



CARONDELET HOSPICE & PALLIATIVE CARE

Volunteer Highlights

Hospice News

Summer 2011

A Newsletter for Friends and Supporters

Volume 5, Issue 2



Richard Imwalle, CEO, Carondelet Foundation; Lupe Trieste, Executive Director, Carondelet Hospice and Palliative Care; Gerald Hirsch, Witt's Representative; Ruth W. Brinkley, President and CEO, Carondelet Health Network.

Carondelet Health Network Receives **\$4.5 Million** Private Estate Gift For Hospice and Palliative Care

Carondelet Foundation has announced a \$4.5 million estate gift. The gift is from the estate of Winifred Q. Witt and is designated for the benefit of *Carondelet Hospice and Palliative Care*.

"In 1977, St. Mary's Hospital was home to the first hospice in Arizona, and one of the first three in the United States," says Lupe Trieste, Executive Director of Carondelet Hospice and Palliative Care. "Support of patients and families facing end-of-life issues and bereavement has now become an accepted part of our national healthcare continuum. With this gift, Carondelet will be able to ensure enduring, quality programs of support and comfort."

Winifred Witt, known to her friends as "Quiggy," was an Iowa native. She came to Tucson after serving in the Women's Army Corp in World War II. She met and married local builder and masonry contractor, Samuel O. Witt, and they created a full, active and philanthropic life in Southern Arizona. Mr. Witt was one of the original members of the Tucson Home Builders Association (now Southern Arizona Home Builders Association), serving as that organization's president in 1958.

Quiggy Witt passed away in September 2010, at the age of 94. Mr. Witt died in 1987. Mrs. Witt's estate being handled by Gerald Hirsch, a retired attorney, formerly of counsel to the law firm of Monroe, McDonough, Goldschmidt and Molla. "The Witts were generous to Tucson and gave substantial sums with very little fanfare," notes Hirsch.

Hospice Inquiries
Admissions and Patient Support
(520) 205-7700

Charitable Gifts
Carondelet Foundation
(520) 873-5000

Events
(520) 205-7575

In-Patient Unit
(520) 205-205-7700

HUMAN INTEREST CORNER

Medicare Requires That 5% of Hospice Services Must be Provided by Volunteers

Hospice volunteers are an essential part of the hospice philosophy of care which recognizes that dying is not just a medical event but a personal one as well. These volunteers are important members of an interdisciplinary team working to “deinstitutionalize” the dying experience and provide a more humane system of care for the dying and their families. In fact, federal law requires that at least 5% of patient care hours be provided by volunteers (if the hospice receives Medicare and Medicaid reimbursement.)

Volunteers in hospice find it personally gratifying, intellectually stimulating, and emotionally meaningful to assist those in need at a critical point in their lives. Many of these volunteers were introduced to hospice through the death of a family member and understand firsthand the value of hospice care, but nearly 20% of volunteers are new to hospice. Volunteers consistently report that helping the terminally ill through hospice is not about dying but about living.

(2011) <http://www.hospicefoundation.org/>

Volunteers Provide Many Services

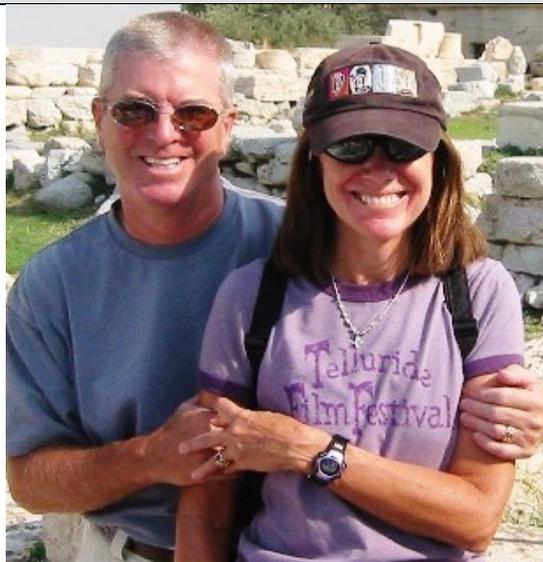
1. **Companionship for patients**
2. **Respite and support for family members**
3. **Shopping and transportation assistance**
4. **Bereavement support**



“It helps me to be here...”

Ralph Ayala has been a Hospice Volunteer for seven years. He manages to fill 4-hour shifts at the St. Mary’s Inpatient Unit several times a month, in addition to working day and night shifts at a nearby copper mine and caring for his 88 year-old mother.

Volunteering at Carondelet’s Inpatient Unit means more to Ralph than patients and their families know. Ralph’s wife Kathy spent her last three days there, before she died of cancer at the age of 48. (See Kathy’s story on page 3)



Dave and Joe Anne Erickson

Dave Erickson was raised to believe, “Community service is just something you are supposed to do.”

Dave and his wife Joe Anne took Carondelet’s Hospice Volunteer training in 2006 and have been comforting and caring for patients with life-limiting illnesses ever since. Joe Anne describes her experiences as “extraordinarily rewarding.” While the couple admits that there are some moments of sadness, they were both surprised to find out how often they laugh when they are visiting with patients.

Hospice volunteering appears to be a perfect fit for the Ericksons. One of the most valuable benefits is the open communication that has been created between Joe Anne, Dave and their three adult children about their wishes.

NEWS YOU CAN USE

Kathy Ayala just wanted to graduate from nursing school so that she could go back to work at Carondelet's Inpatient Unit where she interned as a student. However, she knew that her second battle with cancer would be a lot tougher than the first. When all curative treatment methods were exhausted, Kathy and her husband, Ralph, agreed to enroll in Carondelet's Hospice program. Ralph remembers that, "such a big load was lifted off of me once we signed up with hospice."

Medications were delivered and Ralph no longer had to go to the drug store. A nursing assistant came to the home to provide Kathy's personal care. Kathy's constant pain was eased and there was a place to call 24/7 if Ralph had any questions. Overall, the quality of care that Kathy received was "great."

Kathy did return to the Inpatient Unit, but not as an employee. Ralph is now a devoted volunteer and understands why Kathy so enjoyed going there.

To learn more about becoming a Carondelet Hospice Volunteer call Mary Judin at 520-205-7567

What If?

What if there was an organization you could call to care for your loved one when he or she became so seriously ill that recovery appeared unlikely?

What if that organization sent registered nurses to see your loved one, certified nursing assistants to help with daily care, a masters level social worker to help the family deal with the emotional difficulties and assistance to obtain access to community resources?

What if the durable medical equipment that you might need - a hospital bed or perhaps a wheelchair - and your loved one's medications were delivered right to the home?

What if a chaplain was available if your loved one or other family member had spiritual concerns?

What if a nurse was on call 24 hours a day to answer your questions and offer care giving advice?

What if a trained volunteer was available to stay with your loved one while you took a few hours for yourself?

What if the care your loved one received was patient driven?

Now, what if you were told that all of this would cost you nothing because Medicare would pay for it all? Would you pick up the phone? What if you learned that this organization is Hospice?

According to National Hospice and Palliative Care Organization, the number of American deaths involving hospice care is climbing steadily - from 100,000 in 1984, to 1,560,000 in 2009. Unfortunately, the people that do not make the call early on, often don't get the full benefit of the services. Overall, the median length of stay in hospice was just 21.1 days in 2009, and almost a third of patients enrolled a week or less before they die. However, surveys have found that more than 98 percent of bereaved families would recommend hospice to a family member or friend with a terminal illness.

(2011) <http://nhpco.org/> (2011) <http://blog.hospicefoundation.org/>

A Registered Nurse from Carondelet Hospice and Palliative Care will provide an in-home evaluation or education visit at no obligation to you.



CARONDELET

HOSPICE AND PALLIATIVE CARE

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Tucson, Arizona 85711

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The Gift that “Gives Back”

Gifts are used to advance the mission of Carondelet Health Network, to help purchase equipment, enhance facilities, expand services, fund staff education and to reach out to meet the health care needs of our communities throughout Southern Arizona.

You can also give by visiting the Carondelet Foundation Website at:
www.carondelet.org/foundation

Yes, I would like to make a gift to Carondelet Foundation to support the mission of Carondelet Hospice and Palliative Care.

Name

Address

Amex Card # _____

Expiration Date ____/____ (month/year)

Mail this form to: Carondelet Foundation 120 N. Tucson Blvd. Tucson, AZ 85716