

CARELINES

A Quarterly Newsletter Published for the Friends & Families of Caldwell Hospice and Palliative Care, Inc.
Summer 2011

Eagle Scout Project: Robbins Center Nature Trail

Caldwell Hospice has benefited from the community's generosity and goodwill over the years. Recently, a local Boy Scout made his Eagle Scout project a lasting gift for Caldwell Hospice patients' families and friends, as well as staff. Hibriten High School rising senior Daniel Osborne, along with the helpers he enlisted, planned and built the Nature Trail and Creekside Patio at the Robbins Center.

Most Eagle Scouts spend about 200 hours on their projects, Osborne explained. "I knew it would be large, but not 400 hours. I never thought about turning back."

During many trips to CHPC's Kirkwood location with his scout troop to spruce up the Stevens PCU courtyard, Osborne developed a special feeling for Caldwell Hospice. For his Eagle Scout project, he wanted to do "something you know will last and will be characteristic of an Eagle Scout. I've always thought of Caldwell Hospice," he said.

Daniel began in May 2010, with approval of his Eagle Scout advisor, the scout troop's sponsoring church, Caldwell Hospice's board of directors, and the District Scout Council advisor. "I had to plan everything, call everyone, determine materials and funds, and make announcements at Tuesday night scout meetings." He counted on Scoutmaster Steve Barlowe to help with arbor and patio construction.



By July, Daniel and his team began the physical labor: rock, stump, and debris removal. Daniel invited the Hibriten High School football team to help clean out the creek.

Daniel "worked hard not to change the face of the trail," his mother, Sharon, said. "It stayed natural, but safe." The basic trail already existed as a four-wheeler trail at the creek.

The flooded retention pond behind the Forlines PCU created a gully, so they built a bridge.

Daniel completed the Nature Trail and Creekside Patio project in September 2010, with 12 on-site workdays, more than 70 individuals (30 teens and 41 adults), and \$1,692 in donated materials—wood, hardware, plants, table, and benches. Daniel used approximately \$400 of his own money. "We were proud of him," his mother said. "We know what a hard task it was."

The quarter-mile trail, located on the east side of the Robbins Center campus, is an easy walk through the surrounding woods; it is a calm and soothing place for families who need respite in emotionally hard times. Craig and Sharon Osborne's son is mature beyond his years and a compassionate friend to Caldwell Hospice. Involved in scouting since first grade, Daniel has learned many valuable skills for future use—in college and beyond.



Eagle Scout Daniel Osborne called on his family, friends, the Hibriten High School football team, and his classmates to help him reclaim the woods behind Caldwell Hospice's Robbins Center site in Hudson.



Patients' families, their friends, and Caldwell Hospice staff now have a quarter-mile nature trail where they can walk or sit and enjoy a calm moment or two.



From the Director's Chair: Coming Home to Residential Hospice Care

As we come to the end of the 2010-2011 fiscal year, let's look for a moment at occupancy numbers from our Stevens and Forlines patient care units (PCUs).

At Kirkwood, in our six-bed Stevens PCU, we have assigned four beds to general inpatient (GIP) hospice patient care and two beds for residential hospice patients. The average daily overall census has been 5.47, with residential totaling 1.54; our overall occupancy rate has been 90.86%, with residential at 84.80%.

At the Robbins Center, in our 12-bed Forlines PCU, we have assigned five beds to GIP hospice patient care and seven beds for residential hospice patients. The average daily overall census has been 11.59, with residential totaling 6.80; our overall occupancy rate has been 96.59%, with residential at 75.21%.

Over the past several months, Forlines PCU residents expressed interest in growing things, and our direct-care staff did its best to help, as you'll see in these photos.

After Board Member Janet Wilson planted lettuce and squash in a large courtyard planter, resident Dot Riggan picked lettuce leaves, added the salad dressing, and pronounced her salad "delicious."

On one sunny spring morning in the Forlines PCU courtyard, certified nursing assistants Juanita Carlton and Tammy Norman helped several residents fill planters with soil, dig holes for the tomato and pepper plants, water them, and encourage them to grow, under the watchful eye of resident Martha Reid, a "green thumb" gardener.

One patient at our Stevens PCU learned basic pottery skills, as well. We realize that our PCUs can't match all the lifetime memories built into the homes that residents leave when they come to us, but we are trying to make their living spaces as comfortable and inviting as possible. Our staff and volunteers are paying attention, listening closely, and finding ways—from the activities I've mentioned in this column, to preparing favorite meals, to taking residents on day-trips—to help them enjoy their new home with us.



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A Moment with Dr. Robert Belk: Understanding Dementia

Many of us know the suffering and disruption that dementia causes—for the people who have been diagnosed with it and for everyone who loves them. Dementia is a terrible disease, but if we take the time to learn more about it, we can care for and about our loved ones with greater skill and compassion.

Alzheimer's Disease is the most common type of dementia. It is caused by damage to nerves in the brain, and those nerves will die, eventually. The condition will get worse over approximately eight to 12 years, and the disease is terminal.

Vascular Dementia is caused by damage to the blood supply to the nerves in the brain; a person could suffer from both Alzheimer's and Vascular Dementia, at the same time.

Approximately 50 to 60 other types of dementia have been diagnosed, as well.

What we know absolutely: dementia changes everything for everyone involved. People who have dementia cannot change their behavior, but we can change our behavior and our expectations for them.

As the disease progresses, people will lose their short-term memory; ability to understand words, ability to control emotions, impulsive actions and speech; ability to understand sensory information (taste, touch, smell, etc.); recognition of even the nearest and dearest family members and friends.

People may become more sensitive to touch, sound, light, etc. They may still desire to communicate with others. Certainly, they will desire respect, although they are unable to demand that respect be paid. Music will still matter to them—and long-ago songs will get attention, while more recent songs, etc. will disappear.

For a time, at least, people with dementia will be able to hide what they can no longer do or understand. We as their family, loved ones, and friends need to learn as much about the disease as we can, so we can recognize the changes and not demand more of them than they can deliver.

For more information, contact: Nicole Rieger-Thomas, Foothills Area Program Manager, Western Carolina Chapter Alzheimer's Association, 1265-A 21st Street, NE, Hickory, NC 28601. You can call her at 828.267.3626.



Look for Caldwell Hospice Online

For general information about Caldwell Hospice, support groups, special events, volunteer training dates, driving directions to our inpatient facilities, archived copies of *Carelines*, palliative care program information, a list of our board members, or answers to questions about hospice care, look no farther than **www.caldwellhospice.org** Our updated, refreshed, rejuvenated website was the creative work of webmaster Nick Green. It "went live" recently, and we are proud of it: visually pleasing, easy to navigate, informative. Check it out!

For a brief but informative **video guide** to what Caldwell Hospice and Palliative Care is and what it does; to let friends and family members who live out of the area—or out of state—know about the end-of-life care we provide; to answer basic questions about hospice and palliative care, etc.—you can watch the new Caldwell Hospice and Palliative Care video at either of these online sites:

<http://www.youtube.com/jginteractive#p/u/7/aoXKnwzP5AQ>

<http://www.youtube.com/jginteractive>

You will see a menu of video samples to the right of the screen. Scroll down until you see *Caldwell Hospice and Palliative Care*. The creative folks at Jackson Group Interactive in Hickory completed the video for us, recently. Let us know what you think!

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On behalf of ...our family, I would like to thank you for your ministry of service to our loved one. We appreciate your loving care...and for being there for our family and friends. It was a difficult time for us which was made easier because of you....—A Caldwell Hospice Family Member

Contributions

There are hardly words to say how we feel about a wonderful place called... the Robbins Center. The love and care you gave our loved one was so special to her family who loved her so much...she was a truly Godly woman who treated people just as you treated her and the light of our lives. Thank you from all our hearts...—a Caldwell Hospice family member

Caldwell County Council for Women	Christian Church Xi Gamma Rho Sorority	Daisy Walker Brenda Woods	Cedar Rock Baptist Church	Marshall Class
Calvary Baptist Church	Yadkin Valley Baptist Church, Golden Nuggets	Alvin "Zero" Webb Nancy Webb	Center Grove Baptist Church	Hibriten Baptist Church
CCC&TI Business Club	Elizabeth Beard	Sheri White Wilwood Church	Center Grove Baptist Church, JOY Club	High Peak Baptist Church
Cub Scouts #299	Dr. Phyllis Blair	IN-KIND HONORS	Center Grove Baptist Church, Willing Workers Class	Hudson United Methodist Church
Dry Ponds Baptist Church	Leigh Burnette	Mr. & Mrs. Curtis Powell	Clover Baptist Church, Andrew Class	John's River Baptist Church
First Baptist Church of Granite Falls WMW Prayer Group	Don Bush	Dry Ponds Baptist Church	Clover Baptist Church, Berea Class	Life of God Christian Outreach
First Baptist Church of Hudson	Phyllis Cannon	Homer Townsend Marie Townsend	Collier's United Methodist Church, Adult Class	Livingston Memorial Baptist Church
First Wesleyan Church Women's Group	Opal Clark		Concord Baptist Church	Long Shoals Baptist Church
Food Lion	David Colvard	CONTRIBUTORS	Crestview Baptist Church	Lower Creek Baptist Church, Pennell Bible Missionary Group
Free Spirit Baptist Church	Harold & Rachel Earley	Anonymous Donor	Dudley Shoals Baptist Church	Lower Creek Baptist Church, Adult Five Seekers Class
Friendship Baptist Church Auditorium Class	Margaret Forney	Blue Ridge Pioneers Telephone Retirees & Partners	Dudley Shoals Baptist Church, Naomi Class	Meadowbrook Baptist Church
Friendship Baptist Church of Hudson	Judy Kilby	Furniture Brands	Dutch Fork Baptist Church, Senior Adult Couples Class	Mountain Grove Baptist Church, Living Word Class
Girl Scout Troop	Donna Marada	Greer-McElveen Funeral Home	East Flat Baptist Church	Mountain Grove Baptist Church, Ron Beane Class
Grandview Park Baptist Church	Shane Michael, Camelot Manor Nursing Care Facility	Joyce Fare	Ebenezer United Methodist Church	Mt. Zion Baptist Church, Cynthia
Holladay Surgical Supply	Sabine Miller	Travis Hartley	Faith Baptist Church	Marshall's Class
Hudson United Methodist Church	Mr. & Mrs. Wayne Miller	James & Donna Hildreth	Family Life Sunday School	Oak Grove Baptist Church
Hudson United Methodist WMU	Marti Paisley	Paul & Sally Hunsucker	First Advent Christian Church, Hattie Steele Circle	Philadelphia Lutheran Church, WELCA
Indian Hills Baptist Church	Linda Price	Don & Joyce Kirkpatrick	First Baptist Church, Granite Falls	Refuge Missionary Baptist Church
Moore Trust	Charles Triplett	Ralph & Carol Parsons	First Baptist Church, Hudson	Rutherford College
Mt Ephriam Baptist Church Youth	Linda Walker	Emmit & Cindy Penley	First Baptist Church, Whitnel	First Baptist Church Setzer Creek Baptist Church
Mt Zion Baptist Church	Ray Walker	Fred Prince	First Baptist Church, Whitnel, Berline	Sunrise Baptist Church
Mulvale Baptist Church	Grace Watson	Dr. & Mrs. Charles Scheil	Marshall Class	Tabernacle Advent Christian Church
Piney Grove Baptist Church WMU	Joyce Watson	Roger Shatley	Flemings Chapel Baptist Church, Adult Men II Class	Temple Hill Baptist Church
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RPM Wood Finishes Group Employees		Mary Williams	Grace Chapel United Methodist Church	Yadkin Baptist Church, Gerald Bolick Class
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St James Episcopal Church	Richard Cole	RELIGIOUS ORGANIZATIONS		
Subway	William Deal Deal Family	Blanche Fox Sunday School Class		
Union Grove Baptist Church	Linda D. Dean	Cajah's Mtn Baptist Church		
Welcome Home Baptist Church	Lenoir First Freewill Baptist Church	Calvary Baptist Church		
Wildwood Advent	Chris Carter & Alice Barber			
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*Caldwell Hospice and Palliative Care, Inc., gratefully acknowledges memorials and contributions received between 01 January and 31 March 2011. Please notify us if we have omitted a donation from this listing. Contributions received after 31 March 2011 will be listed in our **Fall 2011** issue.*

Newsletter mailing list policy. Carelines is published four times a year. Each person who makes a contribution to our hospice during the six months prior to a mailing will receive the next two issues. Individuals may ask to be placed on our "do not remove" mailing list; in that case, they will continue to receive the newsletter every quarter.

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Faces of Hospice: We Remember "Family"



Hospice care providers are accustomed to meeting patients at the end of their lives, developing plans of care with them, offering emotional support to them and their loved ones—that is what we have been trained to do. We bring our hearts and our minds, our emotions and our professional skills to our jobs. We care about our patients and take it as a compliment when their loved ones speak of us as "part of the family."

We are members of the "hospice family," too: our Caldwell Hospice co-workers and the teams at neighboring hospices with whom we interact, as we help each other to help patients and families. Our hospice family has suffered some losses of its own over the past few months. We want our readers to know the people we will be missing.

Caldwell Hospice lost two members of its family in March 2011. **Sloan Hunike Sherrill**, a medical social worker who treated every patient like a member of her family, died unexpectedly. In the photo above (left), you can see the compassion, the intensity, and the mischievous gleam in Sloan's eyes. She was loved by her husband Brandon, her parents and family, and her co-workers, especially the close-knit group of social workers with whom she shared work and play.

Paulette Herman Church (pictured above, center-left) was what we call an "as needed" nurse in our Stevens Patient Care Unit for several years; whenever we needed her, she came to care for the patients. She was a Caldwell Hospice volunteer, a wife, a mother, a grandmother who doted on those grandchildren, and a valued member of her church. Paulette was a "giver" of the truest kind, even as her health failed her. At the end, we were allowed to give back, as we cared for her in the PCU where she had cared for so many.

Ron LaSalle, Burke Hospice's chief executive officer (pictured above, center-right), moved to Burke County in December 2002. He was involved in the Morganton Kiwanis and Valdese Rotary clubs; volunteered at Burke County United Way and the Good Samaritan Clinic; served on the Burke Co. Public Schools "safe schools" task force; was president of the Burke Co. Chamber of Commerce, and was a member of the Waldensian Presbyterian Church. LaSalle earned Hospice and Palliative Care Administrator national certification in 2008. Diagnosed with esophageal cancer in 2009, he took on an intense regimen of traditional and alternative therapies. After a long, well-publicized battle, he succumbed to cancer on April 29, 2011.

In mid-June 2011, we said farewell to another member of our Caldwell Hospice family, when **Judy Bauman** (pictured above, far right) finished her cancer journey. Judy served as a patient-family social worker when she first came to Caldwell Hospice before coordinating our Transitions program until her retirement. Even then, she continued to visit her clients because Judy didn't know how not to care for others. Selfless, compassionate, generous, with a beautiful singing voice to match her gentle spirit. Her husband, children, grandchildren, sisters, friends, and Caldwell Hospice family mourn our loss.

Caldwell Hospice Volunteers Update



Volunteers' Length of Service Recognized.

Standing (L to R): Flaxen Brookshire-Reid (five years), Janet Swanson (15 yrs.), Laura Hammerick (15 yrs.), Lucy Lowe (15 yrs.), Mary Jane Triplett (five yrs.), Robert Gardiner (five yrs.), Doug Thee (10 yrs.); seated (L to R): June Dawkins (20 yrs.), Joella Shore (20 yrs.), CHPC Board Member Tamra Beach Starnes (20 yrs.), Judy McLean (20 yrs.), Larry Estes (10 yrs.), Bennie Kincaid (10 yrs.).

Volunteers who are not pictured include CHPC Board Member Jimmy Hemphill (25 years); Bill and Imogene Clippard (20 yrs.); Bob McClure (15 yrs.); Patricia Church, Diana McNeil, Linda Myers, and Nancy Prestwood (10 yrs.); Lisa Barnette, Dewey Bowen, Kimberley Griffin, De Martin, LaKenya Perry, Twilla Phipps, Susan Reese, Patricia Saunders, Cheryl Simpson, Woody Smith, Barbara Weiller, and Bonnie Wilkerson (five yrs.).



The June 2011 volunteer training group is pictured above: (back row, L to R) Al White, Patrick Swanson, Megan Spears, Karen Winebarger, and Andrea Woods; (front row, L to R) Regina Sanders, Kendele Moore, Beverly Lawrence, Happy Austin, Rosalind Johnson, Tiffany Garnes, and Jim Munday.

Hazel Warlick's Volunteer Stories. Hazel Warlick learned about Caldwell Hospice when her husband was our homecare patient, and a CHPC volunteer visited them. When her husband was admitted to the Stevens patient care unit, Hazel sat with him. After his death, she didn't attend grief counseling opportunities, choosing to handle her grief in her own way. The bereavement staff assured her that, if she needed someone, she could call. She now attends the Good Grief meals, held at area restaurants and offering fellowship as well as food.

Hazel became a volunteer in 2004 (see photo: Hazel is at far right of group), and she began serving in many ways:



making coffee, setting out snacks, etc. for workshops or community programs; working in Kirkwood's Stevens patient care unit every other week to help make patients' beds, carry ice water to them, etc.; visiting patients in their homes and in long-term-care facilities, and serving as an 11th Hour volunteer. This last assignment requires additional training because these volunteers are with patients and their families during what will likely be the patients' final 24 to 48 hours. "You meet such nice people," Hazel said. "It's amazing how they handle the end of life; they are so humble."

It often helps families to talk about other subjects, Hazel learned, to get their minds off the sadness, to help them cope. Sometimes, family members express uncertainty about issues connected to their loved ones. When they ask "What do you think?" Hazel turns the question back to them, knowing that it isn't our place to "tell them what to do." They usually talk out what bothers them and what they think should be done.

Volunteering with CHPC is more rewarding than people imagine. Hazel got to know one patient at a long-term-care facility well enough to feel "almost like one of the family." Since the patient's passing, she sees some family members in the community, at meetings, etc. "They say, 'I hope you'll be there for me,' and I feel like I really did something to help them," Hazel said.

Volunteer training is detailed, but how to handle every situation can't be covered, so some learning comes with experience. One patient at a long-term-care facility became agitated when people rubbed her

(continued on page 12)

Ashewood Grief and Counseling Services

Grief Camp. The relationship between Hayley Cole and her nine-year-old daughter Zoey is grounded in love and appreciation. Hayley smiles when Zoey announces, "I want to be famous when I grow up." Then Hayley recounts their story of grief, loss, and support from Caldwell Hospice and Palliative Care.

After her mother Vickie Allred died in 2006 at Caldwell Hospice's Stevens Patient Care Unit, Hayley turned to our bereavement support services and brought Zoey with her. Chaplain Steve Butler told Hayley about Good Mourning Children's Grief Camp for children between the ages of six and 12 who have lost a loved one to death. When Zoey was old enough, Hayley made sure that she was registered to attend what Zoey, a three-time veteran, calls "Nanny Camp."

Each year, we begin with a theme and use arts and crafts, games, storytelling, journal-writing, and the children's interaction with each other to explore grief. Hayley's favorite theme, as a parent, was "Roadtrip Adventures." It "was a map of what happens during the grief journey; it helped us know what to expect."

The children made wind chimes at the 2010 Grief Camp. Zoey's grandmother "collected wind chimes, and her favorite color was purple," Hayley said. "It was so pretty. We hung it in the house, so it would be protected from the weather. It's hanging over a vent, and when the furnace or A/C fan cuts on, we hear it."

Hayley explained that the afternoon meeting time set aside for parents and guardians "offers them the main idea of what the children have done, what the theme is, and opens doors for the whole family to talk at home, to build off that day's experiences."

Sometimes, adults try to shield children from the pain and sadness of losing a parent, grandparent, sibling, or friend. They worry that talking about death may be upsetting. Caldwell Hospice's Grief Camp, Hayley said, "is not like how people think of

therapy—it's like *play therapy*." When the grief is deep and difficult, Hayley explained, Grief Camp "helps families recognize signs that a child might need further counseling to cope with the loss."

"The focus is on the kids," Hayley stated, but "its lessons apply to anyone—not in a threatening way. It creates a safe way to help the children or other family members who are experiencing grief."

The 2011 Grief Camp welcomed 18 children to explore "The Colors of Grief" on May 7. It was sponsored by Greer-McElveen Funeral Home and Crematory and a special friend to Caldwell Hospice.



Hospice Foundation of America's 18th annual Living with Grief educational program.

"We want people to die pain-free. We want the same thing for the spiritual part of their lives."

An audience of approximately 50 healthcare professionals and lay people gathered in The Robbins Center to explore "Spirituality and End-of-Life Care" through a national panel discussion, led by veteran CNN Correspondent Frank Sesno. Afterward, a panel comprised of CHPC's Chaplain Steve Butler, Chaplain Nancy Campbell, medical social worker Kimberly Setzer, and nurse Nancy Wallace (pictured above with Bereavement Support Specialist Brittany Bonn) offered a local perspective on walking with hospice patients on their spiritual journeys at the end of life.



Pictured (L to R): Hayley and Zoey Cole share memories of previous Grief Camps; volunTEENS and children create "The Colors of Grief" mural; camper uses sand art to express the colors of grief.



Hazel Warlick's Volunteer Stories

hands or arms, but one family member didn't believe that. She got angry when another family member asked her to stop. Hazel tried a different approach, saying, "When my husband was sick, I noticed that touching him sometimes caused him discomfort." This didn't change the woman's mind, but the other family member followed Hazel to the hall and thanked her for trying.

At another long-term-care facility, Hazel went to sit with the patient. When she entered the room, the patient's daughter said, "I don't know who you are or why you're here. I didn't call you." The patient's sister had called for a volunteer, but the daughter hadn't been told. Hazel apologized, told the family she would be thinking of them, got her jacket, and prepared to leave. Outside the room, the daughter apologized and thanked Hazel.

One day when Hazel arrived at the Stevens Patient Care Unit to visit a patient, she saw the grandson sitting in the courtyard. Had he been in to see his grandmother? "No." They talked a few more minutes, and she asked whether he would like to go in with her to visit. "No." She walked to the entry and motioned for the boy to join her. He decided to go with her. They talked about the many lessons he'd learned from his grandmother—how to drive the tractor, the lawnmower, and then his grandfather's truck.

From Hazel's own experience when her husband died in the Stevens PCU, she remembers the sense of being in a special place. The CNAs lit a candle in her husband's room, she recalls, and assured the family members they could stay in his room as long as they wished. They used the time to tell stories and remember him. "It was very comforting," Hazel said. "There was something special about having the candle in the room. It gave us peace."

Hospice education helps us understand that people don't "get over" the loss of someone they love. In

Hazel's words, the loved ones "accept the loss; they learn how to deal with it."

People can't stay with the grieving person every moment, no matter how much they want to help; there comes a time when the person has to be alone. In that early time of being alone, Hazel remembers experiencing "a quietness that can't be explained."

Personal losses over the years and Hazel's personality, which combines compassion with a hearty sense of humor, have made her a valued volunteer for Caldwell Hospice. She remembers that the volunteer coordinator called once to say, "This family asked for you." Such assurance that she is doing the right thing with the time she spends gave her a "feeling you can't explain to anybody."

A certified nursing assistant called from the Stevens PCU one day to request that Hazel sit with a patient who was experiencing such distress that he could not rest: "If anybody can calm him down, it's you. We need you." The patient did calm down—for a time.

Hazel's emotional support extends to friends and family, as one would imagine. She sat with the mother of one of her neighbors. Since the mother's death, the neighbor thanks Hazel in words and deeds,

leaving apples from her trees with Hazel, knowing that she loves to make fried pies.

Hazel's sense of humor is apparent in the photo at left. For Caldwell Hospice's "Under the Big Top" volunteer banquet this year, Hazel called on a friend who used to be a clown to dress her as a clown—it worked. No one recognized her!



2011 Wish List

Snack foods (ind.-size cakes, cookies, etc.) for patients' families
Ind.-size cereals & soups
Applesauce
Artificial sweetener (Equal, etc.)
Dishwashing cloths
Paper towels
Napkins
Aluminum foil
Storage bags (quart & gallon sizes)
Coffee (cans, regular & decaf)

Styrofoam coffee cups (8-oz.)
Solo cups (16-oz. for soft drinks, tea, etc.)
Paper plates and bowls
Plastic spoons and forks
Large boxes of tissues
Baby wipes, unscented (refill packs)
Liquid soap (8-oz. bottles, etc.)
Lotion (personal size)
Deodorant (personal size)
Toothpaste (travel size)
Mouthwash

Nail clippers
Hair brushes
Bath towels (white only)
Batteries: AA, AAA, and 9-volt
Amazon.com gift cards for teen/children grief books, music, & resources
Music CDs (instrumental, gospel, inspirational, meditation, etc.)
Disposable cameras for patients and families at our Stevens and Forlines patient care units.

Board of Directors Spotlight: James Harper, Jr.



James Harper, Jr. (pictured above, second from right), was recognized for 15 years of service at 2008 Volunteer Banquet; with wife Eleanor.



James Harper, Jr., knew something about Caldwell Hospice from its earliest days. He attended church with some of the founding members, and his aunt Margaret Harper (see photo at bottom of page) bequeathed her house for use by Caldwell Hospice through an agreement with First Presbyterian Church, Lenoir.

When Mr. Harper joined the Board of Directors in 1993, he already “knew most of the board members and their quality.” He was “impressed and flattered to be asked for participation.” All the Board members have busy schedules, he pointed out, but they realize what Caldwell Hospice does and want to be part of it. “We get more than we give,” he said.

Mr. Harper’s favorable impression has been proven over the past 18 years. As Caldwell Hospice has grown, it has remained “an asset to Caldwell County. We’re blessed to have it and the services it provides,” Mr. Harper said.

“Our Caldwell Hospice is the finest,” Mr. Harper continued, “and our staff is professional, dedicated, competent. They are great folks to work with.”

Mr. Harper serves as the Board’s treasurer and he is a member of the Building and Grounds

Committee. In addition to his dedicated service to Caldwell Hospice, Mr. Harper is a member of the Harper School’s board, and he is an elder at First Presbyterian Church, Lenoir. He served on several not-for-profit organizations’ boards over the years until he retired as a vice-president of the former First Union National Bank.

When asked about his hobbies, Mr. Harper replied, “I have grandchildren!” He and his wife Eleanor have one daughter, two sons, and six grandchildren; the oldest is 10, and the youngest is a two-year-old who lives in Texas.

Another topic that made Mr. Harper’s eyes light up was traveling. He usually participates with college-sponsored groups from Davidson, Emory, or Wofford. He has traveled with his wife and with his son Jimmy. When asked about an interesting experience on a trip, he told about a trip to Egypt, when he had the opportunity to ride a short distance on a camel—it was not as comfortable as riding a horse, he pointed out.

Where would Mr. Harper like to go that he hasn’t been yet? Ireland. He’s been by it and flown over it, but not to it, yet. He quoted St. Augustine to prove his point: “The world is a book, and those who do not travel read only a page.”



Photos (L to R): James Harper, Jr., at 2008 CHPC Board Christmas lunch with fellow board member Jimmy Hemphill; his much-loved “Aunt Marg” Harper; James Harper, Jr., in library at Kirkwood.





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If you received multiple copies of Carelines or received it in error; if you do not wish to remain on our mailing list or if your address changes, please let us know. Call 828.754.0101, write (address at top of page), or e-mail us at cch@caldwellhospice.org.

Upcoming Events

Healing Hearts Support Group. Aug. 2, 9, 16, 23, 30; Sept. 6, 6 to 7:30 p.m., Ashewood, 1002 Ashe Ave., Lenoir. Six-week group for grieving parents who have lost a child of any age to death.

I Just Want to Help. Aug. 11, 6 to 7:30 p.m., Meeting Room A, Robbins Center, 526 Pine Mtn. Rd., Hudson. Tips, tools, and techniques for supporting someone who is grieving.

"Grief Journal-writing." Learn at Lunch. Sept. 7, noon to 1:30 p.m., Meeting Room A, Robbins Center, 526 Pine Mtn. Rd., Hudson. Writing as a way to help the grief process.

Understanding Your Suicide Grief. Sept. 1, 8, 15, 22, 29; Oct. 6, 6 to 7:30 p.m., Ashewood, 1002 Ashe Ave., Lenoir. Emotional support in the aftermath of suicide for family and friends. Encouragement and understanding in a safe and caring environment.

Call 754.0101 for information.