

Songs of inspiration and faith

The Albany General Hospital Foundation has scheduled a benefit concert for the Samaritan Evergreen Hospice House on Friday, June 3 at 7 p.m. The concert, Songs of Inspiration and Faith, will be hosted at St. Mary's Church in Albany and features local talents Georgiana Rodriguez and Nancy Higgins.

Tickets are \$10 in advance and \$12 at the door.

For more information, please call the Albany General Hospital Foundation at (541) 812-4819.



Hospice House Tally as of Feb. 28, 2011: \$2,685,793 raised for a building goal of \$4.33 million, or 62 percent

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The Journey

News from Samaritan Evergreen Hospice

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Spring 2011 issue:

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"Hospice made all the difference in the world for those early, transitional and last difficult days. Thank you Evergreen Hospice staff for your kind, dedicated caring."

LB – Benton County

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Hospice house offers rare opportunity for designer

Jeffrey Prokop worked as a CPA for several years before deciding to pursue his lifelong interest in architecture and design. He returned to school, earned a degree in interior design, and spent many years with a Portland firm serving clients around the country. Now heading up his own firm, JProkop Design in Lake Oswego, he has an opportunity to make a lasting contribution in his hometown of Albany, designing the interior of the new hospice house.

The project is a labor of love for Prokop, whose mother, JoAnn, co-founded Evergreen Hospice with Julie Weis-Womack 26 years ago. His grandmother was the inspiration for the hospice program, as there was no such service nearby at a time when she needed it.

"I feel privileged to help with the realization of my mother's vision, so it falls upon me to make it something she would be proud of," said Prokop.

"The hospice house needs to be a place where patients and their families feel comfortable and at home," said Prokop. "Each room will have expansive views out to a private patio and there will be natural light, hardwood floors and a style of furnishings more like what you would have at home."

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Jeff Prokop, Interior designer

Rare opportunity for designer continued...

He said the sofas, chairs and beds in patient rooms will be covered with residential-style upholstery and bedspreads with throw pillows in interesting fabrics. Floor and table lamps will provide most of the lighting instead of ceiling lights, and TVs will be housed inside armoires. The rooms and hallways will feature art that appeals to a variety of tastes.

“It’s a fun challenge; I love it,” says Prokop, who is now working on the plan for the chapel. He is considering artist-designed cast glass for the windows, which would lend an ethereal feel to the room.

The chapel will be a contemplative space, according to Prokop. Chairs and rugs will be available to suit individual needs, and light will wash down the walls from recessed ceiling wells. His idea is to create an area where people can feel “a moment of grace in the midst of whatever they might be dealing with.”

Each patient room will look out to a garden space, and part of the property is a wetland, which Prokop believes will bring birds and other natural elements into view.

Dream team stars two Albany hospice physicians

The Oregon Hospice Association (OHA) names a “Hospice Dream Team” annually. The OHA honor recognizes hospice and palliative care professionals who exemplify the best in their discipline. This year’s ‘Dream Team’ included two key physicians of Samaritan Evergreen Hospice: Jeffery Lear, MD, and Takiko May, MD. Lear is the medical director for Evergreen and May is the assistant medical director and a leader in palliative care at Samaritan Albany General Hospital.

“When we say to Oregonians and their families who near the end of their lives, ‘We are here for you’, these are the people we mean. The dedicated individuals on the Hospice Dream Team represent hospice workers across the state who deliver care when we need it the most,” said Deborah Whiting Jaques, Executive Director and CEO of the Oregon Hospice Association.

Jaques helped to kick off the campaign to build a mid-valley hospice facility when she was the guest speaker at an Albany luncheon in May 2010. She praised Samaritan Health Services, as well as mid-valley residents, for stepping up to create the third such facility in Oregon.



Jeffery Lear, MD



Takiko May, MD

“It speaks volumes when communities join together to make this kind of commitment in helping people,” Jaques said. “Hospice is about providing highly specialized care, saving precious family resources and going above and beyond quality-of-life expectations.”

A touching gift for the hospice house



Sinthea Hunt, RN, LMT

The healing power of touch is a major focus in Sinthea Hunt's life. She works weekends as a nurse for Samaritan Evergreen Hospice and during the week as a massage therapist at her office in the Albany Massage Center. She has two children with spina bifida, and she travels to Mexico twice a year to volunteer in a pediatric rehabilitation center teaching massage techniques.

"I can't imagine doing anything else," says Hunt, "Because this work touches my heart and teaches me something new every day."

In nursing school she wanted to be a labor and delivery nurse until she began working in long-term care at Mercy Medical Center in Roseburg eight years ago. There, she had a life-changing experience while caring for a woman with cancer.

"This woman was close to death and unresponsive, yet her daughter climbed in the hospital bed with her and manicured her nails, talking with her the whole time," said Hunt. "The young woman truly was comfortable with her mom at that delicate stage of life, and the whole scenario had a big impact on me."

"Now, I'm glowing with pride about what Oregon is doing as a hospice leader and what this community is doing to create a hospice house where patients can get the very best care should be at home at this time in their life not be an option," she said. "I know from experience how relieved families will be to have that option."

In Hunt's massage practice, called The H'Art of Giving, she uses a method that benefits circulation, reduces stress, and relieves muscle aches and pains. Because of her desire to support the hospice house campaign, she decided to donate half of her massage earnings for an entire month to the cause. Swamped with people wanting to support her efforts, she recruited two other massage therapists – Debbie Burchfiel and Karissa Boyce – to work with her. They, too, donated a portion of their earnings to the hospice house.

Bruce Madsen, MD, ophthalmologist at Samaritan Albany General Hospital, learned of her fundraising project and hired her and her colleagues to give chair massages to his staff. Sinthea's portion alone brought in \$360 to the campaign.

"I wanted to support the hospice house because it will provide a wonderful service to our community, and it will give caregivers like me a chance to do what we love," she said.

Interested in a presentation to your club or church?

Volunteers with the Albany General Hospital Foundation, as well as hospice and foundation staff, would be delighted to bring the hospice house story to your group. Architectural drawings, service overviews and up-to-date information is available to groups of any size in any community.

We are excited to share the good news about hospice in the mid-valley.

For more information or to set up an appointment, contact Kim Sass at (541) 812-4705 or ksass@samhealth.org.



A gift that gives back

There are many opportunities to donate for the proposed hospice house in Albany, and possibly realize significant tax and income benefits at the same time.

The \$4.33 million-campaign is being conducted by the Albany General Hospital Foundation with support from both the Good Samaritan Hospital and the Lebanon Community Hospital Foundations.

“Donations of any amount are welcome, and donations right now time of year could make a big difference to both the project and the donors,” said Kim Sass, Director of the Albany General Hospital Foundation.

The campaign offers naming opportunities to recognize an individual donor, loved one, family or enterprise. The inpatient facility can be named for \$1 million; patient rooms for \$75,000 (there are seven left); one ‘day room’ remains at \$65,000; consultation rooms for \$50,000 and patios adjoining patient rooms for \$25,000.

Following are ways to benefit from giving. As always, the specific tax implications of different gifts will vary for each donor. Be sure to consult with your tax advisor as part of your decision-making process.

Cash: Contributions will be tax deductible this year. Charitable gifts of over 50-percent of gross income may be carried for up to five additional years for tax purposes.

Charitable Remainder Trust: This makes it possible to convert a low-yield stock investment into a stable source of personal income, avoid capital gains tax, secure a sizable tax deduction, and make a major charitable gift to the hospice house.

Life Income: Life income gifts provide regular income for the rest of a donor’s life through a planned gift. The donor may also get a tax deduction.

Life Insurance: Naming the hospice house as a beneficiary of a life insurance policy may entitle the donor to a tax deduction.

Real Estate: Donating property may allow the donor to claim a tax deduction, avoid capital gains tax, and remove the property from a taxable estate. The donor may also transfer the property to the foundation and continue to use it for life.

Securities: Donating stock that has increased in value may entitle the donor to avoid capital gains tax and receive a tax deduction. Mutual fund donations offer the same tax advantages.

To plan your gift to the new hospice house, please contact the AGH Foundation at (541) 812-4705.



Generosity lives on through major gift

Ronald Schuman, born in 1920 in Shedd, is remembered as the hard-working owner of the Tangent Garage. He served in the U.S. Navy during World War II and came home to manage the garage for the next 55 years. In 1999, he was diagnosed with kidney disease and spent the next nine years on dialysis. He died at age 88 in 2008.

“He was a real character,” said Kathy Holdren, one of Schuman’s nieces. Up until he was 75 years old, he worked long days in the garage. “But afterward, he always enjoyed a cold beer and a good joke,” she said.

Holdren and another niece, Brenda Hanson, called him Uncle Bus. They can’t remember where he got the nickname, but his name lives on through his generosity and great memories. The nieces say Schuman lived a simple life, had a good sense of humor and was “as honest as the day is long.” He took the women to lunch where they enjoyed listening to his stories. One popular story was about getting run over by a Model T — twice!

“He was a good guy with a big heart,” Darlene Taylor, Schuman’s sister, said. “In his garage, he sometimes worked on people’s cars for free, just charging for the parts when he knew they didn’t have much money.”

One reason he worked so long, according to Holdren, was to pay his wife’s medical bills. Rheumatoid arthritis caused her to be hospitalized for long periods of time until her death in 1973. To repay Samaritan Albany General Hospital for its generous help with the medical care of his wife, Schuman left the hospital \$118,605 in his estate plan. The foundation board voted to allocate that money to the hospice house in Albany, which could not please the nieces more. A plaque with his name on it will hang at the new facility, scheduled for groundbreaking this year.

“That is what he would have wanted,” said Hanson.

“Uncle Bus would be really happy about this decision.”



Ronald Schuman

“We always had fun camping and fishing with Uncle Bus. It didn’t surprise us that he was generous even after his life was over.”

Nieces Kat & Brenda