The Gift of Time

PROVIDENCE HOSPICE ADVISORY COUNCIL MEMBER
BARBARA POWELL SHARES THE GIFTS OF HOSPICE

The gifts of hospice foster quality of life, but families like Barbara Powell’s receive an added benefit: time.

Providence Hospice gave Barbara and her mother, Billie Landfair, 18 months together, time filled with joy and an ever-expanding circle of friends made among Billie’s care team in Waco.

Billie was energetic and active, living independently until the age of 90, when she moved to St. Catherine Center at Providence Park. She was diagnosed with pulmonary fibrosis, a chronic and progressive lung disease, after little more than a year.

Hospice was recommended. The news was hard to hear, but it was softened by a silver lining.

“You may live longer because you’re on hospice,” Billie’s doctor told mother and daughter.

It is a surprising fact, but researchers writing in the New England Journal of Medicine found patients who received hospice services lived an average of 29 days longer than those who did not receive hospice care.

Encouraged by her doctor, Billie started our hospice program with the comfort of knowing her care would be delivered at the place she called home. Her care team—nurses, chaplains, volunteers and others—would become more than friends. They became family.

This devoted team gave Barbara, an only child, the peace of mind to travel and spend time with her husband and children between otherwise daily visits with her mother.

Barbara Powell’s mother, Billie Landfair, center, with her grandchildren, Calley Powell, left, and Colin Powell, right.

“I didn’t feel alone,” Barbara said.

Sonya Rawlings-Aleman, volunteer coordinator for Providence Hospice in Waco, became Billie’s closest friend and confidant. The affection was mutual, and Sonya’s work days often ended at Billie’s bedside. As time grew shorter, Sonya drew closer, often visiting at dinner time to help Billie with her evening meal.

“That wasn’t part of her job description,” Barbara said. In the end, it’s the memory of those bonds of affection—and of the countless small but extraordinary actions that spoke love more clearly than words—that sets Providence Hospice apart, she said. That is why Barbara passes on the gifts of hospice today as a Providence Hospice Waco Advisory Council member, advocate and donor.
FROM THE CEO

Spring marks my first anniversary as Community Hospice of Texas chief executive officer, and this first year has been one of change and challenge.

At a time of unprecedented need for compassionate end-of-life care—the number of U.S. patients served by hospice annually has increased four-fold since our founding in 1996—our organization and others like it face increasing pressure on reimbursements. We are asked to do more with less, a challenge we could not meet without our family of donors.

Here are just a few ways your gifts have advanced our mission over the past year:

- Major gifts, including proceeds from the Rex King Memorial Cup Soccer Tournament, will upgrade or replace patient care equipment and fixtures at our Hospice House Downtown and Huguley Hospice House.
- The Junior League of Fort Worth brought new life to the children’s playroom in our downtown hospice house, and I hope you’ll join one of our CONNECT tours to see the joyful results.
- Members of our Life Fulfiller Society, the new 1996 Society, and donors giving in memory of loved ones made it possible for us to offer more than $750,000 in Community Care in 2017. This care, combined with many small comforts we provide all patients, regardless of ability to pay, is the heart of our mission as a not-for-profit hospice.

The coming year promises still greater change, and I am grateful we will meet its challenges together. Because of you, Community Hospice of Texas and Providence Hospice embody a standard of care beyond measure.

With gratitude for your support,

Viki Jingle

Special Thanks to

Community Hospice of Texas thanks members of the Junior League of Fort Worth for their labor of love in renovating the children’s playroom at our Hospice House in downtown Fort Worth. In one of its 2018 Community Projects, the League provided volunteers and funding to remodel the playroom and buy toys and kid-friendly furniture, creating a place for children to wait and play, explore their grief and learn ways to constructively cope with grief.

Glenda Diaz (left) and Kristina Robertson (right)
Mark Your Calendars

Community Hospice of Texas

Adult Support Groups
Arlington
May 10 - June 7, Thursdays from 12:30 - 2:00 pm
First United Methodist Church of Arlington
313 N Center St, Arlington, TX 76011

Fort Worth
July 17 - August 14, Tuesdays from 12:00 - 1:30 pm
James L. West - 4th Floor
1111 Summit Ave., Fort Worth, TX 76102

Bedford
June 14 - July 12, Thursdays from 6:00 - 7:30 pm
Martin United Methodist Church
2621 Bedford Rd, Bedford, TX 76021

Grief Care Social Events
Birthday Breakfast Club Fort Worth
1st Monday of Every Month at 9:00 am
Westside Café, 7950 Camp Bowie Blvd.
Fort Worth, TX 76116

Walk/Sit at the Mall Hurst
Every Tuesday from 9:00 – 10:30 am
North East Mall Food Court
101 Melbourne Rd, Hurst, TX 76053

Walk/Sit at the Mall Fort Worth
Every Wednesday from 9:00 – 10:30 am
Hulen Mall Food Court, 4800 S Hulen St
Fort Worth, TX 76132

Providence Hospice

Adult Support Groups
Waco Daytime Groups
June 13 - July 25, Wednesdays from 2:00 - 3:30 pm
6700 Sanger Avenue, Waco, TX 76710

Waco Evening Groups
May 1 - June 30, Thursdays from 5:30 - 7:00 pm
6700 Sanger Avenue, Waco, TX 76710

Grief Care Social Events
Birthday Breakfast Club
1st Walk and Talk at Richland Mall
Every Tuesday from 9:30 - 10:30 am
Richland Mall, 6001 W. Waco Drive, Waco, TX 76710

Lunch Bunch at Richland Mall
2nd Tuesday of Each Month at 11:00 am
Richland Mall, 6001 W. Waco Drive
Waco, TX 76710

For more information call 1-800-958-5014

Save the Date: 2018 Life’s Hope Luncheon

Providence Hospice
Wednesday, October 3 at Noon
Ridgwood Country Club
7301 Fish Pond Road
Waco

Community Hospice of Texas
Thursday, October 25 at Noon
Ridgelea Country Club
3700 Bernie Anderson Avenue
Fort Worth

Proceeds from our annual Life’s Hope Luncheon benefit patients and families like yours who face life-limiting illness or the loss of a loved one. Through medical, social, and spiritual care, grief support and more, we strive to give comfort and safeguard quality of life, wherever patients and families call home.

Please take a moment to thank sponsors of the 2017 Life’s Hope Luncheon and join them in supporting compassionate end-of-life care this year.

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Texas Health Huguley Hospital
RHSB Insurance

Bronze Sponsors
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On Mother’s Day 2016, Cathy Lin began reading a book to her 8-year-old son, Nathan.

“One day a child was born,” the book, *I Wonder What You Will Do on Your First Day in Heaven*, began.

“The child was healthy and happy.”

“And grew to be bigger and bigger.

“The child lived and laughed and loved.

“But one day the child felt sick.”

The arc of the story was all too familiar. Ten months earlier, Nathan, an otherwise healthy and active seven-year-old, had been diagnosed with glioblastoma, an aggressive, hard-to-treat brain cancer. It was devastating news for Cathy, her husband, cardiothoracic surgeon Jeff Lin, and their three children.

Surgery would remove 90 percent of the original tumor, and radiation treatment could manage some symptoms. Nathan was eligible for a low-risk clinical trial, and through it all—surgery, radiation, and chemotherapy—Nathan lived, laughed, loved and inspired awe.

There had always been something special about the Lin’s youngest child. A kindergarten teacher in the church school he attended described Nathan as the most spiritual child she had ever known.

A hospital chaplain who visited the family in Nathan’s room the night before surgery saw the same spirit. Asked if he were afraid, the seven-year-old said, “no, I know that God is always with me,” Cathy remembered.

“He was given a gift, he really was,” Cathy said. “Fear was not part of the process.”

Despite the demands of treatment, there were many good days and a few great ones, like the February day Nathan sat beside TCU swim coach Richard Sybesma and signed a ceremonial letter of intent to swim for TCU. Local media captured the day’s events, and their stories and video show the Lin family’s VIP welcome at TCU, the signing ceremony, and a beaming Nathan cheered by TCU student athletes after swimming the length of the pool.

When a reporter asked him to describe the day, Nathan had just one word for it. “Awesome,” he said.

Nathan left TCU on top of the world, but as Easter approached, he grew weary. An MRI confirmed the cancer was spreading, and doctors advised the Lins to bring Nathan home with hospice care.

The choice of hospice providers was just one of many seemingly impossible decisions to make. The Lins chose Community Hospice of Texas on the assurance it was the most responsive provider, and that was a promise Community Hospice kept time and again.

Still more difficult decisions loomed. Cathy and Jeff had not told Nathan he was dying, not in so many words. Their Community Hospice care team assured them they would know when the time was right, but no one imagined that time would come on Mother’s Day.

The night before had been difficult. It had been the first night the Lins feared Nathan might not live until morning.

So on their last Mother’s Day together, Cathy sat at her son’s bedside and softly said there would be no more treatments. She explained that he was dying and would soon be in heaven, whole again. It was a conversation that could have been scripted by Phoebe Welsh, author of *I Wonder What You Will Do on Your First Day in Heaven*. Community Hospice Child Life Specialist Kelly Cox had recommended the book, and now Cathy opened it and began reading to her son, as she would every day until Nathan died in her arms on June 3, 2016.

For the Lins, the gifts of hospice today are mementos of a life lived fully if not long, gifts like the necklace Kelly made for Cathy—the pendant is stamped with the delicate impression of Nathan’s thumbprint—and the comforting final pages of the book Cathy and her youngest son began on Mother’s Day.

“The child was in Heaven …

“Safe,

“Whole

“And happy.”
Join us for a CONNECT

Tour one of our hospice houses, specialized in-patient care facilities, and learn about the lasting gifts of compassionate end-of-life care. You’ll hear a personal story of ways our care comforted a family like yours. You’ll be inspired, but you will not be asked for a donation. Tours last less than an hour.

COMMUNITY HOSPICE OF TEXAS CONNECT TOURS

May 17    June 21
July 19    August 16
September 20  October 18
December 13

PROVIDENCE HOSPICE CONNECT TOURS

June 13    July 11
August 8   September 12
November 14  December 12

To RSVP, contact Bertha Orona at 817.989.3254 or borona@chot.org

How do I GIVE?

We accept gifts made by cash, check, or credit card. If you would like to contribute supplies, please consider giving from our Wish List, or visit us at CHOT.org or ProvidenceHospice.org

Wish List

- Snacks for families at our hospice houses (inpatient units)
- Small games, such as dominoes and card games
- New toys and books for our pediatric patients and their siblings
- New dark-colored towels
- New twin sheet sets
- Gift cards for volunteer appreciation
- Personal care items for families at our hospice houses (scented lotions, creams, body wash, aftershave, etc.)
- Memory bear and pillow supplies (stuffing, pillow forms and ribbon)
- iTunes gift cards for our music therapy program

Special Thanks to

Give thanks for the Mavs Foundation and its grant supporting children’s activity bags in the Dallas area. Activity bags are filled with hands-on activities to help children on hospice, their siblings, and the children of our adult patients cope with life-limiting illness or loss.
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Fort Worth, Texas 76107
(817) 870-2795 • Toll Free: (800) 226-0373

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1111 Summit Avenue
Fort Worth, Texas 76102
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Gifts to Community Hospice of Texas and Providence Hospice are cherished and help us to provide quality care to those who need our services.