

Journey of Compassion



Professional photographer Kenny Barnes and his wife, Elizabeth have a heart for hospice, and they love to work with children. So they approached Lower Cape Fear Hospice & LifeCareCenter with an offer to provide a free portrait opportunity to families who had a child in hospice care. They wanted to donate a black and white framed photograph for families to keep as a remembrance of their young loved one.

Almost immediately, a family enrolled in hospice and was able to participate. Little Jabari was only six years old and faced serious illness. The family was able to take him to the Barnes studio, where they captured a precious moment in time, a moment with Jabari surrounded by those who loved him most.

Several weeks later, Kenny and Elizabeth presented Jabari's mother with the meaningful family portrait. It was a poignant moment everyone will remember and cherish forever.

This program is called "A Child's Journey of Compassion." Lower Cape Fear Hospice & LifeCareCenter is honored to offer this service, and we extend our thanks to Kenny and Elizabeth Barnes for their generosity and compassion to our patients and families.

For more information, call 796-7943.

Shoshanna McNeal, Jabari's mother, and photographer Kenny Barnes with the family portrait donated through the "A Child's Journey of Compassion" program.

Faces of Hospice – A Family Reunited



Furman, at left, and Harvey were happy to be reconnected and enjoy time together.

A family and two hospices (Providence Trinity Care Hospice, Torrance, Ca. and Lower Cape Fear Hospice & LifeCareCenter) worked together in an extraordinary way to relocate Harvey, a patient, and reconnect him with his family. The end result enriched this man's life and gave his family the last – and lasting – memories.

Time and distance, changes in career, and family situations had taken their toll, creating a void in the two brothers' relationship. They had lost contact over the years. Furman, the elder, and Harvey had been close in their youth, despite the seven-year age difference. The Merchant Marines and a tour in the Army for Furman separated them. After Harvey graduated from college, he also joined the Army.

Multiple tragedies occurred in Harvey's personal life. An automobile accident involving his brother-in-law left Harvey deeply saddened. Tragedy occurred again; another auto accident claimed the life of Harvey's wife and 7-month-old son, leaving Harvey a young widower and sole parent to a daughter, Patty. She eventually went to live with Harvey's mother and aunt in Colorado, disconnected from her father. Harvey's reaction to the many emotional traumas was withdrawal from his family and a 'wanderlust' spirit compelled him to move on and on.

Through the years, Harvey would occasionally 'drop in,' visit with Furman and Martha, and then go on his way. As the years passed, Martha continuously sent notes, birthday cards, and Christmas letters, unaware that Harvey was in poor health. Her message was that they cared and would be glad if Harvey could spend time with them; could he possibly come to North Carolina? One of her notes was read by a hospice social worker who, with Harvey's permission, let Martha know that

he was in hospice care at Providence Trinity Care Hospice in the Los Angeles area and did, indeed, want to be with his N.C. family.

The physical limitations of Harvey's failing health presented substantial obstacles to a move. Emphysema and COPD required oxygen therapy; he was not strong physically; the cross-country flight would be difficult. The hospices went into action. Numerous phone calls, protocol procedures, documentations, and transportation arrangements were put into place to enroll Harvey with Lower Cape Fear Hospice & LifeCareCenter. The goals of the two hospices were the comfort and support of the patient and the patient's family.

Harvey arrived at the Wilmington airport with his few worldly possessions and the ever-present oxygen. The two brothers had not seen each other in 15 years. Both of them – men of few words – were happy to be reunited.

Time spent with Martha and Furman enriched Harvey's life. Martha had collected photos from family members to give Harvey a visual family reunion, a way to 'meet' his three grandchildren and three great-grandchildren.

Harvey reconnected with his family. Patty spent a week visiting and re-establishing ties with her father. Eventually, her daughter, Jerrica, visited and came to know her grandfather.

Harvey's health declined further. After nine months of comfort and care with Martha and Furman in their home, it became necessary to seek a nursing home. Harvey's social worker arranged for admission to a nursing home compatible with his medical needs. He looked forward to time with his hospice volunteer Tom, who continued to visit and bring his favorite ice cream.

A loving family proved to be a blessing for Harvey. He was fortunate to have the commitment and dedication of hospice teams from coast to coast. Harvey was not expected to live more than a month. However, with the love from Martha and Furman and the care from Lower Cape Fear Hospice & LifeCareCenter, Harvey lived thirteen months.

The words of Dame Cicely Saunders, founder of modern-day hospice care, express the essence of this story. "You matter because of who you are. You matter to the last moment of your life, and we will do all we can, not only to help you die peacefully, but also to live until you die."

- Submitted by Marjorie Volk

Why Wait? Call Today!

Just about every day we read articles that discuss the reasons people with life-limiting illness enroll in hospice care much later than they should.

Families don't want to admit that their loved one is dying. Doctors don't want to let their patients down or have them give up hope. Patients don't want to have their doctor abandon them.

The list goes on and on. Many patients spend their last months of life on trips to the emergency room or dealing with uncontrolled pain, distressing symptoms, undergoing exhaustive treatments. For every patient in hospice care, two others could be enrolled, receiving medical care and support they need during this challenging time.

It doesn't have to be this way. Hospice is encouraged months before the last days of a person's life. Research has shown that patients who receive hospice care live longer than those who do not, although the diagnosis is the same.

Under hospice, most patients remain in their homes, surrounded by loved ones in a comfortable, familiar environment. Patients can learn about their healthcare options and make their wishes known to loved ones, as well as participate in planning and decision-making. They have time to prepare for the changes they face, to spend time together, and to say goodbye.

More than 99 percent of our hospice families say they would recommend our care to others. Why wait? If you or your loved one is facing a life-limiting illness, call for the supportive care hospice offers today!



President & CEO Laurie Bystrom
Lower Cape Fear Hospice & LifeCareCenter

Brunswick County Hospice Happenings



Closer to Home capital campaign committee members and agency staff met with Louie Lewis at the land he generously donated for our Brunswick County hospice care center. The 7.35 acres are off Old Ocean Highway, near the new Brunswick Novant Medical Center currently under construction.
Photo courtesy of Calabash Photography.



Jason Clamme presents a workshop on our Begin The Conversation initiative that encourages people to start talking about their healthcare choices with loved ones and physicians.



Volunteer Jane Gilbert manned the agency booth at the Waterford Village Shoppes fair. Volunteers play an important role as ambassadors for our agency.



Groups like the Needlework Club of Carolina Shores, with Becky Long, left, often donate crocheted and knitted afghans and other items for hospice patients.



Staff members Rebecca Green and Matt Foss attended the open house for Universal Health of Brunswick County, a new nursing home.



Participants at the Begin The Conversation community conference gave positive feedback. They commented the presenters offered educational, informative, and useful information.



These individuals completed our most recent eighteen-hour training to become hospice volunteers in Brunswick County. Orientation sessions for new volunteers are held periodically throughout the year.

Grief Support – Help is Just A Phone Call Away!

Most of us have loved and lost cherished individuals in our lives, and we understand that coping with grief is a challenging process.

If you are having difficulty dealing with the loss of a loved one, our Bereavement Services staff members are the people you can call for help. They provide grief counseling to patients, their families, and the community through individual and group sessions throughout the year. Our Sunrise Kids program addresses the special needs of grieving children and adolescents through a variety of programs, including Sunshine Camp, our summer day camp for kids.

For more information, call 754-5356. An overview of our services, including a schedule of upcoming grief programs is available online at hospiceandlifecarecenter.org.



Lower Cape Fear Hospice Inc. is licensed by the N.C. Div. of Health Service Regulation to provide hospice care to the residents of southeastern N.C. Governed by a volunteer board of directors of citizens from New Hanover, Pender, Brunswick, Bladen and Columbus counties, the agency is an affiliate of NHRMC, a member of the National Hospice and Palliative Care Organization, the Carolinas Center for Hospice and End of Life Care, and the Hospice Provider Network, is approved by the Accreditation Commission for Health Care, Inc. and is certified by Medicare and Medicaid.



Lower Cape Fear Hospice & LifeCareCenter, a nonprofit health care agency, is proud to receive support from the Cape Fear Area and the Bladen County United Ways.



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Email hospice.lifecarecenter@lcfh.org
www.hospiceandlifecarecenter.org

BEGIN THE CONVERSATION • ORG

BeginTheConversation.org is a public education initiative sponsored by Lower Cape Fear Hospice & LifeCareCenter to encourage people to identify and communicate their healthcare choices.

Thank You, Brunswick County!

Outreach staff completed a Brunswick County blitz, spreading the word about our services and thanking community members for their support over the last thirty years. We extend our thanks to all the businesses that agreed to display posters, including those listed below.

ABC Store	Dutchman Creek Bait and Tackle	Lowes Food	Scrap Book Addict
Ace Hardware	Eddie Romanelli's	Magnolia Gift and Antiques	Seashell Tanning Salon
American General	Edward Jones Co.	Mailbox, Etc.	Seashore Drugs
Ameritech	Ella's of Calabash	Margaret Rudd & Assoc. Realtors	Shallotte Cleaners
ATMC	Family Thrift Store	Marsh Lighting, Inc.	Shallotte Florist
Badcock Home Furniture & More	Farm Bureau	Martin Self Storage	Sheffield's Seafood & Grocery
Baked With Love	First Baptist Caregivers Group	Maters & Taters	Sherwin Williams
Bath and Body Works	First Federal	Medical Mall	Southport Antiques
BB&T	Floortex Inc.	Meeks Storage	Southport Realty
Beautiful Nails	Food Lions	Merle Cosmetics	Southport Visitor's Center
Beauty at the Beach	Four Seasons Dry Cleaners	Minute Man #30	Sprint
Bed Land Mattress Warehouse	Franklin Square Gallery	Moore Antiques	St. Peter's Episcopal Church
Belk	George's Family Restaurant & Pancake House	Movie Gallery	Subways
Bell's Supply Heating & Air	Galleria Cleaners	N. Brunswick Family Medicine	Sunset Dental
Beverage Barn	GNC	New Ebenezer Faith Ministries	Sunset Gourmet
Big Lots	Gold's Gym	Northrop Antiques Mall	Supply Volunteer Fire Department
BKK Construction	Granny Allyn's Country Kitchen	Oak Island Ace Hardware	The Back Porch Ice Cream Shoppe
Brunswick County Airport	Grantham Graphics	Oak Island Senior Center and Craft Shop	The Blue Heron Gallery
Brunswick County Libraries	Great Clips	Oak Island Sporting Goods	the cartridge place
Brunswick Family Assist. Agency	Groucho's Deli	Ocean Isle Family Medicine	The Purple Dahlia
Brunswick Physical Therapy Assoc.	Habitat for Humanity	Office Depot	The Shoe Dept.
Bubba's	Hair Shapers Barber Shop	Omni Storage	The State Port Pilot
Calabash Deli	Head Hunter Barber Shop	Party Maker	The UPS Store
Calabash Florist & Company	Hibisce Insurance Group	Peking Buffet	Thomas Drugs
Calabash Photography	Home Depot	Pelican Bookstore	Tienda Mexicana de los Angeles
Calabash Nautical Gifts	House of Wine and Cheese	Picture Me Portraits	Timeless Treasures
Campbell Oil & Gas Co.	Internet Café	Pizza Hut	Tony's Pizza
CAMS	Intracoastal Realty	PJ's Restaurant	Town of Leland
Cape Fear Jewelers	Island Brewhs Beachside	Purple Onion	TRO Tobacco
Cape Fear Sailing Academy	Island Classic Interiors	Ragland's Gifts & Accessories	Upscale Resale
Capeside Animal Hospital	Island Mart & Coffee Shop	RBR New and Used Books	US Cellular
Cash Points	J Huffman Clothing	Reflections Stained Glass	Victoria's Ragpatch
CATO	J.M. Parker & Sons Building	Regal Nails	Waffle House
Cattail Cottage	Jade Tank Lines	Rent-A-Center	Walgreens
Chamber of Commerce	Jane's Seafood	Ricky Evans Gallery	Waves Surf and Sport Inc.
Childcare Network	JC Penney Catalog Store	Rite Aid	Williamson Realty
China Buffett	Kangaroo #3135	River Run Cleaners	Worms & Coffee
Citgo	Kipke and Rose Attorneys	Ronco Mobile Home Brokerage	Yamaha-Midway
Coastal Pool	Lantana's Gallery & Fine Gifts	San Jose Mexican Restaurant	
Coldwell Banker SeaCoast Realty	Las Palmeras		
Communities In Schools	Leland Fire/Rescue		
Compass Rose Embroidery	Leland Post Office		
DeAngelo's Pizza	Leland Veterinary Hospital		
Dollar General	Live Oak Nutrition, Inc.		
Dollar Trees	Lollipop Kids		
Domino's Pizzas			
Douglas Diamond Jewelers			
Duffer's Bar & Grill			



Outreach Provider Rep Matt Foss displays our anniversary poster with a family member at Ocean Trail Nursing Facility.

Hospice Can Help! Your Hospice Team:

- Cares for you, wherever you live and offers intensive hospice services in our care centers
- Manages your pain and symptoms
- Serves people with life-limiting illnesses like end-stage lung, heart, and kidney disease, cancer, Alzheimer's, dementia, ALS, strokes
- Provides a bed or walker, delivers your medicine, bathes you and helps you with personal care
- Covers your hospice expenses through Medicare, Medicaid and most insurances
- Works with your physician to coordinate your care
- Provides someone to call – day, night or weekends
- Teaches caregivers how to safely care for you and gives them rest time
- Prepares you and your family for what might lie ahead
- Honors your wishes, respects your traditions and beliefs, helps guide your family discussions
- Assists with chores or errands, reads to you, helps you write letters or record your life story