

# life times

SUMMER 2008



## my precious boy

*Nothing we could write could more eloquently express what Hospice means than this letter we received from Pat Jones, mother of Darrell Sholar who was a patient at HomePlace in 2007. With Mrs. Jones' permission, we share her heartfelt thanks with you.*



Dear Hospice Staff,

One year ago, on March 20, my son Darrell Sholar passed away at your facility. He had been admitted on the 19th at about 9 p.m. or so, after we were unable to care for him at home. My son went by the name of Bud, and although he was 50 years old, he was still my precious boy.

Bud was in a desperate state that night and was very combative. We knew that it was the cancer of the lungs and brain that caused him to be that way, but I have thought so often since that the staff there only knew him in that condition. It was a long way from his normal. But even with him being that way, you all were so very

kind and patient, doing everything possible to make it better for him and for us. As a retired RN myself, I have been so grateful to all of you because I knew that he was not the only person that you had to care for, but it seemed that he was, with all your attention to him. I don't remember all your names, but I will never forget your faces and loving care. You truly were a shining example of your chosen profession that night.

I am enclosing a picture of Bud that I love. He was the kindest little boy you ever saw, and no Mother has ever had a son that showed her that he loved her for his entire life as much as Bud did to me. A day or two before he died he was sleeping and I was sitting close to his bedside. I lay my head down on the side of the bed and felt him move. I looked up and he was smiling at me

and said, "Mom, you gave me life, and then you gave me life again." I don't know what he meant by that, but evidently it made him happy.

The last year has been the hardest of my 70 years, and I miss Bud more than words can say. A great-granddaughter born eight days after Bud died has been the absolute redeeming gift from God. Isn't it wonderful that He has plans for us that He knows we will need in order to get through the fire?

This picture was made in happier days when Bud was still that little boy to me. Just look at it occasionally, and then pat yourself on the back for the marvelous job you did that night. You are all angels. I will never forget you.

Many, many thanks and lots of love to all,  
Jay and Pat Jones  
Bud's mom and step-dad

# *it chose me* it chose me

Hospice nurses rarely describe their work as a job. Many use the word “calling”, some use the word “ministry”, to describe the certainty that hospice care is what they were meant to do. For Jacob Cabrera, RN, the word is “chosen”.

Though he’s not a poet by nature, Jacob’s eloquent words of connection and belonging just seemed to flow after the experience of caring for twelve year old Noe and his family. The sense of having been chosen for that particular role was a powerful one, compounded by Jacob’s admiration for the young patient who touched his heart.

“Noe seemed more alive than anyone I’d ever met, even though he was very, very sick,” said Jacob. “He lived life to the fullest, and he loved everyone he met. He was only 12 years old, but he was so wise, and he taught me so much.”

How fortunate we are that hospice nursing “chose” Jacob Cabrera. His skills, his compassion and his creativity were a blessing to Noe and continue to be a blessing to us all.

## *“It Chose Me”*

*People ask, is a hospice nurse what I  
chose to be?*

*I often ponder, did I?*

*Or did it choose me?*

*Daily we deal with so much death and dying*

*People very sad and often crying*

*They say, how can you remain  
of good faith and cheer?*

*I remember we all have one home.*

*It’s just not here!*

*As I prepare for my day,*

*and see my badge with the hospice dove,  
It reminds me, my strength comes from above.*

*Now when they ask is a hospice nurse  
what I chose to be,*

*I turn and answer with a smile,  
no IT CHOSE ME!*

*By Jacob Cabrera, RN*



# sharing memories

“I just let them share their memories,” says Grady Stewart. “There is so much pain, and talking seems to help. If I have a gift, it’s the ability to share the pain that people are feeling and tell them I really understand, because I think I do.”

As a bereavement volunteer, Grady logs many hours on the phone, talking to families of patients served by The Hospice of East Texas. “They are missing their loved ones so much and it seems to mean a lot to them that we call,” he says. “I just tell them we’re thinking of them, and we know it’s hard and we want them to know we care and we’re still there for them.”

It isn’t easy work, but Grady is clear about the benefits. “It’s the most emotional thing I’ve ever done, but I’m the one who gets the bigger blessing. You always do, when you give of yourself, you know?”

*“It’s the most emotional thing I’ve ever done, but I’m the one who gets the bigger blessing.”*



Grady does know. He’s spent a lifetime finding ways to help others. Growing up in rural Georgia, “we never had enough to go around, but we always had enough to share,” he says. In his career as a supervisor for GE and Welex, he was the one who searched out people having trouble. “Sometimes they just needed a ride to work to keep them from losing their job,” he says. “It was the little things that got in the way”.

A Hospice volunteer since 1997, Grady has done everything from answering the phone to working with home care patients, and he has served in the bereavement department for four years. His kind voice and caring words drift down the hall in the Pat Oge Center for Living, an inspiration to the staff who work close by. “You can feel the love in his voice,” says Mary Guin, Bereavement Coordinator, “and he always ends his calls the same way, saying “I wish I was there to give you a big hug!” I know that those he talks to can feel that hug too!”

- NEW IN 2007-2008**
- |  |                               |
|--|-------------------------------|
| Gin Ables                                | Patty Kirby                   |
| Boby Adamson                             | Judy Kitchings                |
| Exa Ballard                              | Jim Kurtz                     |
| Maxine Barnette                          | Jennifer Lacefield            |
| Eddy Bentley                             | Mary Lamberson                |
| Carolyn Bolton & Cookie                  | Janet Latham                  |
| Gordon Breedlove                         | Nancy Lee                     |
| Don Brooks                               | Betty LeFlore                 |
| Bill Burns                               | Carrie Lindley                |
| Bee Bynum                                | Janette Maldonado-Johnson     |
| Patricia Colburn                         | Tony Martin                   |
| Ruth Compton & Simon                     | Donna McEwen                  |
| Valarie Cowan                            | Hailey Miller                 |
| Kathy Crim                               | Joan Mills                    |
| Marlis Cuthbertson                       | Faye Mitchell                 |
| Roberta Denson                           | Martelle Moronko              |
| Richard Diekman                          | Patty Morris and Elle         |
| Linda Dillard & Lulu                     | Estha Nowlin                  |
| Sandra Dillon                            | Shirley O’Keefe               |
| William Dillon                           | Susan Parks                   |
| Frieda Doolen                            | Barbara Patton                |
| Sue Duck                                 | Donna Pirtle                  |
| Cynthia Ellington                        | Marilynn Pryor, Katie & Fredo |
| Ralph Everett                            | Michelle Rabb                 |
| Winnie Sue Everett                       | Eva Ramirez                   |
| Rudy Francis                             | June Reagh                    |
| Gary Gilmore                             | Bruce Rhiddlehoover           |
| Mary Germany                             | Larry Richardson              |
| Darlene Graser                           | Christi Roy                   |
| Barbara Gust                             | Nadine Russ                   |
| Valerie Hardy                            | Beverly Russell               |
| Iris Harte                               | Karin Sanders                 |
| Mary Ann Hilliard                        | Susen Santoro, Bebe & Bob     |
| Robert Hughes                            | Shannon Sieber, Luke & Lucy   |
| Jeanie Hulsey                            | Martha Smelley                |
| Susan Jasper                             | Penny Stephens                |
| Beverly Jimerson                         | Alice Todd                    |
| Crystal Jones & Buster, Brittany & Chase | Billie Turknnett              |
| Sharon Kelley                            | Ann Ussery                    |
|  | Elaine Walters                |



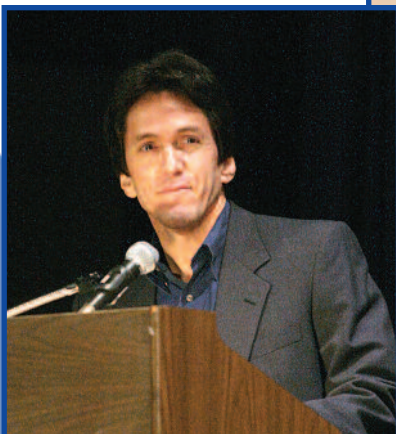
**Dr. Helen Graham** and **Dr. Duane Andrews**.

**Tony Houston** volunteered for Hospice almost every day for six years. His **wife and daughter** gathered with staff and volunteers to celebrate the placing of a brick in his memory on the Walk of Friends.



**Dr. Helen Graham** served Hospice of East Texas for many years as Medical Director. Dr. Wiley Roosth and Dr. Arielle Lee celebrated Dr. Graham at her retirement reception.

HOET celebrated its 25th anniversary in 2007 with a presentation by **Mitch Albom**, author of *Tuesdays with Morrie* and *For One More Day*.



**Vince Pietet** shares his music with patients and families at HomePlace.



Sometimes laughter is very good medicine! The Hospice social workers were fierce competitors with their “jailbird” chili at the annual Hospice **chili cookoff**.



**Macy Adams** made homemade cookies to share with families at HomePlace.



**Penny Stephens'** welcoming smile greets families and visitors at HomePlace.



When **Nickie Knighton's** husband was a patient in HomePlace, she learned first-hand what comfort a homemade quilt could be. Mrs. Knighton has made 12 quilts for Hospice, each one an expression of her creativity, and a beautiful symbol of the love and care Hospice provides for our patients.

- |                      |                     |
|----------------------|---------------------|
| Thelma Washington    | Debra Grant-Newsome |
| Cindy Welch          | Marie Gresham       |
| Pat White            | Classie Gunter      |
| Sue White            | Lynda Harrison      |
| Patricia Williams    | Nancy Hart          |
| Darla Wogaman        | Gil Hayhurst        |
| Tonya Wright         | Mona Hill           |
| Glen Wierick         | Victoria Holmes     |
| <b>UP TO 5 YEARS</b> | Amy Howell          |
| Marge Adams          | Louise Hubbard      |
| Countice Allen       | Mary Jennings       |
| Al Amundson          | Kimberli Johnson    |
| Pat Anderson         | Kathy Johnston      |
| Anne Ballard         | Marian Kaplita      |
| James Ballard        | Peggy Keeling       |
| Cindy Blake          | Kathryn Kilpatrick  |
| Dorothy Bramblett    | Richard Liptak      |
| Mary Breedlove       | Jim Linney          |
| Barbara Brooks       | Katie Lund          |
| Lilie Broughton      | Sherman Mayfield    |
| Orlinda Brown        | Iris McCrary        |
| Robert Brown         | Marjorie McGannon   |
| Willi Buhl           | Ginger Mees         |
| Wes Bynum            | Lee Anne Meyers     |
| Jane Carroll         | Kathryn Miller      |
| Jeanie Carter        | Elizabeth Minor     |
| Bee Clark            | Mim Moore           |
| Jean Cowen           | Pauline Moore       |
| Glenna Crosman       | Billie Morgan       |
| Yvonne Crumpton      | D'Anne Moxon        |
| Patty Curtis         | Marion Murphree     |
| Doris Davis          | Beth Myers          |
| Eva Davison          | Ken Neff            |
| John Drake           | Reba Newton         |
| Virginia Duncan      | Martha Oates        |
| Lee Edmondson        | Melba Jean Page     |
| Paula Edwards        | Joyce Perry         |
| Judy Ellis           | Dean Phillips       |
| Camella Fields       | Vince Piotet        |
| Judy Floyd           | Bill Pitts          |
| Sarah Ford           | Betty Porter        |
| Bobbie Forsythe      | James Reese         |
| Ruby Frazier         | Glynda Ross         |
| Terri Frazier        | Sue Sawyer          |
| Homer Gilbert        |                     |

(continued on page 7)

# holiday remembrance

## holiday remembrance

At holiday time, each ornament gleaming on the Hospice Tree of Remembrance commemorates the life of a patient served by The Hospice of East Texas. Chosen with care by those who loved them, the ornaments are symbols of lives not forgotten. A little RV is a reminder of the joys of retirement years, an angel commemorates a much-loved grandmother. A handmade sphere colored by children, a photo in a silver frame, tiny plaques with comforting words of scripture, each ornament is an opportunity to express love and remembrance once again. A special gathering brings families to the Pat Oge Center for Living to hang their ornaments on the Tree of Remembrance, and offers them the chance to share their memories with

each other and Hospice staff.

The Hospice Tree of Remembrance is one of many opportunities for healing offered to grieving families by The Hospice of East Texas. Each family served by Hospice is followed for a year following the death of their loved one, receiving regular phone calls, mailings and information on grief workshops and support groups offered throughout our 18 county service area.

All bereavement services offered by The Hospice of East Texas are open to anyone dealing with the loss of a loved one, whether that person was a hospice patient or not, and all services are offered to

our communities free of charge.

For current information on bereavement services offered by Hospice of East Texas visit our website at [www.hospiceofeasttexas.org](http://www.hospiceofeasttexas.org).



## WAYS YOU CAN HELP

### *Your gifts ensure our ability to care.*

Private support makes it possible for The Hospice of East Texas to offer its caring services to all who need them, regardless of their life situation or their ability to pay. Gifts of all sizes and all kinds from generous friends throughout East Texas are essential to our work and are very much appreciated.

#### **MEMORIALS OR HONORARIUMS**

Gifts in honor or memory of loved ones, friends or business associates are a great way to give to The Hospice of East Texas. A card acknowledging your gift is mailed to the

recipient, with no mention of the gift amount.

#### **PLANNED GIVING**

Remember The Hospice of East Texas in your will or estate.

#### **BRICKS AND TILES**

The Walk of Friends in the gardens at HomePlace and Recognition Tiles throughout the facility are enduring legacies of those who have touched our lives.

#### **IN-KIND GIFTS**

There are many opportunities for in-kind gifts, especially at HomePlace— toys for the playroom, quilts for the beds, food for families.

#### **RESALE SHOPPE**

The Hospice Shoppe in Henderson accepts donations of gently used clothing and household items. Items

may be dropped at the Shoppe in Henderson or at the Hospice offices at 4111 University Boulevard in Tyler.

For more information about donating to The Hospice of East Texas, contact the Community Relations Department at (903) 266-3400 or [nlamar@hospiceofeasttexas.org](mailto:nlamar@hospiceofeasttexas.org). To donate online, visit [www.hospiceofeasttexas.org](http://www.hospiceofeasttexas.org).

#### **VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES**

Throughout our 18 county service area, there are many ways to get involved with The Hospice of East Texas. Volunteers are needed for office work, direct involvement with patients and families, and special projects. If you have a gift, we can use it!

For more information, contact Christine Morawski, Director of Community Relations and Outreach at (903) 266-3400 or [cmorawski@hospiceofeasttexas.org](mailto:cmorawski@hospiceofeasttexas.org).

# a note from Marji



This edition of LifeTimes abounds with examples of “The Hospice of East Texas Difference”, those things which

make this organization so extraordinary and which have been the hallmarks of its work for more than 25 years.

Our staff feel “chosen” for this work, as Jacob Cabrera does. Their skill and dedication results in the compassionate, coordinated, clinically expert care Pat Jones so eloquently describes in her letter on page 1. At all times of the day and night and 365 days a year, they serve in patients’ residences (whether their private home, assisted living facility or nursing home), in HomePlace, our state-of-the-art, in-patient hospice facility, or in various hospitals in our 18 county service area.

Grady Stewart, whose service as a bereavement volunteer is highlighted in this issue, is but one example of the extraordinary commitment our 250 plus volunteers have to their work. In 2007 they contributed 18,794 hours of service to The Hospice of East Texas and the patients and families we serve, bringing their many gifts to share with those who need them. We are blessed to count among our volunteers an exceptional volunteer Board of Directors who give their expertise as lawyers, accountants, economists, physicians, clergy, educators, business and community leaders, and above all,

patient family advocates. It is our privilege to list the names of our volunteers in this LifeTimes as a way to recognize and thank them for all they do.

The cornerstone of the “Hospice of East Texas Difference” is our commitment to serve all who need our care. In part, this is a financial commitment, and in part it is a commitment to quality, a willingness to do whatever it takes to offer all our patients and families exceptional services. Admission staff work late evenings to relieve a patient’s suffering and a family’s anxiety about the journey ahead. Pharmacists and pharmacy technicians fill prescriptions for patients with new needs at all hours. Staff and volunteers work with others in the community to be sure a dying adolescent and his family have heat in their home. Volunteers take vacation days from their jobs to sit with patients. Community support and your donations allow us to provide this “difference”, and to fulfill an extraordinary commitment. Every patient receives the same exceptional care, regardless of their financial situation and no patient family receives a bill for basic services from The Hospice of East Texas.

Thank you for what you make possible. I am honored and humbled to be a part of an organization with a rich heritage and a bright horizon of opportunity of service to East Texas.

Marjorie Ream  
President/CEO

- |                        |                           |
|------------------------|---------------------------|
| Sharon Senter          | Emilie Tierman            |
| Nelda Shank            | Mary Upton                |
| Carolyn Sherrell       | Bob Waldman               |
| Richard Smith          | Larry Whitis              |
| Fran Sonka             | Anita Wilkerson           |
| Dorothy Stracener      | Vida Wooten               |
| Peggy Sullivan         | <b>10 – 15 YEARS</b>      |
| Chris Teeple           | Dorotha Burge             |
| Theola Thedford        | Rosalee Burns             |
| Cliff Thomason         | Ramona Clark              |
| Marilyn Trollinger     | Neta Hanna                |
| Lori Vick              | Chris Loeder              |
| Jude Vurgason          | Kenneth Melvin            |
| Ellen Wallace          | Donna Morris              |
| Nancy Warren           | Frances Reid              |
| Mary Wilkins           | Bea Schroeder             |
| Jerry Williams         | Bernie Woodford           |
| Shelley Williams & Rio | Vena Woods                |
| Nadine Williamson      | <b>15 PLUS YEARS</b>      |
| Carole Wilson          | Jean Allen                |
| Phyllis Wood           | Irene Cundiff             |
| <b>5 – 10 YEARS</b>    | Margie Hall               |
| Dot Bradford           | Chuck Haworth             |
| Ruby Breckenridge      | Lavonn Higgs              |
| Otis Brooks            | Jann McGaughey            |
| Les Burkett            | Maudean West              |
| Cathy Gibbons          | <b>STUDENT VOLUNTEERS</b> |
| Frances Harrell        | Erin Camp                 |
| Juanna Hudson          | Chelsea Cohen             |
| Vema Hyde              | Corey Cruz                |
| Marguerite Jones       | Caitlin Dean              |
| Cathy Linney           | Jazmyne Johnson           |
| Cathy Little           | Katrina Johnson           |
| Pat Maxwell            | Jeff Klein                |
| Johnnie Parker         | Jamie Lehman              |
| Doris Sears            | Kendall McAllister        |
| Rosemary Slayton       | Stephen Morrison          |
| Janet Squires          | Brittany Reed             |
| Grady Stewart          | Kelcy Sciba               |
| Lee Stewart            | Taylor Tennison           |
| Suzu Stewart           | Chauncey Thompson         |
| Wanda Summerford       | Jake Vinson               |
| Evelyn Tate            | Jared Youngblood          |



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