Infant Death Syndrome (SIDS).

October, Jackson said, is a hard month for his family.

It was hard, said Jackson's father, Herby Clark. He and Jackson's mother, Tatum, were suddenly playing the dual roles of parents grieving the loss of a child and being the parents of grieving children. When they heard about Alive Grief Support Services and

its children's program, Mrs. Clark made a call.

They learned that Alive Grief Support Services offers individual counseling for children, grief support groups and summer day camps. Jackson has participated in all three, and Mr. Clark has noticed a big difference in his son.

"There's no doubt about it. We've been blown away with how much more open he is and how much more willing he is to talk about it," Mr. Clark said. He added that Jackson has "a place where he can come and talk, somebody who's trained and knows what to say It's an amazing thing."

The children's grief support group and Camp Evergreen helped Jackson by connecting him with other children who had faced losses just like he had, Mr. Clark said.

Individual counseling also helped Jackson find ways to better understand and express the emotions he was feeling, and he learned that he didn't have to keep his feelings inside to protect his parents, Mr. Clark said.

And though Jackson won't see his brother take his first steps or hit his first homerun, there's one thing he has learned that will never change: once a big brother, always a big brother.



MAKING A DIFFERENCE



Maria Simpson (foreground) of the Tennessee Foreign Language Institute with some of her Alive Hospice students.

Gift provides for Spanish-language training, enhances delivery of care

Being diagnosed with a terminal illness can be a frightening prospect for anyone. Imagine how frightening it can be for a hospice patient who doesn't speak much English. Or any. How do you communicate with caregivers? How do you tell them how you feel and what you need?

Thanks to the generous support of Ms. Joni P. Werthan, Alive Hospice recently offered training to help caregivers better accommodate Spanish-speaking patients and family. The 10-week course, facilitated by the Tennessee

Foreign Language Institute, focused on Spanish-language medical terminology and cultural awareness.

As a result of the training, participants are better equipped to conduct medical and psychosocial assessments when visiting Spanish-speaking patients and have a greater familiarity with beliefs and values that must be considered in the delivery of care.

Ms. Werthan was moved to make a contribution to Alive Hospice because of the care her

family experienced when her grandmother, Mrs. Rosa Isacson, became terminally ill.

"When my grandmother got ill, I was absolutely overwhelmed at the care and the consideration that (Alive Hospice) had not only for the patients, but for all the family," Ms. Werthan said. "It's unbelievable."

Mrs. Isacson died in 2007 at the age of 107, and Ms. Werthan established the Rosa Pfeifer Isacson Education Endowment Fund in her memory with a gift of stock. (Read more about supporting Alive Hospice with gifts of stock on the next page.)

It was Ms. Werthan's way of helping others receive the same quality care her grandmother received.

"Comfort and good communication go hand in hand in hospice care. It can be very difficult to have one without the other," said Alive Hospice President and CEO Jan Jones. "Thanks to the training we have provided, our Spanish-speaking patients can have the comfort of knowing that their needs are understood and will be met. This training wouldn't be possible without Joni P. Werthan, and for that, we are immensely thankful."

Alive Hospice is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization as determined by the IRS. Contributions are tax deductible to the extent of the law.



Taking stock of giving options and benefits: a helpful guide

Although most charitable gifts are not motivated by a donor’s desire to get a charitable tax deduction, there is no reason one should not receive the full benefit of any tax savings related to charitable giving.

One tactic that is often used by “tax-wise donors” is making gifts with appreciated stocks rather than writing a check. Suppose a person is planning to make gifts totaling \$10,000 to a group of charities. In order to fund these gifts, the donor sells some stock to generate cash and then writes checks to the charities. When filing a tax return, the donor then claims a charitable deduction for the amount of the contributions.

But what if the stock the donor sold to raise the cash had only cost \$1,000 when it was purchased many years ago? Then the donor would have received a long-term capital gain of \$9,000 upon the sale of the stock and would have to pay an income tax on the amount of the gain. If the charitable gifts had been made by transferring the stock to the charities instead of selling it and making cash contributions, the donor would not have had to report a capital gain and could have taken an income tax deduction for the full value of the stock given to the charity.

A gift of appreciated stocks can be particularly helpful in a scenario

where the donor is required to redeem stock, such as a buyout, merger or stock repurchase. In this situation, there are some timing issues that a donor should be aware of. For instance, if the gift is made after stockholders have voted to approve a merger, a gift of stock will be treated just like a sale of stock and a gift of the proceeds, causing the capital gain to be taxable.

Our staff can help you decide the best way to make your gift to Alive Hospice. For a confidential discussion of your charitable giving options, please contact David Spragens, director of gift planning, in the Community Development Department at 615-963-4698 or dspragens@alivehospice.org.



Alive Hospice online

Friends and supporters now have more ways than ever to stay in touch with Alive Hospice! In addition to this newsletter, follow us with:

- **Twitter.** Tweeting updates throughout the week! Visit www.twitter.com/AliveHospice to tune in.
- **Facebook.** Show your support by joining our growing community of friends on Facebook. Visit www.facebook.com, enable the “Causes” app and search for Alive Hospice to join.
- **The Alive Hospice Blog.** Read thoughtful and heartwarming commentary about hospice care

and bereavement support from agency leaders and caregivers at www.alivehospice.org/blog. Check back often and join in the conversation!

- **Alive Hospice e-News.** Sign up for the agency’s monthly electronic newsletter at www.alivehospice.org. Click on the “Sign-up” link in the upper right-hand corner. The e-newsletter features news, upcoming events, memorable stories and more.



HOSPICE HAPPENINGS

Coming up: The Alive at the Bluebird series

Make plans to attend a show – or several – during the 17th Annual Alive at the Bluebird series in January at the one and only Bluebird Café! Year after year, many of Music City’s most loved songwriters come together to support our mission by giving their time and talents. The Bluebird Café and participating artists generously donate door sales to benefit Alive Hospice patient care.

A full schedule will be posted online at www.bluebirdcafe.com in January. For information about becoming a sponsor of the Alive at the Bluebird series, call 615-327-1085. We’ll see you there!



A yummy delivery

Six-year-old Daisy Scout Delmiccia Corwin and her mother, Mary, visited Alive Hospice Residence Nashville in the spring to donate 15 boxes of Girl Scout cookies for patients and loved ones to enjoy. They knew that “cookies make people feel happy,” Delmiccia said. Truer words were never spoken.



Fashion meets philanthropy

What a beautiful sight! Once again this year, the New Horizons Department of the Woman’s Club of Nashville hosted a fashion show and luncheon that benefited Alive Hospice. The event was emceed by sports radio personality George Plaster (pictured above with Alive Hospice President and CEO Jan Jones) at the Hillwood Country Club in March. Alive Hospice would like to thank the New Horizons Department of the Woman’s Club of Nashville for its generous support for the last 17 years!



Honoring those who serve

Alive Hospice Board Member Judy Fisher is a finalist for the KraftCPAs Board Member of the Year Award. The winner will be announced on Sept. 17 at the Center for Nonprofit Management's Salute to Excellence Awards dinner. This award recognizes board members who demonstrate exemplary leadership, commitment and advocacy while serving on a nonprofit board. Congratulations!

In appreciation of grant support

Alive Hospice is grateful for generous grant awards from **The Kiwanis – Priority One Youth Foundation** in support of children's grief support services; **The Martha & Bronson Ingram Foundation Advised Fund of the Community Foundation of Middle Tennessee** in support of Alive Grief Support Services; **The United Way of Metropolitan Nashville** in support of Assisting Seniors and Promoting Health & Wellness in Davidson County; **The United**

Way of Rutherford and Cannon Counties in support of patient care in Rutherford and Cannon counties; **The Louie M. and Betty M. Phillips Foundation** in support of the general operations of Alive Hospice; and **The Memorial Foundation** in support of Alive Monarchs: Care for Infants, Children and Youth.

Just in time for the holidays

It's back! Alive Hospice's All Things Beaded & Beyond crafts sale will be held on Dec. 4 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the agency's Administration East Building, 1718 Patterson St. in Nashville. This special event, which is open to the public, is a unique shopping experience that features hand-made items provided by Alive Hospice staff, volunteers and friends.

The sale is a fund-raiser for Hospice in the West, Alive Hospice's sister hospice in Krugersdorp, South Africa. For more information, or if you would like to contribute items for the sale, call 615-327-1085.

Speaking of Alive Hospice...

Alive Hospice's Speakers Bureau stays busy throughout the year attending health fairs and other community events to help raise public awareness about hospice care. Events attended by Alive Hospice this year have included

Mature Lifestyles' 2009 Senior Boomer Ice Cream Social in Gallatin; *Iluminando el Camino* (Illuminating the Path), a conference for those who work with Alzheimer's patients; the Fearless Caregiver Conference; and the *Construyendo un Futuro Mejor Para Nuestros Niños* (Building Futures for All Children) festival, just to name a few.

If your organization would like to have Alive Hospice participate in an upcoming event, or if you are interested in becoming a Speakers Bureau volunteer, contact Sara Pérez at 615-963-4692.



Grief during the holidays

The holidays can be a difficult time for those who have faced loss, but they're not alone. Alive Hospice can help. We're hosting two "Grief During the Holidays" seminars this holiday season on Nov. 19 and Dec. 3. Both will be held from 6:30 to 8 p.m. at the Alive Hospice Administration East Building, 1718 Patterson St. in Nashville. The seminars help participants prepare for the enhanced sense of loss that the holidays can bring. Space is limited, and pre-registration is required. Call 615-963-4721 to reserve space.

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