

The Journey

News from Samaritan Evergreen Hospice

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Late summer 2011 issue:

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"The everyday kindness of the back roads more than makes up for the agony of the headlines."

Charles Kuralt

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www.samhealth.org/hospicehouse

Samaritan Evergreen Hospice House groundbreaking ceremony

This project is taking flight!

Wednesday, Aug. 31, 2011
at 4 p.m.
4600 Evergreen Place SE,
Albany



Ryan McAlister, project manager for the hospice house from T. Gerding Construction Co. and daughters (from left to right) Grace, Quinn and Elle; Dan Bates, Project Superintendent, T. Gerding Construction Co. and Al Sullivan, President, Alton Sullivan Construction, Inc.

The hospice house property is located off of Waverly Drive at Del Rio Avenue SE. Please park at South Albany High School, 36th and Waverly, near the community pool - look for directional signs. A complimentary trolley ride will be provided to the hospice house building site.

Please RSVP by phone or email: (541) 812-4819 or jyonemur@samhealth.org.

After eight years of dreaming and planning, the Albany General Hospital Foundation Board of Directors warmly invites you to share in our celebration to ceremoniously begin the construction of a 12-bed inpatient hospice facility.

There can be only six hospice houses in Oregon, and this one will serve our region with the kind of compassionate care that has become the hallmark of Samaritan Evergreen Hospice over the past 27 years.

Because of your generosity and support, we hope you can join us.

A letter from a special donor: This is my way of helping out

Several years ago my niece was getting married. She had problems finding a minister to perform the ceremony so a co-worker suggested that I could go online to obtain a ministerial ordination.

While I didn't officiate at my niece's wedding, I did get ordained because I was so interested.

About two years later a friend asked me to perform her wedding. Because we were so close, I even wrote an original ceremony for her. On a very cold February day I traveled to Idaho on the train, with the bride's frozen four-tiered wedding cake on my lap, along with her mom and future mother-in-law. My first official service was wonderful and performed outside in the snow!

Consequently I have used that same ritual in one form or another for all the weddings I'm involved in. I think that because it was written with such love that it speaks to many couples.

Frankly, the whole wedding business just started out by word of mouth. First my friends referred me to people they knew and then the couples I had married started referring their friends to me. Now the manager at the Albany Eagles recommends me when weddings are booked.

I've had a hard time charging for these events. For family and friends I don't charge at all, and for strangers it is difficult to set a fee for something I so enjoy doing.

In 2008 when the economy affected charitable giving, I was brainstorming to try to find new ways to raise funds for the charities that our Eagle's Auxiliary supports. My idea was to ask engaged couples for a donation, instead of a fee, for the charity I selected. Since 2010 I have asked for donations for the hospice house.

I easily made \$300 in less than a year and the Eagle's Auxiliary has chipped in some more from their general charity fund to reach a goal of \$570.

Death is a part of life. It touches everyone. I've made a commitment to put all the wedding money toward the hospice house. And I'll keep doing that. This is just my little way of helping out.

- Teresa King, Lebanon resident

F.O.E. Ladies Auxiliary #2255 member, Albany



T. Gerding Construction Co. awarded hospice house project

In accepting responsibility for raising funds for the hospice house the Albany General Hospital Foundation Board of Directors also articulated its goal to make this project a “local stimulus.”

Because Evergreen is the only Samaritan-affiliated hospice in Linn and Benton counties, the foundation board directed the architectural/construction committee to identify a mid-valley general contractor and to work with local sub-contractors whenever possible.

“We were impressed with T. Gerding’s commitment to the communities where their employees live and work. Their track record made them the clear choice for our committee,” said Irene Coburn, a member of the foundation’s board of directors and a retired electrical contractor.

T. Gerding of Corvallis has an extensive history of health care construction in addition to working with non-profit organizations. Coburn said T. Gerding demonstrated its ability to manage special governmental requirements for non-profits, has coordinated projects with volunteer committees and successfully identified in-kind donations vital to projects like the donor supported hospice house.

Coburn says the relationship is going well and the committee is pleased with T. Gerding’s Healthcare Project Manager Ryan McAlister. “We had a special call to potential local sub-contractors in June to ask if they would bid as well as contribute to this project,” she said. “We are excited by their enthusiastic response.”

Construction signs will be posted on the site over the coming months to recognize contributions from the mid-valley construction industry. “I hope that the community will take the time to acknowledge and thank those who are giving in this way,” she said.



Ground preparation began in July on the hospice house site. Alton E. Sullivan Construction is preparing the foundation for the facility. T. Gerding is the general contractor with Dan Bates serving as T. Gerding’s project superintendent.

In gratitude for these gifts-in-kind as of July 31 from these construction partners:

- Alton E. Sullivan Construction, Lebanon
- Best Pots, Inc., Albany
- Crop Production Services, Tangent
- Oasis Fences, Sweet Home
- Santiam Spray Services, Inc., Sweet Home
- Stutzman Services, Inc., Albany
- Udell Engineering, Lebanon
- Young & Wieprecht Architecture, Salem
- Allied Waste Services, Albany and Lebanon
- J & J Electric, Albany
- David Johnson, Corvallis
- Linn County Fair & Expo Board of Directors

Ann and Bill Swindells Charitable Trust makes major gift

In keeping with its mission of improving the quality of life of Oregonians, the Ann and Bill Swindells Charitable Trust donated \$50,000 to the Samaritan Evergreen Hospice House.

“This is a significant boost to the project, and we deeply appreciate the Swindells’ gift,” said Jim Decker, a director on the board of the Albany General Hospital Foundation.

“The Swindells family devoted their professional life to natural resources, principally in timber businesses in the Pacific Northwest and southern United States through the company known as Willamette Industries,” he said.

The trust was established in 1999. Samaritan affiliated foundations in Lebanon and Lincoln City have received major gifts for their education efforts in Lincoln and Linn counties.

Shuffling the deck for hospice

Marilyn Barclay appreciates the warmth and comfort of a quilt, so the idea to support the hospice house campaign with a quilt raffle came naturally to her.

Barclay manages cardiopulmonary and neurodiagnostic services for Samaritan Albany General Hospital. She and internal medicine specialist Lynn Bentson, MD, took quilting classes and decided to spearhead a group project to raise money for the campaign. They were especially excited by the possibility of doubling the contribution when they learned that a local philanthropist would match all donations for hospice, up to \$500,000.

Barclay and Bentson selected a playful quilt pattern with lively geometric designs called “card trick.” Their all health care workers quilting team included Elaine Dinsel, Gaye Chimenti, LeAnn Lee, Janet Kok, Milli Stevens, Patti Grill and Sharon Daniels.

Each quilter was given pieces of blue and green leaf fabric and asked to find blue and yellow fabric complementing these colors, then make squares. It took two months to make all the squares, and over the next three months the women sewed the squares together.

“It was much more complex than it looked,” said Barclay. “It took a lot of work and about \$500 worth of material.”



“Card Trick” patterned quilt was created by locally women employed in medicine for the hospice house.

After five months of sewing, Dinsel took the quilt to be professionally stitched and finished. Barclay made pillow covers and shams with the leftover fabric, so there will be a complete set for the raffle.

The raffle will be held on Monday, Oct. 31, at the hospital. You do not need to be present to win. Ticket purchases are not tax deductible. You must be 18 years or older to participate. For more information, or to buy \$5 raffle tickets, please call (541) 812-4819.

What a wonderful World

*I see trees of green, red roses too
I see them bloom, for me and you
And I think to myself
What a wonderful world*

*I see skies of blue, and clouds of white
The bright blessed day, dark sacred night
And I think to myself
What a wonderful world*

*The colors of the rainbow, so pretty in the sky
Are also on the faces, of people going by
I see friends shaking hands, sayin' "How do you do?"
They're really sayin', "I love you"*

*I hear babies cryin', I watch them grow
They'll learn much more, than I'll ever know
And I think to myself
What a wonderful world*

*Yes I think to myself
What a wonderful world*

Songwriters: George Weiss and George Douglas

*This song was celebrated and dedicated at the songs
of Inspiration and Faith benefit concert on June 3:*

Anne Cataraha	Lloyd Voss
Jerald Dunten & Anna Dunten Koskela	Ronald Walls
Jeanne Hazelton	Fred & Vera Walters
Matthew P. Higgins	Brad Warze
Jean & Chuck Oliver	Elise Webster
Joseph Sirl	

In honor of: Georgiana Rodriguez and Nancy Higgins

Special thanks to: Charles & Catherine Cooper, Charlene Dunten, David & Rachel Hagfeldt, Patrick Hazelton, Virginia Voss, George Webster, D. Craig & Bernadette Williams, Robert & Carol Delsman, Stephanie & Patrick Hagerty, DMD, Tom & Ann Higgins, Hughes Family, Anton & Lyndall Johnson, Stephen & Sharon Konopa, Patricia Lee, Louis & Marilyn Lehman, Christie McDowell, Jerry Raabe, Mary Ellen Salomone, Marcy Shelton, Michael Sirl, Ursula Tabor, Beth Walls, Clarence & Evonne Walls, Glenda Walls, Charlene Walters, GERALYN WARZE and Harry & JoAnn Yonemura.

Easing the journey with spiritual care

Because of the anxiety and fear that often comes with a terminal illness, hospice chaplains focus their efforts to help patients find acceptance and peace, according to Samaritan Evergreen Hospice Chaplain Virginia Brown.

"When others provide for their most basic needs, dying patients often begin to think they have nothing to offer," Brown said.

Brown and Evergreen Chaplains Debra Vanover and Capi Alexander help patients recognize their contributions, which can be as simple as sharing a smile, expressing gratitude, or offering wisdom and experience to those around them.

"We explore ways to find hope and happiness during this time," she said.

Chaplains are available to offer support but are careful not to impose their own beliefs on patients. A chaplain's task is to assist patients in finding what nourishes their own souls. This process can lead them to a place of acceptance and peace, according to Brown.

Brown became an "on-call" chaplain for Samaritan Albany General Hospital 10 years ago and continues to serve in that role. In addition, she has worked for the past eight years as part-time hospice chaplain. She describes the work as her calling, not just a vocation.

"It's a joy to be part of such a caring team, and I consider it a privilege to be a support person for patients and their families."

Wish List

Jeffrey Prokop, interior design coordinator for the hospice house, has identified several items that need to be purchased for the house. Below are some examples of items that your donation to the Hospice House Building Project could help fund:

- Lobby light fixture \$500 each, three total, \$1,500
- Family dining light fixture \$500 each, four total, \$2,000
- Custom cast glass window panels for chapel \$5,000 each, \$10,000 total
- Original framed art or photography for patient rooms Budgeted at \$1,000 each, two per room
- Exterior bicycle parking rack \$6,000
- Patios adjoining patient rooms \$25,000
- Other original framed art or photography for public spaces \$2,000 to \$3,000 each

There are still a handful of rooms to be adopted. All donations of \$5,000 or more will be honored on a donor wall; adopted rooms and gardens will have additional recognition opportunities. All donations are added to the foundation's Hospice House Building Project Fund. For more details please contact Kim Sass in the foundation office at (541) 812-4705.

As of June 30, 2011: \$2.13 Million Dollars has been raised to construct the Samaritan Evergreen Hospice House

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