



**AUGUST  
2008**

**Volunteer  
Continuing  
Education**

**Lake Havasu City**

*August 11*

Hospice Children's  
Program –  
Penny Burtless, BA

*August 25*

It's Hot! Let's Have  
Something Kool!

**Parker**

*August 12*

Hospice Children's  
Program –  
Penny Burtless, BA

*August 26*

It's Hot! Let's Have  
Something Kool!

**NOTE**

In addition to the  
Continuing Education,  
you will find a form  
to be read and signed.  
Please return to  
Volunteer Services

## **Polidori House needs volunteers**

*By Jenny Anderson  
Volunteer*

Hospice of Havasu opened the long-awaited Polidori House this spring. This is our organization's first residential hospice program, and it is licensed as an assisted living facility. There are six patient suites situated around the main desk, and this is a beautiful environment for our patients. Although there is full time staff servicing this home, the need for volunteers is HUGE! Staff members are continually busy with direct patient care.

Volunteers are needed for all types of support tasks, from preparing meals to doing household cleaning and laundry. Volunteer administrative assistants are needed to man the front desk area. These volunteers keep things running smoothly, since this front desk person answers the phone, unlocks the entry door to visitors, and assists with other tasks. This help frees the staff members to do needed patient care.

Janet, Volunteer Services Manager, has asked that all volunteers at Polidori House get a Food Handler's Permit. You get the permit by attending the course available through the Mohave County Health Dept., and Janet can schedule (and pay for) this. This card enables any volunteer to help out in the kitchen area, as needed. Our hope is that teams of two will be available to cover every meal shift (3 hrs.), as well as a list of "back-up" volunteers who can cover in an emergency or illness situation.

There will be also be a class teaching proper feeding techniques for those who would like to be authorized to feed patients. At this time only the nurse, nurse assistant, or a family member may feed a patient.

Thanks to the dedication of many experienced volunteers, much of this work is already handled, however sometimes

additional help is needed. I experienced the need for this just yesterday, when I made my weekly visit to read to the patients. When I arrived at 12:45, there were just the two staff members -- no volunteer had come in for the lunch shift. Therefore, the two staff members on duty had to prepare, serve, and feed each of the patients. Since lunch is the main meal of the day, the lunch preparation is more involved.

Due to the nature of most patient's illness, traditional assisted living activities have not been suitable for Polidori House. Dwight & Elaine Belknap have had to be creative in providing social activities for the residents. At the present time we are providing storytelling, pet visits (Animal Assisted Activity), reading & discussing current events, reminiscing, and providing music for patients -- all done individually in the patient's rooms. A special treat, such as a root-beer float, is offered to patients each week. Dwight would like more volunteer visits, especially on the weekends. He would appreciate a volunteer who could organize and bring in a children's group or church-type event at least monthly (weekends).

This facility offers a level of hospice care not available elsewhere in our community -- it is truly a great place for our patients to live. Volunteer efforts are very much appreciated here by staff and patients alike -- come check out this wonderful place!

## **Thanks for everyone's help**

*By Janet Baier  
Volunteer Services Manager*

I want to take this opportunity to thank Kathy Meehan for all the hours she put in to keep the Volunteer Services Department in full swing. I want to also thank Christine Schuette and Jo Stephens

for their schedule days to work. Everything ran smoothly -- Thank you. And to the volunteers who helped at the Polidori House and Patient Care when they were asked, thank you. You are all so remarkable.

I had an awesome vacation

Continued on back page

# Remembering a special bond

By Jenny Anderson  
Volunteer

Recently I experienced a bout with grief that was as deep as any previous grief experience following the death of a loved one -- this time it was for my dog. The depth of loss I felt really did upset the balance of life, as we had shared the special bond of being a Pet Partner team. The 3-½ years of working together as volunteers made us especially close.

Ollie had an aggressive form of cancer, and we didn't know it until the week before she died. And suddenly we were faced with losing a precious family member, as well as my partner in volunteer work.

Because the sense of loss was very intense, I knew that I would need positive action -- it seemed the best way to keep from

depression. So I began taking actions that would help lift my spirits and honor her memory:

■ I contacted my supportive network of friends and family -- it's amazing how many people understand the grief at the loss of a pet. I asked everyone to keep us in his or her thoughts & prayers -- that brought us strength.

■ Whenever possible, I found a friend or family member who would listen -- all the talking it out, as well as listening to other's experiences, was so helpful.

■ Writing has always provided me a means of self-expression, so I wrote a poem describing the feeling of loss (sobbing the entire time), and I then started writing out her life story. It is entitled "Ollie's Gift."

■ After gathering pictures, certificates, and other mementos, I finished the pet scrapbook that helped preserve all the great memories.

■ Each of Ollie's hospice patients was contacted, and when I felt emotionally strong enough, I made that difficult solo visit to bring some closure---for all of us.

■ There were days where I needed to just allow myself time to be sad, time to "vegetate," and time to reminisce -- so I learned to slow down and appreciate life.

■ Ollie was always so happy-go-lucky, and she would not want me to stay sad for long...I am opening up to the possibility of a new "special friend" one of these days.

■ We have taken her ashes, along with some of her things, to be buried at our property up north. Mile High Ranch was her favorite place; a place where she could run free and just be relaxed.

Her spirit is now free to enjoy that beautiful place.

I feel blessed to have been able to enjoy 10 ½ years with such a wonderful dog.

My experience with her just reinforces my belief that there are special animals waiting for us in the shelters and rescue groups.

I have always thought of her as my angel with paws, and now she is waiting for me across the Rainbow Bridge.

## Thank you!

From page one

visiting my son and his family in Japan. Darrin is stationed at Yakota Air Force Base.

My family took me sightseeing and out to dinner several times. The food was awesome. It was amazing to see how people live, travel and shop.

The culture as you can imagine is quite different from what we are used to. I enjoyed the luscious green wherever we went and the cleanliness. The people are so polite, it was unbelievable.

Someone asked me what I enjoyed most, and all I can say is that it was overwhelming.

If you would like to hear more about my trip, stop by and see me.

The one thing I can very definitely say, I am proud to be an American and live in the USA.

## August Birthdays

Aug. 2 - Harry Smith

Aug. 3 - Colleen M. Herwig

Aug. 5 - Robert C. Anderson

Aug. 7 - Ann Lee

Aug. 9 - Betty Houck

Aug. 10 - Clair Sheffield

Aug. 12 - Tammy Stephens

Aug. 13 - Stacey J. Lewis

Aug. 13 - Judy Scartozzi

Aug. 14 - Doris May Nichols

Aug. 17 - JoAnn Doyle

Aug. 17 - Victoria A. Fielder

Aug. 22 - Mary Schramm

Aug. 24 - Richard C. Godwin

Aug. 24 - Vera C. Youngling

Aug. 31 - Bernie D. Forlenzo

### In Loving Memory

November 30, 1942 – June 11, 2008

Shirley J. Meyer, died June 11, 2008, at her sister's home in Parker, AZ.

She became a hospice volunteer March 28, 2003, graduating from our 30-hour volunteer training class in Parker.

Shirley was very dedicated to Hospice, doing patient care and office tasks. She was always there when asked. She was also active in her church and several other organizations.

She will be remembered for his dedication and commitment to her family and her friends. She loved people and they loved her. She was an inspiration to all of us, always thinking positive.

We all will miss her.

**Our sympathy** goes out to two of our Animal Assisted Activity volunteers; Jen Anderson with the loss of Ollie, and Judy Weldgen with the loss of Willo.

There are so many families whose lives these two animals touched.

Ollie and I had such a special bond. When Ollie would see me she'd always make that special sound. She always knew I had treats for her.

I experienced what our patients experience. Both times I was in the hospital Willo came to see me and laid on the bed and let me pat her.

These animals brought much love to many people. They will be sadly missed.