

Volunteer SCENE

A MONTHLY NEWSLETTER FOR HOSPICE OF HAVASU VOLUNTEERS

New volunteer finds work, purpose

By Bob Myers

We began our training June 6 and graduated three weeks later on June 27. Two days later I had my interview with Janet and 3 days after that I was folding and labeling the Heartlines newsletter with a dozen or so other volunteers. I could see there was plenty of work to do and many willing hands! The training was intense but very interesting. After I had been on the job for a few months I realized that the training was like a general education in college. I couldn't really remember

specifics we learned but the overall experience created within us a very clear understanding of what hospice is, what it does and why it exists. It is an organization with amazing skills and a very big heart. We had a great training class. There were 18 of us, 16 gals and Harry Wilson and me! My very lasting impression of these volunteers in training was of the quality their character and the depth of their experiences. I was awed to be considered part of that group.

When I decided to try

volunteering at Hospice of Havasu it was partly because of my experience with Hospice of Contra Costa when my father passed away but it was more a matter of listening to people, seeing many pictures and reading many articles in the local paper praising Hospice of Havasu. I came to realize that Hospice of Havasu was a very well organized and well run outfit which had been in business for 25 years and provides a service like no other.

Since becoming a volunteer I have volunteered for everything! I have delivered soup, made med runs, been a companion to patients and grieved with the bereaved. I have folded, stapled, collated, stuffed, labeled and mailed. Mary Lomberto let me help her with the golf tournament and I got to see Ray Piles, Connie Jackson and April Eggerbrecht swinging a golf club. I was impressed. Do you know, when it came time for the prize money to be awarded to the winners of the golf tournament, the putting contest and the 50/50 drawing, every dollar was donated back to Hospice of Havasu. We were all thrilled. What a great spirit in Parker and La Paz County.

MORE ON BACK PAGE

Happy
New
Year!

JANUARY
2008

Volunteer
Continuing
Education

LAKE HAVASU CITY
Meetings are at 10 a.m.
on Mondays

January 7

Introduction to
11th Hour Training
Tricia Sheehy, RN,C,
CHPN, Clinical Services
Director

January 14

REQUIRED: Safe Driving

January 28

Alzheimer's
Dr. Kazmi, MD,
Medical Director

PARKER

Meetings are on the 2nd
and 4th Tuesdays at 11 a.m.

January 8

REQUIRED: Safe Driving

January 22

What's it all about?
A comprehensive
look at hospice

**JAN. 21:
HOLIDAY
OFFICE CLOSED**

MEDITATION

9 a.m. Fridays, in the lobby.

You're Invited!



Please consider this your personal invitation to attend a special Open House at the Polidori House Jan. 3, 2008, from 4 to 6 p.m. This event is only for volunteers and Hospice of Have staff members, and will give you chance to see this beautiful new facility before patients are admitted.

It is a truly beautiful assisted living facility, at 1970 Bahama Avenue.

I hope you can come to the Open House!

Janet Baier
Manager, Volunteer Services

From front page: Volunteer finds plenty to do

I wanted to try delivering soup to the bereaved but I was really a little nervous about how to approach these folks. Because I was nervous I decided to call a couple of the people first. The very first person I called was a widower and when he answered the phone I hesitantly told him I had some soup for him and he answered, "Great!! Bring it on up." I was so relieved. I called another number and the phone had been disconnected. I decided to go there anyway and when I drove up there was a woman loading boxes and things into her car. I noticed the car had out of state plates so I figured this was the daughter of the woman who died. I got out of the car and with my Volunteer badge in place and a smile on my face I announced I was there to give her some soup. She stared at me and I was about ready to run back to my car when she came up to me and hugged me -- told me she was hungry and thanked me profusely. She cried, I cried. If you get a chance, call Janet and tell her you want to deliver soup.

My wife and I delivered Thanksgiving dinners this year and that also was a heart warming experience.

One of my first assignments was to help one of our nurses with a male patient who needed to be transported to a doctor's office. The nurse warned me when we arrived at the house that the patient was kind of grumpy -- and then she said his caregiver was even grumpier! She was right! But I was blown away

by the tenderness of that nurse as she helped the old man dress, kneeling before him putting on his socks and then his shoes. What a lesson in humility and kindness. She is almost 50 years younger than me but I learned from her that day. I learned how hospice care is delivered to our patients not only with kindness and compassion but with strength, purpose and professionalism.

Recently Janet needed some back up for Vickie Fielder who does most of the data entry at the office. I had no idea what an important job this is. Every report we volunteers turn in on those yellow sheets has to be entered into the data base for our patients. It has to be done quickly and accurately because the staff caring for the patients reads that data before they make decisions and contacts with the patients. I tried my hand at entering data in the computer and found it to be challenging. It's hard work! Several members of our training class are also helping in the office including Cheryl Miller, Kathy Meehan, Sheila McDonald and Colleen Herwig. Jo Stephens, from the latest training class is understudying Christine Schuette as back up for Janet when she is out of the office.

In the last few days, working with the total list of volunteers I have realized there are a lot of us! What a gold mine of experience and talent. Any organization would be and should be thrilled to have us! Do I sound biased? I am. I am proud to be one of you.

As a "newbie" I have also been getting acquainted with the folks who work at Hospice of Havasu full time. They are thoroughly professional at what they do but there is a spirit among them that is almost like family.

My personal credo for many years, adapted from the Jaycee Creed is this: I believe that faith in God gives meaning and purpose to human life; that the brotherhood of man transcends the sovereignty of nations; and, that service to humanity is the best work of life. Being a volunteer for

hospice is food for the soul, and for me, right now, it is the best work of life.

Since this is the January issue of Volunteer Scene I am going to make a new year's resolution. In 2008 my "no" will be no. When Janet calls and I can't schedule my day to include an Hospice of Havasu volunteer opportunity I will tell her I can't do it. But when it is "yes", let my yes be full throttle.

Whatever needs to be done, let's get it done! I hope you'll join me.

Happy New Year!

Continuing education now with Scene

Enclosed with 2008 monthly Volunteer Scene newsletters, you will find a second sheet which will be required continuing education. There are courses required by Medicare and the Hospice Organization for volunteers. Rather than have many of them presented in a setting I am going to enclose as many as possible in the Volunteer Scene as a separate page.

All volunteers except the "Friends of Hospice" are strongly encouraged to turn them in.

Taking note

Jack Pettit, volunteer, has been making scratch pads for several years for Hospice from our tossed papers that are not confidential and in 2007 he has made over 150. If you are in need of a scratch pad by your phone or for any other reason, stop by and see me. We would love to give you one or more.

January Birthdays

Carol Creed Jan. 02
Olga Darling Jan. 05
Barbara Hutton Jan. 06
Sandra Carver Jan. 08
Nancy Frank Jan. 09
Bonnie Matzick Jan. 10
Judy Weldgen Jan. 10
Doris Johnson Jan. 15
JoNe Brindle Jan. 26