

HIGH DESERT HOSPICE

"OUR CARE SPEAKS FOR ITSELF"

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HIGH DESERT HOSPICE

HDH News & Notes

# Welcome To HDH News & Notes

High Desert Hospice is pleased to be celebrating our 5<sup>th</sup> Anniversary and as part of the celebration, we will begin publishing a quarterly newsletter.

Publishing a newsletter was suggested at a monthly staff meeting. When asked why we should publish a newsletter, the response was to let everyone know who we are, to provide information on hospice and caregiving, to aid in volunteer recruiting and educate the public on end-of-life issues.

So welcome to our first edition. We hope you enjoy it and welcome your suggestions.

## Who We Are

We would like to give you a little insight into our company. Barbara Bryson RN, the principle owner of High Desert Hospice, was raised in Klamath Falls and attended Riverside School, Klamath Union High School and OIT, where she received her bachelor's degree in Nursing. After working for Klamath County at the Health Department and at the jail, she took care of her mother with the help of Klamath Hospice. Barb knew that hospice care was the kind of nursing she wanted to do and worked in hospice care for several years before leaving to start her own hospice with another nurse and with the support of her father, Ed Mason. Her mother-in-law, Lynda Bryson

eventually became part-owner of High Desert Hospice also.

As a family owned business in Klamath County, we provide jobs and benefits for 14 employees. We have cared for 504 patients and their families in the past 5 years and provided 298 days of hospice care to patients without any insurance.

Because we are not a non-profit, we do not do fundraising, write grants or ask the community for donations. Instead, we support the community through donations and support for many organizations including the food bank, OIT athletics, Kiger Stadium, Little League, VFW, Klamath Hospice's Camp Evergreen, Boy and Girl Scouts,

Oregon Air National Guard, city and county schools, Triad School, the Red Cross and many others.

When we receive donations from families and friends of patients, the money goes into a special benevolent fund. This money allows us to help hospice families with expenses outside the realm of normal hospice care.

Most of the patients who come to High Desert Hospice have been referred by families and friends of patients we have cared for in the past. That is why we say "our care speaks for itself".

## 5th Anniversary Celebration BBQ



Please be our guest on Saturday, May 22<sup>nd</sup> from 11:00 am to 3:00 pm for an open house and barbecue lunch to celebrate our 5<sup>th</sup> year of serving Klamath County. Chow down on barbecue prepared by Ed and Ed, tour our offices and meet our staff and volunteers. We will also have entertainment and door prizes.

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### Our Mission Statement

Our mission is to provide superior and compassionate care to our patients and their loved ones, so that they may complete their journey on this earth in comfort, dignity and harmony.

# Good Grief Roundup

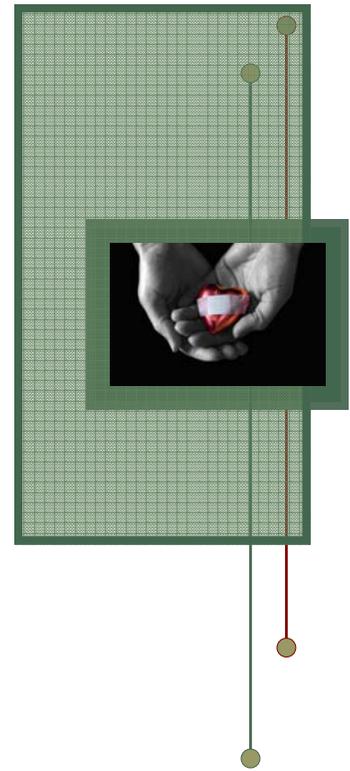
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This is the first newsletter so I will just do an invitation to any of you who have lost a loved one and are having a hard time adjusting to life without him/her. I would invite you to come to our support group on Wednesday evening from 5:30 to 7:00 at the Alpine Meadows Mobile Home Park Clubhouse (4200 Summers Lane). This is not a class on grief but a place to talk freely about your loss with other people who have experienced loss. It is a place to share some of the lessons you have learned with people who are in the same space as yourself.

In future newsletter issues we will address some aspects of grief. What are the normal symptoms of early grief? What can you do to help yourself? How do you know when you are better? Why is it recommended that you do not drive long distances at first?

Hope to see you at the Good Grief Group!

Karen Little,  
Bereavement  
Coordinator



## Volunteer's Corner

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Volunteers do an amazing variety of tasks for our patients and their families. Much of the volunteer's time is giving respite care but there are instances in which our volunteers have cut, split, and delivered wood or mowed lawns, or baked cookies, or preformed home

making tasks. Not so much this year but the last two years we had the volunteers plow driveways clear of snow. Volunteers have worked in the office answering phones and copying booklets. Volunteers have shared their experiences at community organizations.

Volunteering can bring so much pleasure to your life. It gives you an opportunity to meet new people, to do something of value, and to hone new skills.

Please call the office (541) 882-1636 if you are interested. You will not be sorry you did.

Karen Little, Volunteer Coordinator



~Call to Volunteer  
(541) 882-1636~

*"Our Care speaks for itself"*

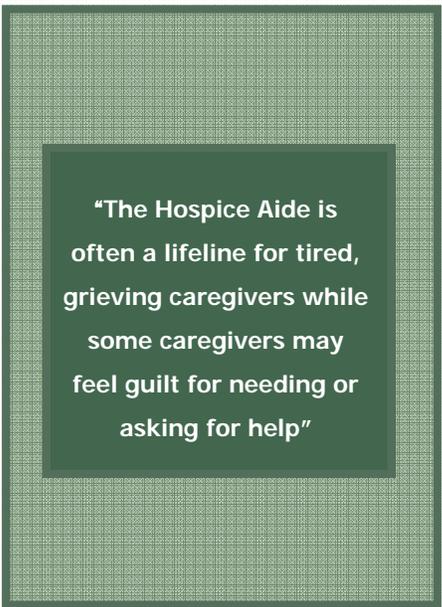
# The Role Of The Hospice Aide

Hospice Aides are an integral part of the hospice team, usually spending the most time and hands-on care with the patient. They are the experts in providing comfort hygiene and grooming care and teaching family caregivers techniques to assist in the important job of caring for a terminally ill person.

The Hospice Aide reports directly to the Hospice RN Care Manager and follows the individualized plan of care developed by the RN. Hospice Aides must be certified through the Board of Nursing, complete continuing education and are routinely supervised in the field by a registered nurse to assure competency in their care giving skills.

Hospice Aides make regular visits to patients in their home or care facility and augment the care of the primary caregiver. Some of their duties include vital signs and weights, bathing, simple dressing applications, therapeutic exercise, teaching care techniques, assisting with homemaking and reporting changes or patient/family concerns to the RN Care Manager.

The Hospice Aide is often a lifeline for tired, grieving caregivers while some caregivers may feel guilt for needing or asking for help. Be assured that each patient is treated as an individual and Hospice Aide services can be tailored to each person's wishes.



## Our First 5 Years

This spring we will celebrate our 5<sup>th</sup> anniversary of serving Klamath County. We could not have opened this hospice and served so many patients and families without the support of this community and so we thank you for allowing us to walk along side patients and their families during this challenging time.

### Statistics from our first 5 years are as follows:

- Total Patients – 504
- Total Patient Days – 32,161
- Hospital Days - 3
- Average Length of Stay – 64.61 days
- 7 days or less of service – 121 or 24%

### Patients were admitted to High Desert Hospice under the following disease classifications:

- Cancers – 168
- Heart Related Diseases - 38
- Respiratory Diseases – 38
- Neurological/ALS – 16
- Dementia/Alzheimer's – 62
- Stroke – 16
- Renal Diseases – 6
- Liver Diseases – 20
- Failure to Thrive/Debility - 140

