



July 2007 Issue

Thank you for your interest and support of Arkansas Hospice Foundation! I am sending you this monthly memo to share with you what is happening in our organization. I want you, a very important member of our hospice family, to know what progress we are making on the River Valley Hospice Center, what special events are coming up, current news from Michael Aureli, president & CEO of Arkansas Hospice, and anything else we think you might want to know!

The BIG Event

The **BIG Event**, our exciting new fall fundraiser is scheduled for 7 p.m. Saturday, Sept 15, at the Junior League of Little Rock's Women's City Club. Council of Friends member, Natasha Marlow, is chairperson. The **BIG Event** will be replacing A Fair to Remember as the signature event of Arkansas Hospice. What is **The BIG Event**, you ask? I can't



tell you. You'll have to see for yourself! Just be prepared for a **BIG** night! There will be **BIG** food, **BIG** drinks, **BIG** music, **BIG** raffles and — best of all — a chance to raise **BIG MONEY** for Arkansas Hospice! Tickets are \$50 per person. Make plans now to share this **BIG** night with us! Invitations mailing soon!

Swing Fore Arkansas Hospice! Golf Tournament



The Swing Fore Arkansas Hospice! Golf Tournament was held June 18 at Diamante Golf Course and Country Club. Eighteen teams of golfers were treated to lunch, beverages and a 19th hole reception including raffles and door prizes. The team from Bird & Bear Medical proved to be the team to beat by winning the overall tournament! Team members included Jay Heflin, Marc Heflin, Chris Malloch and Janice Hutchinson. We are already looking forward to next year's tournament to be held once again at Diamante!

Did you know?

Family and friends generously support Arkansas Hospice Foundation through memorial and honorary gifts. This year, more than \$200,000 has been received. Funds from these tribute gifts are designated to provide compassionate end-of-life care for those in need. Often, hospice care includes medical expenses not otherwise covered by Medicare or private insurance. Charitable care funds provide support for those experiencing financial difficulty, immediate short term expenses and bereavement services. Every gift enhances the care we provide for our patients and their families.

River Valley Hospice Center



Roger Collins (from left), CEO of Harps Foods in Springdale, learns more about the River Valley Hospice Center from Michael Aureli, Arkansas Hospice President & Ceo.

group through the newly designed 20-bed hospice center via a “virtual multi-media slide presentation.”

Jim Bob Humphrey, River Valley Hospice Center Campaign chair, announced that the campaign had reached a milestone by surpassing the \$1.5 million-dollar mark, 50 percent of the campaign goal!

The new Center will provide quality end-of-life care for patients and families living in the six-county Arkansas River Valley region including Conway, Johnson, Logan, Perry, Pope and Yell. It was very exciting to see and hear about the progress of the new River Valley Hospice Center to be constructed in Russellville.

Central Presbyterian Church in Russellville was the setting for a special donor appreciation luncheon on Wednesday, June 20, 2007. Seventy-five guests attended the informal gathering including individuals who have committed early gifts and pledges in support of the River Valley Hospice Center, campaign committee members, staff and volunteers.

The luncheon included sandwiches, home-baked beans, and garden fresh salads, all served by Arkansas Hospice volunteers. The centerpiece of the room was a large table of delicious homemade desserts decorated with deep purple hydrangeas and rose crepe myrtle bouquets. Michael Aureli led the



Dr. Kevin Beavers, Medical Director for Arkansas Hospice Russellville, takes a moment to pose for the photographer with Campaign Leadership Member Dorothy Babish.

News From Arkansas Hospice

Martin A. Koehn, MD, a board-certified family practice physician who also serves as Medical Director of Arkansas Hospice’s eight-bed Hot Springs Inpatient Hospice Services at St. Joseph’s Mercy Health Center, recently earned 2007 Physician of the Year recognition at the Hot Springs facility. The St. Joseph’s Physician of the year honor is awarded to three physicians who receive the most Mercy Service Recognition Certificates. Koehn attended medical school at Baylor College of Medicine in Houston, completed his internship at Colorado’s Denver General Hospital and his residency at North Carolina’s Charlotte Memorial Hospital.

It is a joy to announce that Dr. Neal Wyatt has accepted the role of becoming Arkansas Hospice’s full-time overall Medical Director. He will begin his new position around October 1. Dr. Wyatt is currently a Hospitalist at Rebsamen Hospital in Jacksonville and our Medical Director for the Cabot office. He has expressed an interest to us in becoming a full-time hospice and palliative care physician for several years and is finally taking the plunge. He is excited about the opportunity and his enthusiasm is obvious and infectious! We look forward to his physician leadership that will take us to a new level in medical care of our patients. At the same time, we are grateful to the service of Dr. Reed Thompson. His dedication as our Medical Director for the past eight years has made us a quality medical and palliative care service. We are fortunate that he will remain with us in part-time role as in the past to serve our patients and staff and mentor Dr. Wyatt in his new role.

If you would like to receive this News Memo via e-mail, please let me know! Send your e-mail address to jwalker@arkansashospice.org. You may also reach Jan at 501-748-3304!