

Volunteers SCENE

A MONTHLY NEWSLETTER FOR HOSPICE OF HAVASU VOLUNTEERS

A bit of 'fur therapy'

By Jenny Anderson
Animal Assisted Living Volunteer

I know we are all familiar with the relaxing and beneficial results of aromatherapy, energy work, massage, and music. However, there is another type of volunteer service offered through Hospice called Animal Assisted Activity, which we commonly call "pet therapy". A number of Pet Partners have participated in hospice training and regularly visit patients with their four-legged friends. These animals have a volunteer family services ID, just like their handlers. We have had several dogs and a couple of cats participate in the volunteer services program over the past three years.

Ollie and I have been working nearly three years visiting patients in a variety of settings -- in the patient's home, assisted living facilities, and sometimes the nursing home. On more than one occasion Ollie has helped the patient feel calmer and happier. She just seems to understand when the patient needs a cuddle or a kiss. Although Ollie is not a lap dog, she is just the right height for those in wheelchairs or hospital beds.

Studies have shown that animal visits have highly beneficial effects on individual patient's health. People who are not able to have pets truly benefit from the furry companionship. Our job is to bring that warm, loving companionship back to those who no longer are able to care for a pet but can appreciate a visiting animal. The resulting smiles and good spirits are



Jenny Anderson, and Ollie, visit with a patient priceless.

Each of the Pet Partner teams goes through an extensive screening before joining the Delta Society Pet Partners program. This includes a veterinary health check, a performance "test", and a written application process. These teams need to reapply every two years, and the human members of the team continually work to stay educated through the Delta Society training manual used at monthly meetings.

Pet Partners is a committee of volunteers under the umbrella of the Havasu Community Health Foundation.

The foundation is located in the Shambles on McCulloch Blvd.

The volunteer services office has pictures and information on the available Pet Partner teams.

Hopefully we will have more joining our ranks in the future!

It is a most rewarding experience to be a volunteer doing this kind of service -- Ollie and I both enjoy our visits with our special friends.



**FEBRUARY
2008**

Volunteer Continuing Education

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

February 4

1 1/2 Hour Training. Part 1
Beth Forbes, M Ed.
Director of Social Work and
Counseling

February 11

MRSA (What is it?)
Tricia Sheehy, RN,C,CHPN
Clinical Services Director

February 18

HOLIDAY
(Office Closed)

February 25

1 1/2 Hour Training, Part 2
Carol Sheffield, RScF
Chaplain

PARKER

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

February 12

MRSA (What is it?)
Tricia Sheehy, RN,C,CHPN
Clinical Services Director

February 26

What can I do?
Guidelines for Volunteer Activities

MEDITATION

9 a.m. Fridays, in the lobby.

NEW CLASS!

Volunteer 30-hour
training begins Feb. 6.
Call Janet for details

New rules for footwear

Attention all Patient Care/Family Assistance Volunteers:

Recently two of our staff members attended the OSHA Compliance seminar. One of the areas of discussion was footwear for clinical staff.

Protective footwear is important to avoid injury due to falling or rolling objects or objects piercing the sole or top part of the foot.

Shoes also protect employees and volunteers from exposure to any other hazard while working at a patient's

home or healthcare facility.

It was recommended by OSHA, based on specific regulations pertaining to protective footwear, that Hospice of Havasu should change the policy for foot attire for field staff.

Effective immediately:

*All field staff, Nurses, Chaplains, Social Workers, CNA's, Patient Care/Family Assistance Volunteers are required to wear closed toe shoes to all patient visits.

*Sandals and flip-flops are not permitted.

*We prefer a closed shoe that is not canvas.

*Plastic or leather sneakers are OK.

*Clogs and open heeled shoes i.e. "Crocs" brand shoes are permitted. If a back strap is provided on the Croc, place it around the heel, when worn.

Remember that the goal is SAFETY.

We are trying to avoid foot injury due to potential hazards.

Compliance is critical. If you have any questions, please see Janet Baier, Manager of Volunteer Services.

Are You Wearing Your Favorite Perfume or After-Shave Lotion while with Your Patients or in the Hospice Office?

This is a reminder to read your Policy and Procedures Manual, Chapter 8, about fragrances. Many of our patients and staff are allergic to these fragrances. Although many of us do not mind, we need to be considerate of the people around us.

If you do not have a copy of the Policy and Procedures Manual, Chapter 8, please stop by the office and pick one up.

Ways to help with soup plan

As most of you know, due to Health Department Regulations, we are unable to make soup in our homes. Chef Dennis and Karen Malin from Elegant Cuisine have given us a good price to prepare the

soup. The cost is \$100.00 for 16 gallons equaling 24 containers. Some of you have asked how you can contribute to help with this.

If you would like to contribute make your check out to Hospice of Havasu and on the memo at the bottom of the check put Volunteer Services Department. I am at the present time working with Bagel Bin on a price for cookies. We will be resuming our soup deliveries February 1, 2008. If you would like to help with deliveries, please let me know.

Thank you to all of you who have been made soup and cookies in the past for our bereavement program.

Check your file

Please find your Required Continuing Education with this Newsletter. Remember ALL volunteers, Family Assistance/Patient Care, Bereavement, Special Services/Office and YM&O volunteers are required to do this. We are about to be surveyed and each file needs to be up to date. When a file is pulled by the surveyor, they will check to see if all requirements have been met.

Birthdays – February

Bobbie Dawson Feb. 04
Karen Shaplin Feb. 04
Sonja Hall Feb. 08
Kathleen Cox Feb. 10
Kay West Feb. 10
Mel Pugliese Feb. 16
Paula Anderson Feb. 24
Carol Gohl Feb. 24
Emma Lepicek Feb. 24
Esther Hobson Feb. 28
Sylvia Mercer Feb. 28
Catherine O'Brien Feb. 28

Daily Motivation

...the only thing that stands between a person and what they want in life is the will to try it and the faith to believe it possible!

--unknown