



Autumn 2011

Beneficence

Lower Cape Fear Hospice Foundation Newsletter



*Last Chance to Wear White Pants Gala
Celebrates Hospice in Style!*

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Brunswick Care Center Construction Underway.

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from the foundation

be·nef·i·cence

the quality or state of producing good;
especially performing acts of kindness and charity

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A letter from Laurie Taylor

In 1984, shortly after the founding of the agency, a dedicated group of volunteers interested in the perpetual support of the mission of this agency created the Lower Cape Fear Hospice Endowment Fund. This fund was created with the initial gift from the estate of Pickett H. Taylor. In 2005, the board of the Endowment Fund decided it wanted to do more to support the agency and reorganized to become the Lower Cape Fear Hospice Foundation.

The Lower Cape Fear Hospice Foundation exists solely to raise the funds to support the mission and work of Lower Cape Fear Hospice & LifeCareCenter not covered by reimbursement sources or programs and services that do not have a reimbursement source.

Over the last six years, the Foundation has raised more than \$11 million for the ongoing operating support and capital needs of the agency. As a result, the agency has been able to build Angel House, a hospice care center to serve Columbus and Bladen counties, the Phillips LifeCare & Counseling Center, and the Heritage Garden.

Currently with the help of dedicated volunteers and donors in Brunswick County, we are working on raising the remaining \$1.5 million of a \$3.5 million capital campaign for a Brunswick hospice care center. Construction of this facility began in early July and we are beginning to plan for a campaign to expand the beds at Wilmington's Hospice Care Center Fales Pavilion.

In addition to these special campaigns, every year we are also challenged with raising about \$2 million to support the ongoing needs to provide quality end of life hospice and palliative healthcare and LifeCareCenter programs, such as the bereavement program.

As I look around the Wilmington campus and hear the many stories to honor the agency's past, I hope you are as proud as I am. Surrounded by such avid supporters, I am assured the agency has a wonderful future.

Thank you for giving the gift of hospice. Thank you for inviting us into your hearts and homes and supporting the mission that allows Lower Cape Fear Hospice & LifeCare Center to provide comfort and care to your loved ones as they embarked on life's final journey.



Lower Cape Fear Hospice Foundation's purpose is to sustain Lower Cape Fear Hospice & LifeCareCenter in support of its annual operations and its capital needs. The Foundation's focus is on support for providing care for all patients regardless of their ability to pay or insurance status. Donations to the Foundation also support LifeCareCenter programs such as grief support for adults and children, outreach and education to the medical community and families.



Laurie Taylor
Vice President of Development



On July 23 Leslie and Barry Hales hosted more than a hundred guests at their home for the "Orange You Glad You Were Invited" gala pre-party. To view other photos of this event, please visit www.hospicefestivaloflife.org.

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Laura Jones - Building a Bridge of Love



Laura Jones, Lower Cape Fear Hospice Foundation Volunteer

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When Laura Jones' brother-in-law, a man she cared for deeply, went into hospice, it was the most wonderful experience. Laura recalls that it was peaceful and everyone was so friendly. They shared the nicest visit in the sunroom and Laura remembers her brother-in-law didn't look that sick to her. He died within two weeks.

That was more than 30 years ago, and Laura Jones recalls thinking, "We need something like this in Wilmington!" And so began her three-decade long relationship with Lower Cape Fear Hospice & LifeCareCenter. Laura's early commitment was to sponsor a room, fully furnished, and to work on the garden. She began with a goal of \$30,000 and decided to hold live and silent auctions to raise the necessary funds. Laura's husband at the time thought she would be lucky to raise \$10,000. After all, Laura had never run an auction before. He had no idea how inspired Laura was. By including her large circle of friends and family, and auctioning off incredible prizes like a week at someone's home in France and a motorcycle, to name a few, Laura exceeded her goal and raised \$32,000 from this first fundraiser.

Laura was part of the early family at Lower Cape Fear Hospice & LifeCareCenter. She served on the Endowment Board and remembers turning the shovel at the groundbreaking. "It was the hottest day of the year," Laura recalls, "but I was so excited because I knew we needed this. I saw the love and care that my brother-in-law received through hospice, and I knew others would benefit too."

Driven by her need to help people, Laura went on to hold a dance fundraiser the year after the auction and raised an additional \$12,000. Another year she participated in the Festival of Trees and achieved additional fundraising goals.

Laura's husband died in 1997. A few years later, while recovering from knee surgery, she started playing bridge. Once again Laura called on her friends and neighbors and put together a bridge tournament in support of hospice. Now in its ninth year, the bridge tournaments have raised more than \$35,000 for the Endowment Fund.

When asked the secret for sustaining success year after year, Laura gives credit to the Lord. But it is clear that Laura's passion and commitment are the driving force that keeps others coming back. "This is personal," Laura says. "It doesn't matter if you're rich or poor. Whether by word of mouth or deed, everyone has seen what hospice does. At Lower Cape Fear Hospice & LifeCareCenter it is that personal touch that means everything to people during a difficult time."

Coming full circle, Laura remarried 10 years ago. Ironically, her husband's wife had been a patient at Lower Cape Fear Hospice & LifeCareCenter and probably benefited from the services available thanks to all the fundraising Laura Jones has done over the years.

"When I see how much pleasure having hospice brings to people, it's worth every minute and then some. You get back what you give out. You gotta' have your heart in it." Lucky for the rest of us, Laura Jones has a huge heart!



For reservations and more information on the Ninth Annual Bridge for Charity to be held Sunday, November 6, 2011 at 1 p.m. at Marketplace Mall, 127 South College Rd., contact Laura Jones at 910.256.2073.

The Great Wall of Grace

If you were to look up the word “grace” in the dictionary, you would find words like elegance or beauty of form, a pleasing or attractive quality, moral strength, and a “short prayer before or after a meal, in which a blessing is asked and thanks are given.” It is no surprise, then, that Grace Liberman had all of these qualities and more.



The wall of photos in Grace's room at the Wilmington Hospice Care Center.

Grace was recently served by Lower Cape Fear Hospice & LifeCareCenter where she spent the last 40 days of her life surrounded by friends and family. According to her beloved husband, Jim, Grace received the best possible care and Lower Cape Fear Hospice & LifeCareCenter was a “wonderful experience for end of life.”

Jim and Grace spent 38 years together, but it wasn't until he witnessed the outpouring of love she received at the hospice care center that Jim realized just how popular his wife really was. As a testimony to her life, Jim began to photograph every man, woman, child and animal that came to visit Grace. He began to hang the photos so Grace could enjoy the surroundings of her new home. What started as a small row of photographs grew to a wall of 350 images. Grace told Jim it needed a fancy border so he outlined the photos in black and orange crepe paper – in honor of Grace's high school colors.

Obviously Grace had a lot of friends and admirers! As the assistant to every CEO at New Hanover Regional Medical Center between 1968 and 1995, Grace found a second family among colleagues. When she retired, Grace was instrumental in planning social activities for retirees from NHRMC. She was also a volunteer at several local charitable organizations. Having grown up in Wilmington, Grace remained close to her New Hanover High School Class of '59 classmates and helped plan their reunions. Her classmates were so grateful for the care Grace received at Lower Cape Fear Hospice & LifeCareCenter, they made contributions in her honor.

Jim believes because the hospice care center is, “not like a hospital, nursing home or rehabilitation center, but more like a retreat,” Grace's many friends and family were comfortable visiting her there. As a result, the Great Wall of Grace is a lasting testament to a woman, described by her husband, as a “beautiful, gracious Southern lady who loved and was loved by everyone she knew.”

In October, a bench outside the room in which she was treated at the Wilmington Care Center with the following inscription will be dedicated to Grace: “In Loving Celebration of the Life of Grace B. Liberman Donated by Her Husband, Daughter & Family, Friends, NHHN Class of '59 and the GE Foundation.”

Honor someone special in your life with a tribute gift to Lower Cape Fear Hospice & LifeCareCenter. We will send a special card to the person of your choice to acknowledge that a gift has been made in their honor.

Call us today at 910.796.8099 ext. 6

Message from Laurie Bystrom - Is it time to call hospice?



President & CEO Laurie Bystrom, Lower Cape Fear Hospice & LifeCareCenter

Many times we are asked “when is the appropriate time to call hospice?” Too often many wait to call because they feel that in doing so they are giving up. They hope by postponing the call, they are prolonging a loved one’s life.

Letting go of a loved one is never easy. Our goal at Lower Cape Fear Hospice & LifeCareCenter is to ensure that those in our care experience the best quality of life possible.

Don’t ever hesitate to call us, even if you think it’s “too early”. Our staff will be glad to make a visit to talk with you about your needs. If it isn’t time for hospice, we can suggest other services that will help.

According to a 2010 study published by the New England Journal of Medicine, lung cancer patients lived an average of three months longer under palliative care than those patients who did not receive the service. “Other research has shown that palliative care reduces spending on expensive hospital care that doesn’t prolong or improve patients’ lives,” the AARP Bulletin stated.

Our palliative care program is one of the ways we can help people achieve the best quality of life possible and can begin care when a diagnosis of a chronic illness is made. The program is designed to walk people through their illness with fewer complications so they can better deal with their disease. A physician, nurse practitioner, and other team members work together to address physical, emotional, and spiritual issues related to managing all types of symptoms. The team helps to locate additional resources, navigate the health care system, explain treatment options and deal with physical symptoms such as unresolved pain and nausea.

Lower Cape Fear Hospice & LifeCareCenter offers palliative care programs even though they are either not fully reimbursed or may not be reimbursed by Medicare, Medicaid, or private insurance. That is why Lower Cape Fear Hospice & LifeCareCenter depends on your gifts to ensure these services are available to those who need them. Thank you for providing the gift of hospice. The gift of love, comfort, peace and care through one’s life journey. If you think we can help in your loved one’s care, please call us. We are here to serve you.

Talk to us on Facebook

We’d love to stay in touch with you on Facebook! Go to Facebook.com and type in Lower Cape Fear Hospice Foundation, like us, and join our conversation. Here is what a just a few people are saying on Facebook:

Lorri Shipston

“I love being a part of this great organization!”

9:08pm · Like · Comment

Bo Dean

“No one, and I mean no one, in our region, allows for the dignity, strength, peace and hope for all people to spend their final days with such love and kindness as Lower Cape Fear Hospice. It starts with their people and extends throughout everything they do! We are all blessed with and by them!”

10:24pm · Like · Comment

Ella Anderson Alley

Thank God for this organization and the angels that work there.

7:15pm · Like · Comment



Hospice Volunteer Spotlight - Bill McCormack



Bill McCormack, volunteer and hospice supporter.

If Bill McCormack had his way, you would not be reading this article about him. A humble man with a huge sense of humor, Bill neither brags about nor accepts credit easily for the work he does with Lower Cape Fear Hospice & LifeCareCenter.

It started a little over five years ago when Bill and a friend of his decided to volunteer. Though they knew very little about hospice, they had heard good things so they went to check it out. After meeting Becky Long, Community Outreach Coordinator, they returned two weeks later for a training program and have been volunteering ever since. Over the past five years, they have met and cared for over 25 patients, most of whom they visit in the patients' homes.

"What we do," Bill says, "is relieve the care giver. They know, when we are there, we are going to take care of their loved one. They have confidence in us and can take a needed break for themselves. Patients have varying degrees of health," Bill adds. "If they are mobile, we take them out...to the mall or recently one patient enjoyed hunting and fishing so we drove him to Southport to sit on the dock. At the end of the day, if we can get them laughing or make them smile, it's a good day."

Bill enjoys a good joke and values laughter in his life. He passes that quality on to those around him and uses it to build trust with patients and their caregivers. "It's sad to lose people," Bill says, "but hospice allows them to die with respect and dignity. We all just want to be treated well. We try and make every day we're with patients enjoyable and fun. Sometimes it's the tiniest thing." Recently a patient told Bill and his friend that they were his two best friends and Bill admits, "We get so much more out of it than what we give."

Realizing that there was a need in Brunswick County for a hospice care center "closer to home," Bill approached the Foundation staff in Wilmington and offered to run a fundraiser in support of that campaign. Bill had an ambitious goal to raise \$100,000 through a golf tournament in his community at St. James. All of Bill's three children came out to support him, including his daughter, Mary, an actress on TV's *In Plain Sight*. Auctioning off walk-on parts for that show helped to raise over \$20,000. More than 300 people attended the golf outing and dinner and Bill credits the St. James ownership for being completely behind the effort. "There isn't anybody who has not heard of or been touched by hospice," Bill says. In the end, the event raised over \$215,000, and the new hospice center is now under construction and due to open in the summer of 2012.

Bill encourages others, especially men, to get involved and volunteer. "It's so rewarding," he says, "and it's not just a girl thing! Anybody who volunteers is a good person, I hope I can do this for a long time." So do we, Bill.



*Mitchell W. Krucoff, MD,
Cardiologist and Professor at
Duke University Medical Center*

Mark your calendar!

Prayer, Meditation, and Medicine

A discussion with Dr. Mitchell Krucoff on the benefits of combining high-tech medical practices with prayer and meditation

**Wednesday, November 2, 2011 • 10 a.m.
Lower Cape Fear Hospice & LifeCareCenter
1414 Physicians Drive in Wilmington**

RSVP to Jason Clamme at 910-796-7943 or
Jason.Clamme@lcfh.org by Oct. 28

Seating is limited

Brunswick County Hospice Care Center Breaks Ground!



Louie Lewis, Bill Sue, Ed and Dinah Gore celebrate the progress of the Closer to Home capital campaign.

It was an exciting spring and summer for the Closer to Home campaign! The support for our efforts continues to grow, and each day we are a bit closer to seeing the care center come to fruition. In the spring, nearly 100 local *Closer to Home* donors came together to celebrate the progress of the campaign and to invite their friends and neighbors to join the effort. Senator Bill Rabon, keynote speaker, highlighted what a care center will mean to the Brunswick County community and shared with the crowd his father's hospice experience with Lower Cape Fear Hospice & LifeCareCenter.

The *Closer to Home* Golf tournament was held May 12th and raised \$30,000!

In July, work began at the care center site! Bulldozers were in place and the site was prepped to begin construction. The care center is scheduled to be completed by summer 2012. As this article goes to print, we have raised more than \$2.2 million towards our \$3.5 million goal. We would like to thank all who have generously supported this project. If you would like to be a part of bringing Lower Cape Fear Hospice & LifeCareCenter *Closer to Home*, contact Cindy Cheatham at 910-523-2770 or email cynthia.cheatham@lcfh.org.



Many Naming Opportunities Still Exist

To view a complete list of available naming opportunities please contact Cindy Cheatham at 910.523.2770.

Hospice Care Center - \$1,500,000

This seven-bed inpatient facility will have rooms large enough for overnight stays by family members and common spaces for families to gather, cook meals, and have fellowship. The highest level of inpatient hospice care including 24-hour medical attention will be delivered by an interdisciplinary team of professionals.

Community Conference Room - \$75,000

The spacious Conference Room that includes technological upgrades will be a central meeting site for family consultations, community events and staff meetings.

Reception Center - \$50,000

The Reception Center will be the first area of contact for families and visitors – a place to receive a warm embrace, needed information, and to host events and gatherings.

Patient, Staff and Volunteer Kitchen - \$50,000

This professional-grade kitchen will be the place to prepare all patient meals and provide space for staff and volunteer meals, dining, and informal meetings.

Staff and Volunteer Lounge - \$25,000

The Staff and Volunteer Lounge will provide facility staff and volunteers with a locker room, space for meals and meetings.

CLOSER TO HOME GOLF TOURNAMENT UPDATE

Many thanks to those who participated in and supported the Second Annual Brunswick Forest *Closer to Home* Golf Classic held on May 12 at Cape Fear National. The sold-out tournament, presented by Double Run Farm, raised \$30,000 to support the Brunswick County Hospice Care Center. Guests enjoyed a day of golf on one of the area's most beautiful and challenging courses, a putting contest with a chance to win tickets to the 2012 Masters Tournament, and an awards dinner featuring the lively and entertaining Master of Ceremony Bill McCormack and his lovely "assistant" Genevieve Barker. The committee, led by Lower Cape Fear Hospice Foundation Board Member Lorri Shipston, did a spectacular job recruiting teams, sponsors and items for auction.



Event Committee: Tracey Kellogg, Wayne Moody, Ronnie Jenkins, Lori Speight, Jerry Bailey, Brad Walker, Lorri Shipston, and Cindy Cheatham (not pictured are Meagan Hutchings and Trace Stokes)



John Monteith, Rick Peele, Chris Boney and David Martin enjoy a great day of golf at Cape Fear National.

Mark your calendar for the Third Annual

BRUNSWICK FOREST



May 10, 2012

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To view all the event sponsors and photos, please visit our website at www.closetohomegolfclassic.org

events

Hospice Memorial Celebrates Heros

Jim Newman, Lt. Col, USAF Retired and his wife Peggy a Whiteville native, joined over 300 people as they celebrated their heroes together at the Lower Cape Fear Hospice & LifeCareCenter Angel House.



Between Newman and three of his family members, they are combat veterans with over 100 years of service to our country. They participated in WWII, Vietnam, Desert Storm, and Afghanistan. Currently Lt. Col Newman's younger brother- Lt. Col John R. Newman USAF is on active duty in Afghanistan and scheduled to return stateside soon.

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Lt. Col Newman shared with the staff of Lower Cape Fear Hospice & LifeCareCenter how meaningful this event was to him.

"It is gratifying to see an increase of respect for the military that was not present during the late sixties and early seventies. I can remember being spat upon more than once as I transited the San Francisco International Airport during that period." Newman shared with those how he was moved by the spirit of patriotism that graced the grounds.

Lower Cape Fear Hospice & LifeCareCenter held its annual Bountiful Life Tile Dedication Ceremony. This year the agency added the Field of Flags as an opportunity for everyone to come together as a community to remember, to honor, and to heal. As a result, the ceremony evolved into a much larger event.

The Field of Flags is an opportunity for community members to honor their personal heroes - whoever they are - a family member, a friend, a veteran, a member of the armed services, a favorite teacher, a police officer, a firefighter or any other person who made an impact on their lives.

Over 500 flags were displayed on the Angel House Hospice Care Center grounds. Henry Hawthorne - CEO of Columbus Regional Healthcare System - dedicated this "silent patriotic and poignant reminder of the cost of war" and reminded us of the pride and dedication felt by those serving our country.



During the ceremony patriotic songs were performed by "Mane Attraction" under the direction of Miranda Conner with South Columbus High School. An Honor Guard flag presentation by the Whiteville High School ROTC and the Boy Scouts Troop 513 raised the flag while the audience joined in the National Anthem. After the ceremonies everyone joined in a family style BBQ by Joe's Barbecue.

The success of this event was due in part by the staff and volunteers of Lower Cape Fear Hospice & LifeCareCenter and the significant contributions from the events main sponsors: Columbus Regional Healthcare System, Dr. and Mrs. Ray Thigpen, WellCare, and Woodmen of the World. Plans are already under way for next year's event. Save the date for May 20, 2012!



The Wilmington Ballet Company presents
The Cape Fear Festival of Trees & Nutcracker Ballet
December 3 and 4 at the Minnie Evans Art Center

The ballet company will donate a significant portion of the proceeds to Lower Cape Fear Hospice & LifeCareCenter in honor of their previous 25 years of involvement with the Festival of Trees and for their gift of service to our area. For more information on their event, please visit www.capefearfestivaloftrees.org



Last Chance for White Pants Gala celebrates the end of summer in style

Despite Hurricane Irene trying to crash the party and forcing the event to be rescheduled, more than 350 guests gathered September 2 at the Hilton Wilmington Riverside to celebrate the end of summer. Attendees, decked out in their favorite white attire, danced to the funky sound of Soul Power Posse in the grand ballroom and were entertained poolside by local radio DJ. One lucky guest won a BMW for a weekend generously provided by Schaeffer BMW. The live and silent auctions featured amazing items and heated bidding...all for a good cause, of course. The committee, lead by Sandy Spiers and Linwood Gainey, completely transformed the location into a "South Beach" inspired paradise and pulled off what just might have been the party of the summer! We would like to thank all of the sponsors, attendees, and committee members for raising more than \$50,000 (net) to support the services and programs provided by Lower Cape Fear Hospice & LifeCareCenter.

2011 Event Committee

HONORARY CHAIRS: Annie Gray Johnston, Janie Lambeth

CO-CHAIRS: Linwood Gainey, Sandy Spiers

COMMITTEE MEMBERS: Mary Andrews, Linda Cooper, Cape Fear Women's Club, Chrissy Dieterle, Brigid Driskill, Veronica Godwin, Susan Gsell, Sharon Laney, Alease Leinwand, Vanessa Martinnen, Michelle Murphy, Amy Brown North, Rebane O'Neill, Frank Potter, Tracy Register, Susie Smith, Zoe Zacchino

To view photos of this event, please visit
www.hospicefestivaloflife.org

"Orange You Glad You Were Invited" gala pre-party



Hostess Leslie Hales draws a raffle winner.



Leah Ashley, of the band Jack Jack 180 entertains the crowd.



Gala committee member, Sharon Laney and Gala co-chair, Sandy Spiers in their festive orange!

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Wachovia/Wells-Fargo Foundation,

Wilmington Burial & Cremation,

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HEARTS & HANDS CIRCLE

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Crescent State Bank,

Cruisers Car Wash, Face Rx,

GriffinEstep/Insurance and Benefits,

Johnson Drug Company, Kusek

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Cape Fear Women's Club, CFCC Basketball Team,

Coastal Beverage, Cumulus Broadcasting,

Event Solutions, Fiore Fine Flowers,

The Fortunate Glass, The Furniture Company,

Barry & Leslie Hales, the staff of the Hilton

Wilmington Riverside, Home Depot, JackJack180,

Livin' Out Loud, Lowes Home Improvement,

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Upcoming Lower Cape Fear Hospice Foundation Events

Save the Dates

Safe Passages Memorial Service
Heritage Garden - Wilmington Campus
October 22, 2011

Festival of Flowers
Hilton Wilmington Riverside
February 7, 2012

Festival of Trees Columbus
North Carolina Museum of Forestry
Whiteville, NC
December 3-7, 2011

Closer to Home Golf Classic
Cape Fear National
May 10, 2012

Festival of Trees Columbus
Holiday Luncheons
Vineland Station
Whiteville, NC
December 8 and 9, 2011



*Events are subject to change.
Please check our website at
www.hospiceandlifecarecenter.org
frequently for a current listing of
Lower Cape Fear Hospice Foundation
events and for community partners'
events to benefit the Foundation.*