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Hospice of Green Country is the area's only United Way supported hospice. It is a community-based, multi-cultural, multi-faith agency with the mission, since 1987, to provide compassionate and quality end-of-life care to patients and families – regardless of ability to pay.

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HOSPICE OF GREEN COUNTRY— CELEBRATING 25 YEARS

We've Come a Long Way!

Dr. George Pikler and his wife, Elaine, can easily be considered THE founders of Hospice of Green Country. Their hospice story began when Dr. Pikler was a resident at the Mayo Clinic in 1970 and attended a seminar led by a woman who had been trained under Dame Cicely Saunders, the founder of the modern hospice movement. As an oncologist, Dr. Pikler understood the importance of palliative medicine in the broad spectrum of patient treatment. When he began his practice at M.D. Anderson in Houston, Dr. Pikler was surprised that no one was discussing or even interested in hospice.



When Dr. Pikler came to Tulsa as head of oncology at Hillcrest Medical Center, his wife Elaine worked in his practice as a cancer counselor providing social and psychological support to cancer patients and their families. Dr. Pikler's was one of a few practices in the country that offered such counseling. And, it became the backbone of the care offered by Hospice of Green Country – pain and symptom management within 48 hours coupled with intense emotional, psychological, and spiritual support not only for the patient, but the family as well.

Those early HGC organizers and advocates were local physicians recruited by Dr. Pikler, nurses, and community organizers who were passionate about the concept that everyone deserves to die with dignity and in peace. From the beginning their highest value was compassionate end-of-life care without regard to a family's ability to pay, a value that continues to be the hallmark of HGC care today. In the beginning they would rely totally on community support with the hope they would get accredited by Medicare. Early funders were the Hillcrest Foundation and the Founders of Doctors Hospital. In 1999, Hospice of Green Country became a Tulsa Area United Way Agency, and it continues today as the only United Way supported hospice in northeastern Oklahoma.

Hospice of Green Country accepted its first patient in September, 1987, an American Indian gentleman who died on Christmas Eve. From that humble beginning 25 years ago, Hospice of Green Country has grown to serve nearly 6,000 patients out of three offices, Claremore (opened in 2000) and Sapulpa (opened in 2004) as well as its central Tulsa office. And, it is still known for its going-the-extra-mile, high quality, compassionate care!

There will be more early stories and highlights throughout this Silver Anniversary year. To be continued

Mary Faye Brooks turned 100 years!

Mary Faye was turning 100 and, even if she didn't want to celebrate and draw attention to herself, the HGC care team could not let a 100th birthday happen without at least a cake and balloons. And so, they planned a party with Mary Faye's children, themselves in their 70s. And for a special present, HGC volunteers, Mark and Collette McClung, fixed the pillar on Mary Faye's front porch that had been worrying her.

Born in September, 1911, Mary Faye Brooks was raised by her Grandmother Davis when Mary Faye's mother deserted the family for a NYC singing career. Mary Faye was only six months old, but even now the memory doesn't faze her because as a child, she was secure in the big boarding house at the corner of Haskell and Cheyenne with six other adults – her dad, her grandmother and her uncles.



A graduate of Holy Redeemer, Roosevelt Jr High, and Central High School, Mary Faye went on to OK A&M where she met her husband, Bruce Vandot Brooks. They married in 1932.

Bruce worked for the Tulsa Ice Company and Mary Faye can remember him delivering ice to the restaurants during that 1934 summer, the hottest Tulsa ever has had. Last summer's record-breaking temperatures brought many of the memories back. In 1934, refrigeration was still not common and there certainly were no refrigerated trucks. Huge cakes of ice were put on sawdust or straw and delivered to restaurants where they were chipped into usable portions. Bruce would make three to four deliveries a day during the summer, making the last delivery around 7 pm. Restaurants closed by 8 or 9 pm in those days.

Bruce and Mary Faye were married 54 years when he died in 1985 from a stroke. Their two children, Beverly and Bruce Jr., live in Tulsa and are Mary Faye's primary caregivers, but at 100 years, Mary Faye continues to live alone. She is under the watchful eye of her HGC care team who are looking forward to Mary Faye's 101st!

Elvis' Biggest Fan

She was like a child.

Even at 62 years, you

knew Deanna was

an Elvis fan as soon

as you walked into

her bedroom. It

was decorated

floor to ceiling

with Elvis

memorabilia,

photographs cut out of

magazines, some framed. Her family played her

favorite Elvis hymns to soothe her discomforts from

cancer, but Deanna loved anything he sang. Her HGC

care team knew what to talk about as they cared for her

and made her comfortable.



And, they began to plan a huge surprise for Deanna. Her HGC nurse-case manager had a best friend who was an Elvis impersonator and he was more than willing to come perform when he heard of Deanna's health. This Elvis was the real McCoy with a sound/ music machine and a microphone. When he began to sing, Deanna's eyes lit up. This guy was not lip-syncing! Close your eyes and you had Elvis! Open your eyes and Elvis was definitely in the room! He went through the standard repertoire – Jailhouse Rock, All Shook Up, Suspicious Minds - but when he sang "How Great Thou Art," there wasn't a dry eye in the room.

Deanna was smitten. Her HGC team isn't sure that she understood that her Elvis was an impersonator. It didn't really matter. It was real for Deanna - she had Elvis Presley visit and sing to her. It was the perfect end-of-life experience. Two weeks later Deanna died.

To see Deanna's Elvis serenading her, go to www.hospiceofgreencountry.org/publications



WWW.HOSPICEOFGREENCOUNTRY.ORG

From the Board President

Hospice of Green Country is a remarkable organization and I'm honored to serve as its president. This September, we'll be celebrating our 25th Anniversary – 25 years of working the mission to provide compassionate and high quality end-of-life care to patients and their families without regard to their ability to pay. It's that last phrase that sets us apart from all the other 55 hospices in the area ... "without regard to ability to pay." It's that last phrase – "without regard to ability to pay" – that makes Hospice of Green Country the leading advocate for hospice care for individuals and families who could not afford hospice care IF we were not here for them. Good job, HGC!

I am proud of our mission! Everyone deserves to die with dignity and in peace and our HGC staff members are dedicated

to that core value. They are always going the extra mile for our patients and their families. The stories that I've heard – like the one about the HGC nurse and our medical director who worked and worked to bring relief and comfort to a pain-filled body so the patient could have 24-hours of rest and a peaceful passing. Other times it's not giving up the search for a loving home for the patient's pet so that they can die knowing their "family" is going to be cared for. This issue of Passages is filled with these stories.

Let me say it again: Hospice of Green Country is a remarkable organization and I am so honored to serve as its president!

ART RASHER, PhD
President

From the Executive Director

Do you remember where you were 25 years ago? Hospice of Green Country was still seeking financial support, a focus that began in 1985, anticipating caring for that first patient. Twenty-five years ago I was providing care to our rural community as a home health nurse and I remember when Hospice of Green Country opened their doors. At that time, there was no hospice that would care for the patients living in the rural community where I was working once the patient became more appropriate for end-of-life care. I was so relieved to have an option to offer these patients and their families!

Over the next years, as I moved on to leadership roles, I continued to watch Hospice of Green Country grow. They developed unique programs to meet community needs, built a stellar reputation

and lived the mission of providing quality and compassionate end-of-life care to patients and families, regardless of ability to pay. In 2004 when a board member approached me about the opportunity to consider the executive director position, it just seemed like a natural fit and I was excited about being a part of the legacy left by the founding board members.

Today, I am so proud to be a part of this organization, and the hospice team continues to awe me by their dedication and compassion. During this silver anniversary, I say "Thank You" to our current team and all those making up the past Hospice of Green Country teams. "Thank You" to our founders and to all the foundations, corporations and individuals for your financial support. Each of you has helped make a difference in the lives of many.

TAMRA MOORE, RN
Executive Director

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We've Moved

Both the Tulsa and the Claremore offices have moved to new locations. The new offices are brighter and cheerier and less expensive! Come check us out. Telephone numbers have stayed the same.



Tulsa Office:
1120 S. Boston Ave. Ste. 200
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Claremore Office:
653 W. Claremore St.
Claremore, OK 74017

Its A Challenge

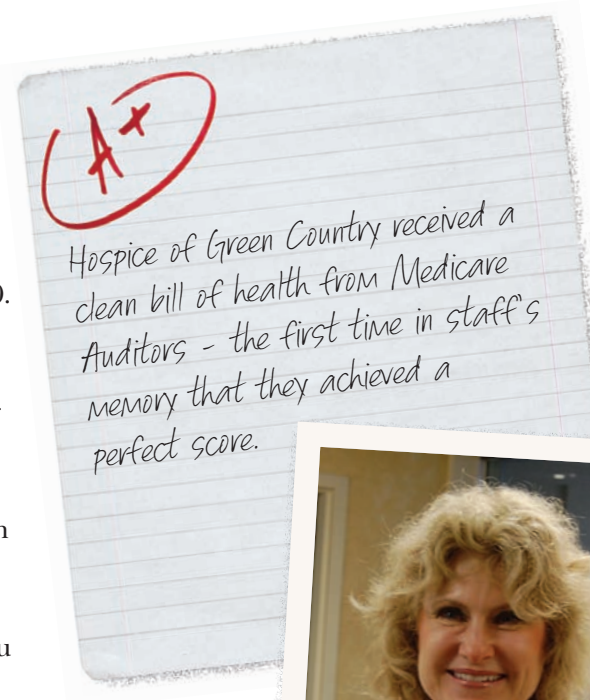
The Tulsa Area United Way has given Hospice of Green Country a CHALLENGE: for every new or lapsed donor who gives in 2012 and for every donor who increases their gift, they will match that gift dollar for dollar, up to \$50,000. THEN, an anonymous donor heard about the TAUW challenge and they issued a secondary matching CHALLENGE: they would also match the 2012 gifts dollar for dollar on top of the TAUW match.

AND SO, if you have never made a gift to Hospice of Green Country OR you haven't made a HGC gift in over a year OR you want to increase last year's gift 'cause this is such a great deal, now's the time. For every \$1 dollar you give, you will be tripling your impact.

\$3 for \$1

Help Us Meet the TAUW Challenge!
Go to www.hospiceofgreencountry.org
And click on

Donate



Dr. Dala Jarolim, the Tulsa Medical Director for Hospice of Green Country, was awarded the 2011 Hospice Medical Director of the Year award by the Oklahoma Hospice & Palliative Care Association. Congratulations, Dr. Jarolim!

HOSPICE OF GREEN COUNTRY SOCIAL WORKERS

Going above and beyond

All of the Hospice of Green Country staff members are known for going above and beyond in their work for the patients. Nurses respond to patients at 3 a.m., driving to their homes to alleviate their pain or reassure the family. Our hospice aides will climb into the shower fully clothed to calm and wash an agitated patient suffering from dementia so that patient will have the comfort of "clean" when they are helped back into bed. Medications are delivered at midnight so patients will be able to spend the night in comfort. The chaplains will stay with the family for endless hours when a patient is actively dying.

But no one goes the extra mile like the social workers. Hospice of Green Country social workers – Linn, Deb, and Leisa - are on a mission: to provide emotional, psychological, and spiritual support to the patients and their families. And, they help solve some tough physical and economic problems as well, even though their advice to themselves is, "you can't fix everything." That might mean working with the Dream Foundation to grant a patient's final wish, as complicated as a trip to Universal Studios or as simple as a new recliner; or helping a family negotiate the bureaucratic steps to get disability income or Medicaid; or working with landlords to prevent a patient's eviction; or negotiating with the Oklahoma prison system to grant a dying mother her last good-bye to her prisoner son.



They can almost remember every patient. The elderly woman who didn't have a caregiver in the home, whose pets were her family. When she went to Clarehouse, the Pet Peace of Mind (PPOM) program stepped in to care for her pets and to bring them to Clarehouse for visits. Her eyes would light up when the dogs walked in. She died knowing that her social worker and PPOM had found her "family" permanent loving homes. Or, Molly, estranged from her family, who hadn't seen her sons in years. Her social worker moved mountains and Molly was able to spend her last days with her boys, in peace and comfort. Or, Larry, the truck driver, who was given six months to live, but refused to succumb to his illness and continued to work. His social worker kept tabs on him until finally, he literally had to run his truck into the hospice office where he put himself on service.

Social workers seem to know at a young age what they want to do. Linn knew she wanted to be a social worker in the 5th grade when she heard the work described. Leisa was following the family business of "helping people" as well as paying it forward for all the help she got when navigating a troubled childhood. Deb came to social work through counseling and substance abuse prevention programs. All three cannot imagine doing anything else. Hospice of Green Country can't either.

PET PEACE OF MIND GOES THE EXTRA MILE All the way to Florida

At Hospice of Green Country (HGC), we believe quality care for our patients includes providing them with peace of mind in knowing that their pets are cared for when they are unable to do so physically and financially. The Pet Peace of Mind (PPOM) program was created to help patients who need assistance with their pets, as well as making sure the pet has a loving home after the patient's death.

He was quite the dog. Blind since birth, Ray Ray was a seven year-old Jack Russell Terrier who came to HGC when his owner, Keryn, was diagnosed with terminal cancer. Keryn and Ray Ray were inseparable and since the comfort the little dog provided was so evident each time our HGC team visited, the PPOM program was immediately activated. Over the next month, Keryn worked on compiling Ray Ray's story to share with potential adopters and the PPOM Program supplied Ray Ray with flea and tick prevention, special pet food and routine vaccinations.

As it turned out, Ray Ray's forever home was easy to find.

A dear friend of 17 years, Margie, came from Florida to visit and help take care of Keryn for a few weeks, but Margie changed her mind about leaving when she saw how much Keryn needed her. She knew her friend would probably last only a month more and that she was worried about her little blind dog. Margie decided to take Ray Ray back to Florida and provide him his new forever home. Keryn was so relieved knowing that Ray Ray would be well cared for and loved.

Keryn died in early January and after the memorial service, Margie started to plan to return to Florida with Ray Ray. She had no idea how she was going to be able to afford the transportation of the little dog, so the PPOM program stepped in.



In order for Ray Ray to travel by airplane, a trip to the veterinarian was required for a Pet Travel Certificate. Then he needed a crate for his eight hour flight home and because of his size, he would not be able to fly as a passenger, but instead he would have to ride in the belly of the airplane. It was going to be a great adventure for this little blind Jack Russell.

The fateful day came for the departure. A Pet Peace of Mind volunteer drove them to the airport and sat with Margie until the flight departed so she could help with Ray Ray. Margie called when they got home – Ray Ray was learning through his nose where everything was. It would take him just two days to be able to negotiate the house and the yard.

Margie knows he occasionally starts looking for Keryn, even in Florida. She gives him extra hugs and love on those days; she understands his loss. "I too loved Keryn deeply, she was my life. I can never thank Pet Peace of Mind and Hospice of Green Country enough for helping me get Ray Ray to Florida. It gives me great comfort to be able to have a little piece of Keryn come and give me a slobbery, stinky doggy kiss everyday!"

Oysters & Ale 2012

There were oysters almost as far as the eye could see, 2700 of them nestled in the ice on the beds built by volunteer extraordinaire, Steve Spinharney. It took a crew of ten more than four hours to shuck them all and a crowd of 202 to finish them off! Folks said they were the best oysters they had eaten in a long, long time. A very special thank you to our Partnering Sponsor, Bodean Seafood Restaurant & Market and Executive Chef Tim Richards, and to all our food and beer partners, Marshall's Brewing Company, Mustang Brewing Company, Choc Beer, Anheuser Busch Crafted Beers, Allison Cotner and Charleston's for the great salad, and Judy Hyde at The Creative Crumb for the amazing cake bites. Thanks also to the music of Quasimodo.



*Out four young Oysters hurried up,
All eager for the treat:
Their coats were brushed, their faces washed,
Their shoes were clean and neat –
And this was odd, because, you know,
They hadn't any feet.*

*Four other Oysters followed them,
And yet another four;
And thick and fast they came at last,
And more, and more, and more –
All hopping through the frothy waves
And scrambling to the shore.*

– LEWIS CARROLL

The \$33,860 raised from this event will support HGC's mission of providing compassionate, high quality care to the terminally ill and their families without regard to their ability to pay. Our deepest thanks to Randi and Fred Wightman, our sponsor and patron chairs, and to the following patrons and sponsors, whose levels are named after varieties of oysters: Presenting Sponsor: Williams; Duxbury Pearl Sponsors: Allied Home Health, Phyllis and Steve Anderson, and The Stuart Family Foundation; Lady Chatterley Sponsors: Debbie L. Blackwell, Bryan Close, Ann Graves, Hall Estill Law Firm, James & Associates, Leaders Life Insurance Company, Rolling Hills Care Center, The Ross Charitable Foundation, and Dorothy and Michael Tramontana; Beausoleil Sponsors: Janice and Jack L. Alexander, Polly and Don Hamilton, Ruth K. Nelson, and KWGS FM 89.5 "Business World;" and the Wellfleet Bay Sponsors: The Burrows Agency, Estate Planning Law Center, Moore Funeral Homes, Oxford Healthcare, Kathryn Offermann, Amy and Darrell Pulliam, and Tom Young.