



# Hospice of McDowell County, Inc.

**Volume 9**

**Number 3**

July—September 2001

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\*Serves in this position as a  
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## CORNERSTONES

Mark Wise, Executive Director

### PROVIDING CARE (Part 1 of a 3 Part Series)

Hospice of McDowell County's mission is to provide care, comfort, and support to the terminally ill and their caregivers in end-of-life situations.

Are you like most people when you read the above statement – reading the mission but not really thinking about it? Someone may respond, “It means what it says.” But what about breaking the mission down to see what is behind the surface statement. For example, what is “care”? Did you know that the word “care” actually has at least two very different definitions?

The first definition, according to the American Heritage Dictionary, means “mental distress and uncertainty; worry; mental suffering; grief.” I didn't realize this. I assume that the definition has something to do with the *cares* people face, in the varying degrees, when they, for example, consider the brevity of life. Facing life's limitations can cause care, worry, or mental anguish.

“How will this illness affect me?” “How will this affect my family?” “What are my treatment options?” “Will I have a little pain or a lot?” “I could die. Am I ready for that?” “Will someone be with me if that happens soon?” “When will it happen?” Not a lot of easy questions, and the answers are even more challenging.

The second definition of the word “care” is “Protection; to be concerned or interested.” This definition is more reflective of what we mean in the mission statement. Each day brings an opportunity for us to share with others our care and concern, and also our hope. As “care” givers we need to listen; be interested; show concern.

I trust people come to hospice because they believe we care. Many of those people have some challenging questions for us, but with God's guidance we can provide a listening ear and a message of hope. At hospice we want to provide protection, concern, and interest to those people who are facing the cares of this life. We don't have all of the answers to the difficult questions we're asked, but we do have experience and training in death and dying.

I trust as patients and families become more familiar with the people in the program, at least some of those cares will be alleviated. We can only ask for prayer and support in helping us make this happen.



## SOCIAL WORK NEWS

Mary Collier

### Social Work & Bereavement Coordinator

I would like to announce that Sherri McCoyle who has worked with us part-time has been hired as the new Social Work and Bereavement Assistant. Sherri will come on board August 20th. We look forward to her arrival.

Our Hospice library is in the process of expansion. We have recently purchased a credenza to enhance and organize our library. We want everyone to come by and see what videos and books we have available to check out, and free material for grieving families (such as Care notes and books for children). We have reading material for all ages. We are going to be placing some material in the local libraries for easier access to the community. The library has also made a special request for children and teen material.



## A WORD FROM OUR CHAPLAIN

STEVE DURHAM

It's been a busy summer so far, as our caseload continues to grow. But with more patients comes a greater opportunity to serve, and enjoy being able to come into their lives.

The Show Me Thy Faith program continues to go well, as I have been able to visit seven churches so far this year. If your church would like for me to come out and speak, feel free to call me.

Thanks to all the pastors who have opened the doors of their churches thus far, and the people who have volunteered to serve hospice out of those congregations. We still need more volunteers, male and female,

to meet the ever-growing need. Ask the Lord what he would have you to do.



## VOLUNTEER TRAINING

There will be two trainings coming up in the near future. The first one starts on Monday, August 13. The classes will meet from 9am-12pm for 3 weeks on Monday and Wednesday at the Hospice office. We especially need patient-care volunteers at this time. The second training will begin on Monday, September 10th and go to October 8th. We will meet only one time a week from 6-9 pm for people who can't come during the day. If you would like to volunteer, or know someone else who might like to volunteer, please call the office at 652-1318 and sign up. We would love to see you there!

## IN-SERVICE TRAINING

On Friday, September 7th, there will be a district wide in-service training in Asheville at the Beverly Hills Baptist Church. Barbara Karnes will be the speaker. She is an RN and a former Director of a Hospice in Kansas. The title of the workshop is "A Time To Live, A Time To Die". There will be more information sent to our volunteers in the next Volunteer Newsletter.



## WORDS OF THANKS FROM HOSPICE FAMILIES



We truly appreciate everything you did for our family and especially for my brother during his illness. We don't know what we would have done without you. \*

My children and I can't thank you enough for your kindness and caring of my husband through his sickness. We can never express the value of your kindness and help at this time. \*

I just want to let you know how much we appreciate each and everyone of you. He liked each of the girls that came, we couldn't pick one over the other, for they were all super. You have a good group, and you did a very good job! Thanks again and may God bless each of you!\*

My family and I are so grateful for allowing us to provide my mom with some of the best care on the planet! Each one of you contributed to this high standard of care, to which we are forever grateful. \*

## New Faces At Hospice

Over the last few months some new faces have appeared at Hospice. This is due to the resignation of four staff members due to various reasons: two people moved out of town, one advanced their career, and one wanted a change of pace. Shaun Boyd, social worker, resigned April 20<sup>th</sup>. He was offered a position as a licensed social worker and counselor in Asheville, working more along the lines of his qualifications and education. Debbie Marston, registered nurse, resigned May 15<sup>th</sup>. She began a job with The McDowell Hospital at Health Plus. Lisa McCurry, secretary, resigned June 15<sup>th</sup> due to moving to Mitchell County. She and her husband purchased a home and moved there in May of this year. Finally, Joyce Setchfield, volunteer coordinator, resigned on July 20<sup>th</sup>.

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Joyce and her husband John moved to High Point and both will be going overseas to France to do mission work. All four staff members have had a significant and positive impact on Hospice. We will miss them and we wish them the best.

Now let's welcome the new additions to our Hospice Family. Lara Johnson is the new Volunteer Coordinator. Her husband is Jeff, and they have two teenage daughters, Tiffany and Renee. They live in North Cove. She is very excited about her new job and is anxious to get started with new training for volunteers.

Mary Collier is our new Social Worker. She and her husband Stephen, have a 9 year old daughter, Brittany, and live in Morganton. She has a Bachelor of Social Work degree and is working on her Masters in Counseling at Lenoir-Rhyne College. She has jumped into this job with both feet running. She is maintaining the admissions, bereavement, and making home visits as fast as she can. She is doing a great job!

Judy Wilson is our new RN. She lives in Glenwood with her husband, Gary. She has one daughter, Christy Cloer, who lives in Morganton with her family. She came to us from McDowell Home Health. She has been working with us as a PRN nurse for the past 1 1/2 years. She already knows the ropes, and that helps out a lot! She is a great addition to our group.

Jo Bartlett is our new secretary. She and her husband, Ricky, have 2 children, an 18 year old son, Seth, and a 3 year old daughter, Sophie. She came to us from Universal Furniture. She has been working hard to figure out all of our reports and helping out with everything she can. We are very happy she decided to join us.

If you see any of our new staff members out and about, please welcome them.

## PATIENT CARE SERVICES

Deanna MacLaren,  
RN, Patient Care Coordinator

In the past six months Hospice's nursing staff has continued to grow. Our patient load has doubled and with that comes more work and longer hours. We are looking to hire two more part time RNs. If you know anyone who might be interested please let him or her know we are hiring. They can come by the office or call for an interview. We hope to fill these positions by the end of July. We also need nurses who are looking for a few extra hours that could fill in when regular nurses are out sick or on vacation. They could also sit with patients when we need someone to help with continuous care. We currently have 26 patients. 11 are males. 15 are females. Their ages range from 43 to 96 years old. Only 9 of these have Cancer Diagnosis. We are seeing the same trend, as other Hospices are, the increase in Non-Cancer Diagnosis patients and a decrease in Cancer Diagnosis patients. We know this is not because of a decrease in cancer being diagnosed. It might be because people are being offered more options of cancer treatment for longer periods of time. As medicine has advanced through the years people have seen an increase in the average life expectancy. With the longer lifespan came the necessity of treating diseases long term. For example: there is no cure for diabetes, heart disease

or emphysema. People are living longer with more complications because there are new medicines and equipment to prolong their life. These patients can have good quality days for even years at a time. Once they have to start going to the hospital frequently, or they are at home in bed most of the time, they start to question if they are still living or just existing. Quantity does not always mean quality.

Hospice can be very helpful to these patients and their families. It can allow them to use the time they have left to prepare for their final days. We take nine months to prepare for new babies coming into our families and we should take the same outlook in preparing for our last days as well. Those last months can be spent doing things with their family at home, instead of weekly visits to doctor offices and hospitals. Since there is no cure that can be given, comfort is the focus.

We are glad that the medical community is starting to see the need for more Hospice care, as our population is requiring more End of Life care and decision-making. We are happy to be able to help our community in caring for their loved ones.

## IN THE SPOTLIGHT

### MEMBERS OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

**Jim Isaacs**, joined the Board of Directors in 2000, serves as Treasurer and is a member of the Personnel and Finance Committee. Professionally, he works in the Accounting Department at Tom Johnson's Camping Center. He attends St. John's Episcopal Church. He and his wife Nan are the parents of a twelve-year-old daughter, Megan.

**Connie Martin** became a member of the Board of Directors in 1996 and serves on the Fund-Raising Committee. She teaches sixth grade at West Marion Elementary School. She attends Addie's Chapel UMC and is the secretary, sings in the choir and teaches Sunday school. She and her husband Billy have an adult son, Rashan, who lives in Pittsburg, daughter, Reesheda, who lives in Marion, and two grandchildren.

**Sharon Smith** joined the Board of Directors in 1996. She currently serves on the board as Vice-President, the Executive Committee, and Fund Raising Committee and assists with the spaghetti fund raising events. She has been the Director of Library Services at McDowell Technical Community College for 29 years. She is very involved with the 1<sup>st</sup> United Methodist Church. She is an honorary lifetime member of MACA and Foothills Community Theatre. She helped start the original Mountain Glory Festival.

*Each of these volunteers bring a special perspective to Hospice, and we are grateful for their service.*

### ADDRESS REMINDER

Everyone please check your address on the front of the newsletter. If it is incorrect please call or send us your new mailing address so we can update our files. Also, if you are receiving this newsletter and do not wish to receive it anymore, please let the office know so we can remove you from our mailing list.



Hospice of McDowell County, Inc.  
218 Logan Street  
Marion, NC 28752

Phone: 828-652-1318  
Fax: 828-659-1631

We are on the web at  
[www.hospiceofmcdowell.org](http://www.hospiceofmcdowell.org)

A **Memorial** gift is given by individuals, churches, businesses, and families to honor a loved one at the time of death.

An **Honorary** gift is given to recognize a special friend, co-worker, or family member, as well as express support to Hospice.

Please note: When a gift is given to Hospice, we mail a receipt to the donor, we list the donor=s name in our newsletter, and we send an acknowledgment to the family of the individual being honored or remembered.

We make every effort to ensure the information is correct before listing it in the newsletter. However, if you feel an error has been made, please contact us.

Your financial support allows our Hospice to continue providing quality hospice care to all residents of McDowell County regardless of ability to pay.

**Hospice of McDowell County does not discriminate on the basis of age, gender, national origin, race, creed, disability, or ability to pay.**

**Financial information about this organization and a copy of its license are available from the State Solicitation Licensing Branch at 1-888-830-4989. The license is not an endorsement by the State.**

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Please make checks payable to Hospice of McDowell County and mail this form to Hospice of McDowell County, 218 Logan Street, Marion, NC 28752