



Sarita and Bob Hixon to be Honored at the Spirit Award Dinner in November

The 12th Annual Houston Hospice Spirit Award Dinner is Tuesday, November 9, 2010 at the River Oaks Country Club, 1611 River Oaks Blvd., Houston, Texas 77019. The Laura Lee Blanton Community Spirit Award will be presented to Sarita and Bob Hixon for their enthusiastic and selfless support of worthwhile causes in the Houston community. This prestigious event is chaired by Carol and H. Richard Walton and begins at 6 P.M. with a reception, and dinner will be served at 7:15 P.M. Costs of table sponsorships range from \$2,500 to \$25,000 with individual tickets from \$250 to \$1,500. Proceeds from this event help Houston Hospice to continue providing uncompromising, compassionate end-of-life care to patients



2010 Laura Lee Blanton Community Spirit Award honorees Sarita and Bob Hixon

and families in our community. Sarita and Bob Hixon have been giving back to the Houston community for many years. They have been active in the Texas Historical Commission, San Jacinto Museum of History Association, San Jacinto Historical Advisory Board,

Texas State Historical Association, Alley Theater, Friends of Communities in Schools, Contemporary Arts Museum, Chinquapin School, Retina Research Foundation and Houston Hospice. Sarita is currently Kenedy County Commissioner and Bob is Chairman of John L. Wortham & Son, L.P.

The Laura Lee Blanton Community Spirit Award recognizes qualities of leadership, continuous commitment to a range of charitable causes and financial, as well as hands-on support to organizations so critical to our society today. We invite you to be a part of our tradition of giving. Please contact Cynthia Nordt at 713-677-7123 or e-mail her at cnordt@houstonhospice.org for information.

“I don’t know where to start”

We want to share with you an expression of appreciation written to the staff of Houston Hospice by a family member of an individual who was cared for in the Patient Care Center. A portion of the letter reads as follows:
“Gosh, I don’t know where to start in thanking all of you for such a superb job in taking care of my father, Thomas J. Kinser. My father was amazed at the

delightful accommodations, warm and caring staff, prompt food services (both for him and our visitors), the volunteers who sat and comforted my father and the excellent nurses and doctors! Security was professional and also caring. The doctors and nurses continuously kept me up to date with my father’s conditions. Social workers went beyond the call of duty to assist me and ensure my father had the best of everything.

I will never forget my Dad’s first words after being transported from St. Luke’s Hospital ... , “Tim, we’re Cadillacan now!”
As promised, I have started on the watercolor painting including the doves and my interpretation of your wonderful facility. It’s a wonderful piece.
Thank you everybody for an excellent job well done!
Tim Kinser
w/c artist

Newsletter

2011 Quilt Raffle – Another Way to Travel to the South of Provence Purchase a Ticket to Win!

Once again, the volunteers give their time and talent to the Houston Hospice quilt – a labor of love – planning, designing, embroidering and quilting a beautiful quilt being raffled off to support Houston Hospice services. The 2011 theme for the quilt is “Hospice Garden – A to Z”. The entire quilt is hand made and filled with compassion and love. Its design includes the flowers that were hand painted on note cards by Houston Hospice volunteers since 1984. This project was led by quilting experts Mona Follis, Lill Hathorn, Margaret Caddy and Margie Urrabazo who spent countless hours putting together the individual blocks that were embroidered by an additional 20 other volunteer quilters. Jane Plisga of Katy, Texas completed the quilt with her expert quilting talent.

The 2011 “Hospice Garden – A to Z” quilt drawing will be held at the Butterfly Luncheon Wednesday, April 20, 2011 from 11 a.m. – 1 p.m. The proceeds of each raffle ticket help Houston Hospice continue to provide uncompromising, compassionate, end-of-life care to patients and families in our community. If you would like to purchase raffle tickets,



Left to right: Volunteer quilters Lill Hathorn, Mona Follis, Margie Urrabazo and Margaret Caddy

please contact Annette Moore at amoore@houstonhospice.org or call 713-677-7130.

30 Years of Care

This year we are celebrating 30 years of end-of-life service to the people in our community. Words cannot express our appreciation for your faithful generosity in support of the many caring programs we have provided during this period without regard to the patients’ ethnicity, beliefs or ability to pay. Your tax deductible contribution sent in the enclosed response envelope may well be the most meaningful and thoughtful 30-year anniversary gift you could give to Houston Hospice.

Letter from the President

Dear Friends of Houston Hospice,



Hospice is fairly new to the health care industry. In our great-grandparents’ time, birth and death were commonplace in the family home and accepted as natural events. With time and the advance of medicine, birth and death were transplanted to a new and sometimes strange environment.

In the 1960s, as medical science was discovering dramatic new ways to combat disease and save lives, a handful of people in Europe and the U.S. were looking at how to help people at the end of life. The British physician, Dr. Cicely Saunders and Swiss born Dr. Elizabeth Kubler-Ross, who also was an American citizen, brought holistic hospice care to the public and showed how it enhances the quality of life of terminally ill patients. An important component of hospice care is appropriate pain management. They came to believe and teach that “We do not have to cure to heal.”

The first hospice in America, the Connecticut Hospice, opened in 1974. In the early 1980s, Congress created legislation establishing Medicare coverage hospice care. The Medicare Hospice Benefit was made permanent in 1986. Today, most states also provide hospice Medicaid coverage.

Houston Hospice was there in the beginning, established in 1980 – prior to the Medicare and Medicaid benefits. Less than a handful of caring and compassionate women, with health care training, started the grassroots organization now known as Houston Hospice. In 30 years many changes have taken place, however, our mission remains the same: Provide uncompromising, compassionate end-of-life care to patients and families in our community.

Best regards,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Jim Faucett".

Jim Faucett

The Thrift Shop – Houston Hospice Serving the Community



The Thrift Shop is a project of the Episcopal Church Women of St. Christopher's Episcopal Church. It all began in 1961 with the leftovers from a rummage sale held on Saturday at the church. In 1999 Houston Hospice joined St. Christopher's to increase the efforts to help our community. Donations of clothing, household goods, toys

and furniture are accepted and, in turn, are sold to the community. It is staffed by an incredible group of dedicated volunteers who are proud to help the community. The Thrift Shop is located at 1650 Blalock, Houston, Texas 77055 in the Spring Branch area and is open from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Tuesday through Saturday. Shoppers, volunteers and donations are always welcome!



Your Houston Hospice Team

Every patient and his or her family have an interdisciplinary team made up of six members. The Houston Hospice care team brings services directly to the patients at home, residential facilities and hospitals throughout our service area, including the Houston community and the surrounding 10 counties. Inpatient care is also delivered at Houston Hospice's Patient Care Center located in the Texas Medical Center. The team consists of the following professionals:

NURSE

- Will routinely assess patient's symptoms and treatment
- An expert in pain and symptom management
- Educates patients and caregivers
- Your main contact to meet your needs
- A nurse is available to you 24 hours, 7 days a week to make home visits when necessary

HOSPICE PHYSICIAN

- Works as a consultant with your physician to assess and treat pain and symptoms; or may act as your primary physician, according to your and your doctor's preferences
- Routinely reviews the patient's plan of care to ensure quality care
- Able to make home visits if necessary
- Responds immediately to Houston Hospice nurses when needed

SOCIAL WORKER

- Provides support to reduce emotional and social stress
- Offers expertise in community resources for patients and caregivers
- Assists with advance directives and final arrangements



Left to right: Kathy Flinn, Patient Care Manager; Dr. Thuy Hahn Trinh; Betty Phillips, CNA; Linda McCullough, RN and Anne Dare, Social Worker

CHAPLAIN

- Offers support to patients and families
- Available to bring religious services to patients who are unable to attend church or synagogue
- Provides family/loved ones with bereavement and grief counseling

HOSPICE AIDE

- Provides personal care, such as bathing and hygiene care

VOLUNTEER

- Offers the gift of time and companionship
- Available to play cards, write letters, etc.
- Available to sit with patient to allow caregivers time for themselves

Additional Hospice Services

Bereavement Support Groups

Houston Hospice provides several support groups for families and friends during the grief process. If you are interested in attending one of them in the Houston area please call Liz Williams at 713-677-7100.

Volunteer Training

25-hour volunteer training sessions are held several times each year. For information call Ruth Landauer at 713-677-7120 or e-mail rlandauer@houstonhospice.org.

If you would like to opt out of receiving the Newsletter please notify us by e-mail to sshrum@houstonhospice.org.

Please visit www.houstonhospice.org to view our calendar of all activities.



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Houston Hospice is a member of the Texas Medical Center

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Mission Statement

Houston Hospice provides uncompromising, compassionate end-of-life care to patients and families in our community.

Through the efforts of specially trained and highly skilled interdisciplinary teams of health care professionals and volunteers, Houston Hospice patients and their families are guided through the process of illness, by receiving clinical care, psychosocial support, spiritual guidance and volunteer assistance.

Neighbor to Neighbor Kroger and Randalls

Anyone and everyone who shops at Kroger or Randalls can become a “good neighbor.” When using your Kroger or Randalls cards a percentage of your purchase could be donated to Houston Hospice. It is an easy and convenient way to contribute to the services that Houston Hospice provides.

First, the Kroger program – to participate in the Neighbor to Neighbor Kroger program, take this newsletter with the barcode for Houston Hospice printed right below with you the next time you go shopping.

Present the newsletter (or just the barcode) to the cashier upon check-out. After they scan your KrogerPlus Card you will be enrolled for the current year of this program and it will be active for the remainder of the year.



Second, Randalls Good Neighbor program – you can go to www.randalls.com and complete their form online, or when you are shopping go to the Courtesy Booth and tell them you would like to contribute to Charity # 2278 Houston Hospice through the Good Neighbor program with your Remarkable Card.

If you have any questions about either of these programs, call Annette Moore at 713-677-7130 or e-mail amoore@houstonhospice.org.