

First Monday Memo

February 2009



While much of our daily work at Arkansas Hospice focuses on the patients and families in our service area, a program known as the African Hospice Partnership has allowed us to reach beyond and have a significant global impact on how hospice care is administered in sub-Saharan Africa.

Through the African Hospice Partnership, Arkansas Hospice has joined with Seke Rural Health Hospice in Zimbabwe to exchange ideas and solutions to problems that are common to both cultures. Together we learn from and support one another through sharing cultural practices for serving the terminally ill. This February we will enjoy a rare opportunity to meet and spend time with two African partners, Veronica Kanyango and Simplisius Ngwerume. During their three weeks in Arkansas the leaders of Seke Rural Health Hospice will observe how we administer end-of-life care, exchange ideas with our caregivers, and speak about their experiences at various churches and civic clubs.

Arkansas Hospice has committed to providing financial assistance to Veronica and Simplisius as they struggle to provide care for their African neighbors in a deteriorating political and economic climate in Zimbabwe. During their stay, we hope you will take advantage of this unique opportunity to meet them and learn of their work in some of the most difficult circumstances on the planet. Moreover, we hope you will join us in making a contribution to Seke Rural Health Hospice. Our contributions make a significant and lasting difference in their ability to administer quality end-of-life care to the people of Zimbabwe.

— David Daniel, Executive Director

African Hospice Partnership

In 2007, Arkansas Hospice became the 55th hospice in the United States and England to adopt a partner hospice in Africa. Our organization works with Seke Rural Health Hospice, and directors Veronica and Simplisius (who founded the hospice in 2001), will be visiting Arkansas from Feb. 7 to March 2, 2009.

Would you like to meet Veronica and Simplisius or show Seke Rural Health Hospice how supportive friends of Arkansas Hospice truly can be? If you answered yes to either, please join us for the 10th Annual African Potluck Dinner, Drumming and Dancing event from 5 to 8 p.m. on Saturday, Feb. 28, at First United Methodist Church on 8th and Center streets in downtown Little Rock. Admission is free! For more information, please call Candace Millwood at 501-748-3303 or visit www.arkansashospice.org.



Sweetheart Saturday

Make Valentine's Day special for the sweethearts in your life! Support Arkansas Hospice Russellville by attending our 5th Annual Sweetheart Saturday on Feb. 14, from 1 to 3 p.m., at First Baptist Church on 2nd and El Paso streets in Russellville. Come for the delicious temptations, entertainment and silent auction! All proceeds from the event go to building the Arkansas Hospice River Valley Home. Tickets are \$8 for one and \$15 for two. For tickets and sponsorship information, please visit our Web site at www.arkansashospice.org and click on Arkansas Hospice Foundation, or call 501-748-3300 or toll free 877-257-3400.

