



February 2008 Issue



Brenda Long

We're very excited about all that's happening in the new year! For the first time in more than a year and a half, the Foundation is now fully staffed and I'm thrilled to welcome Tommy Glanton, Kathy Nickles and our new annual gifts officer, Peggy Roberson, to the Arkansas Hospice Foundation family. With this new team, lots of new ideas and hard work, we will introduce new events and opportunities for you to join us in support of Arkansas Hospice and its mission of providing quality end-of-life care for our patients and their families. Thank you for taking your time to keep up with us — I look forward to seeing you often throughout 2008!

Dr. A. Reed Thompson Tribute Dinner

On Thursday, April 3, Arkansas Hospice Foundation will be hosting a special evening in honor of Dr. A. Reed Thompson. Dr. Thompson has been instrumental in the development of the palliative care and hospice movement throughout Arkansas. He has worked with the University of Arkansas Medical System, the Veterans System and was also in private practice. We are very excited about this opportunity to honor Dr. Thompson and celebrate all he has done!



Dr. Thompson

The event will be held at the William J. Clinton Presidential Center in the Great Hall. The evening will begin with a cocktail hour at 5:30 p.m. and dinner starting around 6:30 p.m. Dress is "bow tie optional"/business attire. Tickets are \$125 per person and priority tables are available. Proceeds from the event will be used to enhance physician services to Arkansas Hospice patients. Seating is limited, so make plans early to purchase tickets. For more information, please contact Tommy Glanton, special events manager, at 501-748-3312.

Sweetheart Saturday



The fourth annual Sweetheart Saturday, held in Russellville, is just around the corner! Tell your friends and mark your calendar now for Saturday, Feb. 9, from 2 to 4 pm at Central Presbyterian Church, Knox Hall.

As you may remember from last year's event, local bakeries and restaurants provided a tempting display of delicious treats for our Sweetheart Saturday guests to enjoy. The "dessert tasting" at this informative, community event was a great success in '07 and is something you won't want to miss!

Sweetheart Saturday is more than a chance to indulge your sweet tooth; it's an opportunity to support the mission of Arkansas Hospice. End-of-life care is such an important service for our communities that individuals like you help make possible. All proceeds from the event will benefit the River Valley Hospice Home.

Tickets are \$6 for one or \$10 for two and will be available at the door. A silent auction will be available for attendees as well with some great items up for bid. If you have any questions please feel free to contact the Russellville Office at 479-498-2050.

Welcome New Employee!



Peggy Roberson

Peggy Roberson joins us as the annual giving officer for the organization. She will lead us in raising funds to support Arkansas Hospice programs through annual solicitation of companies, individuals, donor support groups and all constituents. She will help establish policies and procedures and provide creative leadership in planning, development, maintenance and evaluation of our community. Congratulations, Peggy! Welcome to our team!

News From Arkansas Hospice

It takes a special person to work in the field of hospice care. Luckily, Arkansas Hospice has many of those very special people working for us. One of those special people's name is Sharon Edwards, and she was recently chosen as KATV Channel 7's "Arkansan of the Week":

Sharon makes her living helping terminally-ill patients feel comfortable in their last days of life. "I go in, make sure they're comfortable, bathe them – just do normal things. Be an ear to them, to the family," Sharon said.

But on Dec. 27, 2007, Sharon went above and beyond her regular "normal" duties. That's the night one of the buildings at Auxora Arms Apartments exploded. Sharon saw the story on the news, and quickly thought of one of her patients who lives there.

"The only thing I could think about was Miss Helen – Ms. Borkins as I call her," Sharon said. "She's got to be scared. She's 95-years-old, she's in a power chair. She had to be frightened."

So, Sharon jumped into her car to check on 95-year-old Helen Borkins. When she arrived, the firefighters, police officers and TV crews were there. Sharon and her son parked more than a mile away, and walked through a disaster area to find Miss Helen. "When I got there, one of her neighbors was there," Sharon said. "They were both shook up. I think they were happy to see a face – a friendly face ... a face that they knew."

Helen would have to be moved to one of Arkansas Hospice's inpatient rooms temporarily while her gas was shut off. But she's back at home now, and thankful for her friend Sharon.

For Sharon, it's the smiles she gets that make the job worthwhile. But, it's a job that is an emotional roller coaster. It's the nature of her job that she won't be spending much time with her patients. But, she says, she'll keep doing it. "It's hard. It's very hard. I've had patients that I've lost that I was very attached to. But, I realize they are probably in a better place than we are, and I know that I have done my best. There's nothing else that I could've done, and that's what hospice is all about."

If you would like to receive this News Memo via e-mail, please let us know! Send your e-mail address to juchendu@arkansashospice.org. You may also reach Janet at 501-748-3305!