

First Monday Memo

March 2009



In 2007, Arkansas Hospice was given the opportunity to spread our mission across the world. Through the African Hospice Partnership, we have joined with Seke Rural Community Hospice in Zimbabwe to improve end-of-life care in sub-Saharan Africa. Last month, we at Arkansas Hospice had the pleasure of hosting two of our African partners, Veronica and Simplisius Ngwerume. The husband-and-wife team, who are directors of Seke Hospice, were in Arkansas for more than three weeks observing how we administer end-of-life care. They also attended numerous events designed to raise awareness of the unique challenges facing the terminally ill in Zimbabwe.



Simplisius and Veronica enjoy a tour of the William J. Clinton Presidential Library during their visit to Arkansas.

All who were fortunate enough to come in contact with Veronica and Simplisius during their visit were impressed by the grace and compassion evident in their words and actions. With sparse resources and a daunting census of patients topping 4,000, Veronica and Simplisius mobilize more than 1,000 volunteers who tend to the needs of the villagers throughout a 150-mile radius in sub-Saharan Africa. Access to pain medications is rare in Zimbabwe, and many of the modern medical techniques we take for granted in the United States are not available to the caregivers at Seke. Still, they persevere and bring comfort and peace to those patients and families coping with life-limiting issues.

As Veronica and Simplisius return to Zimbabwe to resume their impressive work, we are re-energized about our commitment to our mission, as well as our commitment to help our African partners in every way we can. Through some one-of-a-kind opportunities during their visit — along with our ongoing efforts — funds are being secured to provide Seke Hospice with a new vehicle, the construction of a new facility, and various essentials such as mattresses, soap, pill bottles and more. If you have been moved by the compassion and perseverance of Veronica and Simplisius, I encourage you to donate to them through the Arkansas Hospice Foundation and help us ensure their good work continues.

— *David Daniel, Executive Director*



A "Sweet" Success

Arkansas Hospice Russellville hosted its fifth annual Sweetheart Saturday event on Saturday, Feb. 14, at First Baptist Church with more than 250 very special guests in attendance. Patrons were treated to delectable sweets from area restaurants; musical acts from some of the River Valley's finest; and a fabulous silent auction with more than 80 items. The event raised more than \$9,000 for the Arkansas Hospice River Valley Home.

We at Arkansas Hospice would like to thank all the sponsors, vendors and those who donated to the auction, along with a very special thank you to Phyllis Bewley and the Sweetheart Saturday Committee!

Eugene Towbin Heritage Society

Arkansas Hospice formed the Eugene Towbin Heritage Society to honor those who make special provisions in their wills for a future bequest or other estate gifts to support end-of-life care and the mission of our organization.

On Feb. 12, the Arkansas Hospice Foundation hosted an event at the Cox Creative Center in downtown Little Rock to honor its Towbin members. Those in attendance enjoyed an array of sweets and were given the opportunity to hear from our African partners, Veronica and Simplisius Ngwerume, from Zimbabwe. Thank you to all who attended!

If you would like more information on the Towbin Society, please call David Daniel at 501-748-3302.

Thank You!		Thank you for donating 15% of your sales on February 9 to Arkansas Hospice!
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