PIBLATION DICE News from Spartanburg Regional Hospice | Sour Good Pictor | Control of the Cont



Reflecting on the Therapeutic Impact of the Arts



My sister, Bethany, was a patient at Emory Hospital in Atlanta for several months receiving intense cancer treatments. It was 2002. She was 16 and I was 26. Every single weekend, it was the two of us, a handful of hospital staff and four walls. There wasn't much to do. We had watched every movie known to man and were desperate for a distraction.

I came across an application for a program called Rock Against Cancer that brought performers into hospitals to entertain patients. They called it music therapy. It wasn't a kind of therapy I had ever experienced or observed, so I didn't know what to expect. But, honestly, just the thought of having a different person visit Bethany's room was appealing!

When we heard that Ken Block, lead singer for the popular group Sister Hazel would be coming we were thrilled. Bethany did not feel great on the day of his visit, but we were still excited. For the first time in a long time, we had something fun to do.

Ken and the band's manager, Chris, came one Saturday afternoon to Bethany's room on the E7 hall. Ken talked to us about why he was involved with Rock Against Cancer. We talked about Bethany and her treatments. Then Ken sang. Bethany and I could have been anywhere when he sang. Those four walls seemed to disappear. For a couple of hours, we had the pleasure of forgetting about her cancer. It was perfect.

One hundred days later, my baby sister passed away. She had been a Dorman High School student, a typical teenager. Bethany loved her family and her dog, Minnie. She loved the Lord.

I am not sure that I will ever be able to express my gratitude to Rock Against Cancer or to Ken Block and Sister Hazel. It's a great memory that I treasure to this day. The experience was all it took to convince me how impactful complementary therapies are. Bethany and I stayed on a music high for weeks after Ken and Chris left town. Now, 16 years later, I have the privilege of helping other patients and families facing serious illness realize the benefits of supportive therapies such as music, art, massage, pet therapy and more.

I am extremely grateful to our community for enabling our hospice team to connect patients and families to complementary therapies. These therapies help our patients reach optimal comfort by easing the severity of stress-related symptoms and improving quality of life. They make a difference for families who are coping with stress and grief.

In this issue of *Pillar for Hospice*, we highlight some of the ways our hospice program brings supportive therapies to patients and their loved ones. Thank you for reading and for all you do to support community members in need.

Kim Ross Director

Spartanburg Regional Hospice & Palliative Care



Palliative Care?

By Garrett Snipes, MD

Although not as often as when I first started in the field, I still am asked "What is palliative care?" And I guess it isn't surprising that this is puzzling and unfamiliar to many – after all the word "palliative" is not exactly one that folks encounter frequently, and its meaning is not intuitive.

The derivation of the word is instructive though – it comes from the Latin word pallium, which means "to cloak." And in fact, the intent of palliative care is to cloak people from their suffering.

But that doesn't explain what it is all about or how it fits into our healthcare system. When I first went into practice in the 1970s, much of what we now call palliative care was just called good doctoring. But in the next four-and-a-half decades, the complexity of healthcare, the technical, diagnostic and therapeutic options, as well as the infrastructure and the system to implement those interventions, has increased dramatically. And most importantly, through the application of advanced technology, it is possible to keep patients alive in the most dire medical circumstances. So, it is not surprising that a branch of medicine has evolved that addresses the needs of those going through serious illness.

There are many definitions, but good palliative care is specialized support for people of any age with advanced or serious, potentially life-limiting illness, regardless of what constitutes the main disease, and regardless of what conventional medical interventions they may be receiving.

There are three main components:

Relief of misery – Almost all serious illness involves suffering, whether it be physical, spiritual or emotional. Good palliative care uses all available tools to relieve pain, shortness of breath, delirium, etc. that accompany advanced illness.

Excellent medical communication to support the best decision-making in the face of serious illness – There are almost always decisions to be made and expert palliative care allows patients and families to determine their goals of care and match those to the best medical plan of care

Support for all concerned – Serious illness is tough to go through and difficult to witness in someone you love or care about. Palliative care teams include experts in making it a little bit easier.



So I would ask you not to feel frightened or confused by the term *palliative care*. The extra layer of support it provides to those with serious or advanced illness can make a substantial difference in the comfort and well-being of all concerned.

Hospice is a subset of palliative care for people who are felt to be within months of the end of life. Hospice is for those who have decided to focus almost exclusively on their quality of life and being at home, while still perhaps receiving some medical interventions to help them feel as well as possible.

So, I would ask you not to feel frightened or confused by the term palliative care. The extra layer of support it provides to those with serious or advanced illness can make a substantial difference in the comfort and well-being of all concerned.



ARTISTS and MUSICIANS Provide Vital Support for Patients, Families

The traced handprints that Allison Ward designs with bright watercolors are not the most complex pieces the Spartanburg artist creates, but they are among her most impactful work.

The images are based on the hands of patients at the Spartanburg Regional Hospice Home, where she visits weekly as part of the Spartanburg Regional Foundation's Healing Arts program.

Ward consults with nurses at the hospice home to approach families about whether they would like a handprint painting of their loved one. With permission, she will trace the patient's hand on a piece of white paper that she takes to a conference room or common area to paint. She adds the patient's name in calligraphy and presents the pieces to the family.

"It's just the most overwhelming, wonderful thing that I do," Ward said. "Sometimes family members will grab me and hold onto me and tell me that I've given them a piece of their loved one. It's hard to put into words what this means to me."

Ward is one among a number of artists who work with Spartanburg Regional Hospice patients and families. These include paid visual artists and musicians, volunteers and students.

As Spartanburg Regional Hospice director Kim Ross explained, the idea is to provide comfort, enrich lives and strengthen connections for families and caregivers.

"Our goal is to serve the whole patient, to make every moment count, and to provide the support families need," she said. "Music and art have a way of bringing comfort and perspective when families are going through difficult times."

Carol Shultis is the director of the music therapy program at Converse College. With her colleague Anita Swanson and their students, Shultis uses music to help calm hospice home patients' anxiety and, in some cases, give family members an opportunity to create special memories.

These visits are often interactive and collaborative, Shultis explained. For example, the music therapists and patients may work together on a song that includes lyrics describing the patient's emotions or state of mind.

Sometimes, a patient will request to hear or sing along with a favorite song from their past. Family members in the room might not have known that the song was meaningful to their loved one.





Artist Allison Ward has recorded some of the more memorable comments hospice patients' families have made about her work:

"Thank you so much. This handprint means more to me than anything I own."

"Thank you for giving me a part of him that I can keep forever. I will treasure this as long as I live."

"You and your handprints are flowers in God's garden."

"It helps the family know their loved one in a deeper way to learn something they didn't know about before," Shultis said. "It's a powerful thing for a family to experience something like that together when someone they love is dying."

Visual artist Sylvia Spears appreciates the connections she makes with patients and families, too. Like Ward and Shultis, she checks with nurses to make sure it's appropriate to approach patients and their loved ones about her work. She then explains that she would like to create a banner featuring the patient's favorite Bible verse, poem or lyric, written in calligraphy.

"I try to make them inspirational and personal for each patient," she said. "Anything they might want me to put on that banner, I'll try to do it."

Spears said the process often gives patients and families the opportunity to express their feelings and share their experiences.

"Sometimes it opens the floodgates with people, and we end up having a nice conversation," she said.

The banners are intended to lift the spirits of patients. They sometimes have a profound effect on families, who may keep the banners as mementos.

Spears recalled her experience with a woman whose husband was near death.

"She sought me out and said it meant so much that someone cared," Spears said. "She and I were in the lobby crying together – there was just a real connection."

Ward and Spears work with hospice patients as part of Spartanburg Regional Foundation's Healing Arts program. In addition to hospice, the Healing Arts program touches other areas of Spartanburg Regional Healthcare System, including Behavioral Health, Pediatric Rehabilitation, the Spartanburg Hospital for Restorative Care, the Ellen Sager Nursing Home in Union and more.

"All of our participating artists are so talented and they truly care about the patients they serve," said coordinator Kristi Ward. "Their work helps to relieve stress or feelings of grief and Spartanburg Regional Foundation is proud to provide funding to support their efforts."





Southern Legends

Spartanburg Regional Foundation and Spartanburg Regional Hospice thank the Southern Legends Motorcycle Club. The club's 13th annual Spartanburg Regional Hospice Ride raised money to support the Hospice Special Needs Fund.

Thanks to all who participated!



Thank you for your Thanksgiving gift

Because of you, we were able to deliver more than 110 meals to our hospice patients and their families this Thanksqiving.

If you would like to make a donation or would like to more information on our holiday meal program, contact Gina De La Cruz Turcotte at 864-560-6725 or gturcotte@srhs.com.



PO Box 2624, Spartanburg, SC 29304 864-560-6727 • RegionalFoundation.com



Save the Date!

May 2, 2019 Spartanburg Marriott

The Hope Blooms for Hospice luncheon honors the work of Spartanburg Regional Hospice caregivers while providing perspectives on end-of-life care. Proceeds benefit the Spartanburg Regional Foundation Hospice Special Needs Fund.

Your participation makes a difference for hospice patients and their families.

Board Member Valued for Good Judgment, Commitment to Hospice Cause

When Spartanburg Regional Hospice patients needed legal work and advice, attorney Bill Cummings has been there to help – at no charge.

"They were in crisis mode and they were grateful for the help," Cummings said.

From that beginning in 2014, the attorney's passion for helping others has led to volunteer leadership roles with the Spartanburg Regional Foundation's Hospice Division. Next year, Cummings will become chairman of the Hospice Division's 20-member board.

Cummings enjoys working with the board, which he joined after being encouraged to do so by friend and fellow division board member Peter Moore.

"It's a diverse group of people," Cummings said. "We want to give back to the community."

For a volunteer board to thrive, current chairwoman Mary Hope Rhodes said its members must be committed to the organization's mission. Cummings' commitment could be seen from the very beginning, Rhodes said.

"Bill is bright and he listens," Rhodes said. "He takes information and ideas in and offers good, sound judgment. We're real lucky to have his leadership."

Donor and Ambassador

Cummings has been a consistent donor to the hospice program and has been an active ambassador in the community.

He has served on the planning committee for Hope Blooms for Hospice, an annual fundraising luncheon.

Cummings also takes part in the delivery of prepared meals to hospice patients and their families at Easter and Thanksgiving – an experience he says is a highlight of his year.

"The gratitude and joy that you see when you bring somebody under those most difficult of circumstances a meal is quite gratifying," he said. "They're so grateful that someone has thought about them."

Cummings has occasionally delivered meals to families he knows.

"When they see someone they personally know delivering a meal to their home, they can get very emotional," he said.

The holiday meals program provides a glimpse into the good that Spartanburg Regional Hospice does for patients and families,



"Bill is bright and he listens. He takes information and ideas in and offers good, sound judgment. We're real lucky to have his leadership."

- Mary Hope Rhodes

Cummings said. Meals are delivered to homes across the hospice service area. Volunteers see patients who are surrounded by family and friends as well as those who have few loved ones to provide support.

"Truly a Treasure"

In addition to supporting patients in their homes, the hospice team provides around-the-clock care at the Spartanburg Regional Hospice Home. It's a place that Cummings describes as "truly a treasure of the Upstate."

"It provides such wonderful support – physical, emotional and spiritual support," he said.

As he discussed his role with the hospice program, Cummings reflected on his family's experience years ago leading up to the death of his aunt. She battled Hodgkin's Disease and there was no hospice program in Spartanburg at the time.

"I remember what a toll it took on my whole family," he said.

He believes Spartanburg Regional Hospice makes a difference for families in need and he's proud of the contributions of the Hospice Division board.

Cummings is quick to point out where he believes recognition belongs.

"I want to make sure that credit goes to the correct people – the staff, the doctors, nurses, social workers, chaplains, volunteers and donors," he said.

To learn more about how you can get involved to support hospice patients, contact Kelly Hall at 864-560-5636.

Patient Visits and Fidget Quilts

Volunteer Goes the Extra Mile for Others

For nearly 20 years, Linda Garrett as been doing her part to make things better for Spartanburg Regional Hospice patients and their families. Inspired by the care her mother received as a hospice patient, Garrett began volunteering in 1999.

She began as a volunteer with patients in their homes and went on to assist at the Spartanburg Regional Hospice Home. Family



Linda Garrett

commitments made it difficult for Garrett, who lives in Woodruff with her husband Walter, to keep up her schedule at the hospice home. So, she now visits with patients who are residents of the nearby Woodruff Manor nursing facility.

She believes the patients appreciate her presence – even those who suffer dementia or have limited cognitive awareness. They respond

to her holding their hand or patting their head. Others are alert and enjoy talking – mostly about their families and life experiences.

"I like that I can learn about what things were like when they were younger," Garrett said. "And some of them have a really good sense of humor."

In addition to providing attention and fellowship for patients, volunteers can serve as an additional set of eyes and ears for the hospice staff. Garrett said she listens to the patients she visits for any requests or needs they might have. She'll report back to hospice caregivers on anything she thinks might be helpful for patients.

Paying visits to Woodruff Manor isn't the only way Garrett supports Spartanburg Regional Hospice patients. She creates specially-made "fidget quilts" for Alzheimer's patients. These quilts come with attached objects such as zippers, buttons and pockets. The idea is to give dementia patients something soothing to do with their hands when they become agitated or restless.

"Her quilts are really remarkable," said Kelly Hall, volunteer manager with Spartanburg Regional Hospice. "She is extremely talented and puts a great deal of work into them."

Garrett makes 10 to 12 quilts a year, and Hall works with hospice staff to get them to Alzheimer's patients.

Giving back comes natural to Garrett. "My parents were like that, so I guess it's sort of heredity," she said. "I was brought up to have a desire to help people."

To become a volunteer with Spartanburg Regional Hospice, contact Kelly Hall at 864-560-5636.



Linda Garrett creates specially-made "fidget quilts" for Alzheimer's patients. These quilts come with attached objects such as zippers, buttons, and pockets. The idea is to give dementia patients something soothing to do with their hands when they become agitated or restless.

Partnerships with Nursing Homes Vital to Hospice Program

Spartanburg Regional Hospice is widely recognized in the community for its work with patients in individual residences and for around-the-clock care in the serene setting of the Spartanburg Regional Hospice Home. But there is an additional area of service that is essential to the mission of providing comprehensive end-of-life care – nursing homes.

The population of elderly Americans is growing. And, for many, a skilled nursing facility becomes their home. That is why it is so important for hospice services to reach nursing home residents in need.

Spartanburg Regional Hospice serves patients in 13 nursing homes across four counties. At any given time, there are as many as 50 residents who are under the care of Spartanburg Regional Hospice.



Peggy Faulkenberry, RN, hospice nurse

While nursing home physicians, nurses and assistants support the needs of residents at all hours of the day, Spartanburg Regional Hospice complements their quality care with expert end-of-life care.

"For us, the hospice program is extra assistance and care management for patients – extra support on top of what all we already do," said Andy Nelson, administrator at White Oak North Grove.

There are key differences between caring for nursing home patients and those who live in their own home or with family members, explained hospice nurse Peggy Faulkenberry.

"I was used to spending a lot of time helping family members, talking about their concerns and giving them support as they care for their loved one," said Faulkenberry. "Nursing home



Woodruff Manor

patients may have family in the area, but they primarily receive care from staff members at the facility where they live."

Faulkenberry misses aspects of working with patients and families in their homes, but she says she has come to love working as part of team to care for nursing home residents.

Indeed, it is a collaborative relationship, said Nelson.

"Hospice caregivers are part of our team. I know them all by name," he said. "They communicate well with our physicians and nurses, and they can anticipate patients' specific needs and coordinate with facility staff members."

As Post-Acute Director of Population Health for Spartanburg Regional Healthcare System, Linda Edmond works closely with both the hospice program and the two nursing homes that are part of Spartanburg Regional Healthcare System – Woodruff Manor and Ellen Sagar Nursing Center. In addition to enabling residents to live as fully as possible despite a life-limiting illness, Spartanburg Regional Hospice makes a difference for nursing home staff members, Edmond said.

"Front line staff in the nursing home come to feel like a resident's family. You can imagine how they might grieve," she said. "The hospice team provides emotional support for nursing home caregivers."

Edmond added that when a patient passes away at Woodruff Manor or Ellen Sagar, nursing home and hospice team members gather reverently together as the body is taken out of the facility. "They'll form a double line on each side of the doors and hug and comfort each other," she said. "It's very moving."

If you or someone you know may benefit from a Spartanburg Regional Hospice referral, please call 864-560-CARE.

HOSPICE HOME GARDEN

REALIZING A VISION

From the beginning, the Spartanburg Regional Hospice Home was designed with nature in mind. Each room in the facility has French doors that allow fresh air in and are large enough to move patient beds onto a patio outside. These patios provide a view of the hospice home garden, an ongoing project that has been in development since the hospice home opened more than 10 years ago and will continue to develop over the next several years.





With the support of horticulture and landscape design experts, the Lady Slipper Garden Club and numerous donors, the original vision for the property continues to come together, one element at a time. Recent additions include construction of a

new pavilion, gazebo and observation deck that overlooks the Upper Chinquapin Greenway. Each area is furnished with tables, chairs and rockers to provide additional places for patients and families to find solace.

The wooded, natural surroundings of the hospice home make it a special place. Landscaping and gardening enhancements ensure that it will be a setting in which patients, families, guests and staff members can relax, reflect and connect with the serenity of nature.

To find out ways you can support this ongoing garden effort, please see our garden wish list on page 12.







Hospice and the Holidays



Katie Boykin Harbin, M.Div, M.S. Patient Counseling Chaplain/Bereavement Counselor

"The holidays were our favorite time of year,"

Mary Jones (not her real name) told me. "All we have is each other – no family nearby. For the past 20-odd years, it's just been us. We loved celebrating our birthdays and anniversary all in one day, since they were all in September. Instead of cake or any other dessert, we celebrated with pie for our birthdays, anniversary, Halloween, Thanksgiving and Christmas."

Mary's husband, John (not his real name), was at the Spartanburg Regional Hospice Home and rapidly approaching the dying process. She told me she knew he'd never live to see another holiday with her.

She tearfully said, "Chaplain, there isn't anything in this whole wide world that I wouldn't give to have one more celebration with him."

So that's what we did.

On a Friday afternoon in August, hospice staff got together to decorate John's room with birthday and anniversary balloons. A Thanksgiving bobble-head turkey sat next to a small lit Christmas tree on the side table. The couple had their pies – almost every kind of flavor – to celebrate what they loved most: time with each other.

Although John had been minimally responsive for days, he was alert for a full 30 minutes and was able to give Mary a huge smile and a thumbs-up when he saw her and the decorations. Hospice staff also made sure John had at least one last anniversary card to give his wife. The card reiterated the love he'd already expressed to Mary for years and highlighted some of their most cherished memories – holidays.

The emphasis on getting together during the holidays underlines our basic human need for love and belonging.

This time of year compels us to reassess our priorities and spend

quality time with the ones we love. Without a doubt, holidays can be the hardest time of year for those already grieving and those who are anticipating a loved one's passing. For them, the constant seasonal reminders of togetherness and connection often exacerbate feelings of loneliness, despair and heartache.

Spartanburg Regional Hospice staff and volunteers work year-round to make the most of whatever time patients have left. And just because someone has passed or has a terminal illness does not mean we stop making meaningful memories.

Although hard to celebrate, holidays present a unique opportunity to affirm that hope can take place under any circumstance. Caregivers with Spartanburg Regional Hospice have a particular knack for validating people's grieving process while also encouraging patients and families to get creative.

The Spartanburg Regional Foundation Hospice Special Needs Fund provides Thanksgiving meals to our patients and families, décor for those with little or no family, an ambulance ride to one last church service, recordable books to leave for present and future grandchildren – the list of possibilities goes on and on.

Each year before Thanksgiving, hospice team members host a program called "Coping with the Holidays." They talk about issues that can arise during the holidays and offer suggestions on how to handle them. Participants have the opportunity to share their thoughts and feelings with one another.

Tips on Coping with Grief During the Holidays:

- Take care of yourself physically.
- Be prepared for emotional ups and downs.
- Don't pressure yourself to please everyone or have a "big" holiday.
- Share your feelings with friends and loved ones or a professional counselor.
- Ask a friend or family member to help with cooking or decorating.
- Find a meaningful activity to memorialize a loved one.
- Set aside holiday traditions if doing so eases sadness.
- Come up with new holiday traditions.

Some people are able to find healing in carrying on with the same traditions, while others look for new ways to celebrate. However people choose to celebrate this holiday season, it is important to make sure that individual needs are taken into consideration. As Arthur Ashe said, "Start where you are. Use what you have. Do what you can."

*The family wanted to share her story with fictional names to protect the family's privacy.



Turcotte Joins Foundation Staff



Spartanburg Regional Foundation welcomes Gina De La Cruz Turcotte as director of philanthropy. Among other fundraising efforts, she works closely with the Spartanburg Regional Foundation's Hospice Division board of community volunteers to promote the Foundation's Hospice Special Needs Fund and raise money for special initiatives.

Turcotte has an extensive background in fundraising. Prior to joining the Foundation, she served as a director in the office of philanthropy and partnership at Greenville Health System, the director of advancement for St. Joseph's Catholic School, and the director of major and planned gifts for Presbyterian College.

She said she is excited about working to make the Upstate a healthier place and supporting the needs of Spartanburg Regional Hospice patients and families.

"It is truly a blessing to work each day to make an impact on the many lives that our mission will touch"

"What an exciting time to join the Spartanburg Regional Foundation and the Hospice Division teams," she said. "It is truly a blessing to work each day to make an impact on the many lives that our mission will touch."

Spartanburg Regional Foundation Executive Director Kristy Caradori touted Turcotte's experience and enthusiasm.

"Gina brings a wealth of valuable experience and great ideas," Caradori said. "She has really hit the ground running and we are so excited that she's part of the Foundation's team."

Turcotte and her husband, Marc, have three children – Madison, Nathan and Gavin. She enjoys baking, making crafts, gardening and watching her children play sports.

Whitehouse Onboard as Palliative Care Fellow

Spartanburg Regional Healthcare System welcomes Todd Whitehouse, DO, to the Hospice and Palliative Care Fellowship.

Whitehouse comes to Spartanburg Regional from Bon Secours St. Francis Health System in Greenville, where he worked as a hospitalist.

"I was interested in learning all about palliative care and hospice, and there's no way to learn it without doing it," he said. "The experience has been good."

Palliative care focuses on providing comfort and symptom control. Not all palliative care patients are enrolled in hospice care, Whitehouse said.

Whitehouse said he has worked with patients in diverse settings, from Spartanburg Medical Center to Spartanburg Regional Hospice Home to patients' homes. He values spending time consulting with patients and families, working to find solutions to issues such as pain management.



"I like that I have the chance to build relationships," he said.

Whitehouse is a graduate of Nova Southeastern University Dr. Kiran C. Patel College of Osteopathic Medicine.

Away from work, Dr. Whitehouse enjoys spending time with his family. He and wife Mary have a daughter and son, ages

six and eight. Whitehouse is an experienced guitarist with an interest in bluegrass and other acoustic music.

Hospice Garden Enhancements - How You Can Help

The Spartanburg Regional Hospice Home Garden of Peace is enjoyed year-round. Patients are able to enjoy the view through their large windows or roll their bed on to the patio where they can hear the birds and watch nature. Families are able walk the trails or bring their loved one to one of our outdoor areas for contemplation or a quiet conversation. Spartanburg Regional Hospice has made every effort to provide spaces of retreat and rest. You can join this effort!

Honor or memorialize a loved one this holiday season by sponsoring a wish list item in the Spartanburg Regional Hospice Home Garden of Peace. Each item will be placed in a special location within the garden with a custom inscription. The location of each item has been carefully chosen to provide private nooks for our patients and families to feel at home, and find rest and comfort.

For more information or to sponsor one of the items listed below from Foothills Amish Furniture in Landrum, please contact Gina De La Cruz Turcotte, director of philanthropy, at **864-560-6725** or **gturcotte@srhs.com**.

LuxCraft 5' Swing and Stand Quantity needed: 2

\$1.500 each

Quantity needed: 2 \$200 each

LuxCraft Child's Adirondack Chair

LuxCraft 5' Classic Glider

Quantity needed: 1 \$1,100 each

LuxCraft Comfort Rocker

Quantity needed: 6 \$600 each

LuxCraft 4' Classic Glider

Quantity needed: 2 \$900 each

LuxCraft End Table

Quantity needed: 3 \$250 each



Flower Donations Brighten Spartanburg Regional Hospice Home

If you visit the Spartanburg Regional Hospice Home, you will likely see flowers throughout the facility. They add color and pleasing scents. They symbolize

friendship, and they let patients and families know that they are cared for and supported.

Community members donate flowers from weddings or other celebrations. They bring them after church on Sundays. They instruct funeral homes to deliver them to the hospice home following funeral services.

"The flowers brighten up the rooms and lift the mood of the patients and families," said Hospice Volunteer Manager Kelly Hall.

Hall explained that groups bring flowers at various points during the week. They may simply check in at the front desk and take them to a room on site designated for storing the flowers.

Volunteers then go to work making new floral arrangements for patient rooms and other areas of the hospice home.

Spartanburg's First Presbyterian Church is one of the local churches that routinely donate flowers.

"We saw it as an opportunity to serve others," said church member Linda West. "It would be a shame to let beautiful flowers go to waste." West understood that the donations would be a special way for the community to support families going through a difficult time. She worked as community relations coordinator for Spartanburg Regional Healthcare System and had been a generous supporter of the campaign to build the hospice home in 2006.

West now has an even more personal connection to Spartanburg Regional Hospice. In 2013, her husband, Jack, passed away at the hospice home.

"I got to see first-hand the impact of the hospice home, and I'm grateful it was there for my husband," she said.

West continues to work for SRHS in a part-time role, as the coordinator for the speakers' bureau and the Regional Fellows Leadership Program. And when she hosts meetings and other gatherings that include flowers, she sends them to the hospice home after the event.

Hall expressed gratitude for the many organizations that contribute flowers and said hospice home staff and volunteers are more than happy to accommodate others.

"Flowers are often thrown away following an event," Hall said.
"Sending them to the hospice home is a great way to extend the life of these flowers and to provide them for people who really enjoy them."

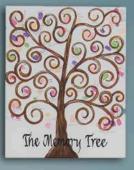
If you or your organization would like to donate flowers to the Spartanburg Regional Hospice Home or to provide other support, call Kelly Hall at 864-560-5636.

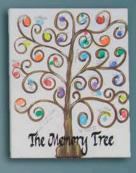


From Our Hospice Families



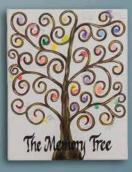


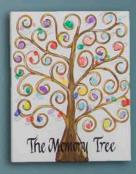












"Thank you all so very much for the exceptional care you provided my grandmother. Because of you, she was able to pass with dignity and peace."

"God has filled my life with many blessings. Knowing and being cared for by the hospice team is truly one of those wonderful blessings."

"I have never experienced so much empathy and compassion in a facility. It takes special people to do special things and it is clear to us that God placed you all where you shine the most."

"My mom loved nature. That we could open the door to the birds singing in the trees during her last hours was such an unforgettable gift. Thank you!"

"The care you provided to our family and the time you spent will never be forgotten."

Words are not enough to adequately express my gratitude for all of you for the love and care you showed my mom. You not only cared for her, but my dad and me. Your love and attention helped make an extremely hard time bearable.

"My husband was surrounded by his family and was calm, comfortable and pain free. We could not have asked for a more peaceful, dignified passing made possible by a skilled and genuinely caring staff and lead doctor of great empathy, compassion and expert skill and knowledge."

"A difficult time was made easier because of your compassion."

DS. POSTAGE

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Scandard Scandar

Non-Profit Org.

PO Box 2624 Spartanburg, SC 29304





For hospice referral information, please call 864-560-CARE

Spartanburg Regional Foundation:

PO Box 2624 Spartanburg, SC 29304 RegionalFoundation.com 864-560-6727

