

Volunteer SCENE

A MONTHLY NEWSLETTER FOR HOSPICE OF HAVASU VOLUNTEERS

Looking ahead ...

Fall Ice Cream Social

Mark the date!! The Ice Cream Social is back this year once again on the first day of Autumn, **Thursday September 23** at the London Bridge Meeting Room from 1-3 p.m. Come join us as we bid Summer a sweet good-bye. Treats generously provided by volunteer Derek Schober, owner of Coldstone Creamery.

Please RSVP to Volunteer Services by Wednesday, Sept. 22.

October picnic planned

*On October 22nd, Hospice of Havasu will be sponsoring an employee "picnic" at Rotary Park and volunteers are invited and encouraged to attend!! The event will be from 5 pm-??...watch for details in the October newsletter.

November Craft Fair set

On November 5 & 6 the Friends of Hospice will host its Annual Craft Fair at Mt. Olive Lutheran Church. In the past these craft fairs have raised upward of \$1000; all funds are donated to Hospice of Havasu to support programs for our patients and families. If you have any handmade items to donate, please contact Mary Lomberto at the main office, 453-2111. Also, if you are able to help on Friday from noon-3 p.m. or Saturday 10-3 p.m. or need any further information, again call Mary. Lets help make the event a huge success.

Happy Labor Day!



Special volunteer skills

*Who knew???? Every volunteer has a lifetime of knowledge, experience, and talents to share and sometimes we are pleasantly surprised at what the Volunteer Services Department is gifted with. Some new and recent gifts have been: volunteer Linda Chandler, an AZ licensed cosmetologist provides in home haircuts/trims for our bedbound patients at no charge; volunteer Sandy Johnson, a certified Pet Minister, provides pet blessings and/or brief support to patients who have "lost" a pet; and volunteer Dr. Pam Meyers, with extensive expertise in whole body health, fitness, nutrition, etc. will begin providing Continuing

Education session in October.

Every volunteer is encouraged to share their "secret" and explore avenues in which to utilize these hidden talents. Volunteer Services has an "open door" policy and you are welcome to talk with Denise or Jennifer.

Education classes set

We hope you have enjoyed receiving Continuing Education opportunities in the mail however, beginning in October, sessions will be scheduled at the Meeting Room and include a speaker/presenter. Watch the monthly newsletter for dates/times.

Got an opinion? We want to hear it

YOUR OPINION COUNTS!!!! Later this month you will be receiving a Volunteer Survey in the mail; please complete the survey and return it to Volunteer Services by October 31st. Do Not put your name on the survey as all responses are to be anonymous. Your input and honesty is appreciated; this will help to shape the future of the Volunteer Services Department/programs so we urge you to participate.



Fond memories of an avid, and careful, reader

The first errand I ran for her was taking her glasses to be fixed. One of the nose pads had broken off and her glasses were digging into the bridge of her nose. The angry red spot on her nose looked like it hurt, but she didn't complain because she never complained about anything. She didn't ask me to do it, because she never asked for anything. When I told the eye center it was for my 94 year old hospice patient, they replaced both pads at no charge.

They now take care of my eyes.

The last errand I ran for her was returning library books. I first brought her a large print book I'd purchased at St. Vincent DePaul. She devoured it.

Then I learned that our library has a huge selection of large print books.

From March 2009 to February 2010, she read 43 books, a welcome respite from her quiet existence in the nursing home. But I had to skim each potential book before checking it out because she didn't like bad language. Over the months, she gave me a few books back that she wouldn't read and we even removed one particular author from her reading list because of language.

She had no TV because she did not want one. She preferred to stay in her room, even for meals. She got anxious when too many people were about. No bingo for her; it was too rambunctious. Yet over time, she got over much of that anxiety and for over a year we attended "happy hour" and "church" on Thursday afternoons. We also attended various festivities together, including Christmas, Valentine's, and monthly birthday parties. At the 2009 Valentine's Day party, she was crowned Queen of the nursing home. The staff voted for her because they loved her. Following each Thanksgiving and Christmas, we enjoyed a holiday meal together, complete with turkey, stuffing, mashed potatoes, gravy, and homemade pumpkin and pecan pies.

Pumpkin was her favorite, but not too much whipped cream. She always said that was all she needed.

New volunteers



Steve Sunde



Samantha Nye



Crissy Hernandez

AND, Cynthia Meadows and June Meadows

S.T.A.R.

(Special Thanks And Recognition)



Here's what we like about volunteering ...

WOW!! And keep them rollin' in...here are some comments on "why I enjoy volunteering for Hospice of Havasu":

"I have enjoyed volunteering at Hospice of Havasu the past 3 years, helping at the Polidori House and Resale Shop. I have met a lot of wonderful people, and just want to give some time back to the community. I am a winter visitor, and like to donate time in service to others."

"It is tough for a caregiver who is providing 24/7 care to a loved one who is on hospice. The caregiver needs a break once in awhile. This is when the hospice volunteer comes on the scene to provide Respite assistance. It is very rewarding as a volunteer to experience the appreciation and relief a caregiver expresses when they return from an appointment, shopping trip, or whatever."

*(Volunteer who collects office "scrap" paper and makes notepads) "it saves the expense of buying notebooks for everyone that works at Hospice".

September Anniversary:

Karen Hoverman 1 year
Susan Underwood 1 year
LaVerne LaClear 1 year

September Birthdays

Harry Ditslear.....09/07
Dolores Stone.....09/09
Dolores Gehrig.....09/15
Sondra Reasy.....09/17
Linda Rohn.....09/20
Bob Myers.....09/22
Renee Good.....09/22
J. Karen Smith.....09/24
Debbie Binko.....09/24
Karen Hoverman.....09/25
Marsha Gunderson.....09/30

Quote: Do not follow where the path may lead; go instead where there is no path and leave a trail. - Muriel Strode