



Crater Community Hospice celebrates 15 years serving Crater District

In 1993 Mary French Elder came home following a trip to be with her mother in Fredericksburg, VA, who was under the care of Hospice nurses. As a long distance caregiver, the emotional and physical burden of providing care was stressful and difficult. "As well as providing excellent care for my mom, the moral support of the hospice staff helped keep me going," said French Elder, "I also learned that hospice was not available in the Tri-Cities, my own community."

It was then that she talked with a friend, Franklin Boyce, then CEO of John Randolph Hospital, telling him that she felt their Hopewell community needed hospice. "I kept saying, what do these families do when faced with illnesses? Where do they go for help?", said French Elder, "I couldn't imagine how people could do this on their own."

It was a question Frank Boyce took to Dave Dunham, CEO of Southside Regional Medical Center in Petersburg. In October 1994 John Randolph Hospital and Southside Regional Medical Center, community hospitals at that time, announced a joint venture, initially underwriting the hospice for the Tri-Cities area. It was then that **Crater Community Hospice (CCH)** was developed as the nonprofit, freestanding hospice with an independent Board of Directors serving the cities of Hopewell, Petersburg, and Colonial Heights and the counties of Prince George, Surry

Charles City, Dinwiddie, Sussex, and lower Chesterfield. In 1996 CCH began serving Emporia and Greensville County.

CCH was licensed for hospice care and began accepting patients in fall, 1995. In the 15 years of services to the community, **CCH** has provided care for over 3,500 patients and has educated thousands of professionals and families on end-of-life planning and hospice care. The staff has grown to 30 and hundreds of volunteers have been a part of the hospice team over the years.

Volunteers are an essential part of the hospice philosophy of care, often becoming like family to the hospice patient offering friend-

ship, love and support. For many volunteers, time stretches into years as a caregiver, a listening ear or a board member. Mary French Elder, a board member for CCH since 1994, recently rotated off the board after serving 15 years along with Philip Oakley, longtime treasurer for the Board.

To reach this milestone is a testament to CCH's strong commitment to the community, our steady business practices and the dedication and hard work of our board, staff and volunteers," said Brenda D. Mitchell, long time CEO for CCH, "Facing tough economic times is no stranger to us. But like many families, we work hard and stay focused on what is important. The support of our community is the payoff."

Crater Community Hospice was awarded The Cameron Foundation's Excellence in Organizational Management in 2009 setting the example of the quality of services provided by nonprofits across Southside Virginia.



Message from the CEO

Brenda D. Mitchell, RN, MSN, CS, CHPN
Chief Executive Officer

Happy New Year to all from everyone at CCH! 2010 starts another exciting year for our organization. CCH will reach yet another milestone-our 15th anniversary serving the tri-cities and surrounding counties. Our staff, board and volunteers are all very proud of this accomplishment and we hope everyone will celebrate with us throughout 2010. Listen for upcoming events!

It is hard to believe that we have been in our “new” location for almost a year. It has been a busy year and we invite the community to visit your hospice at any time. If you have driven by lately, you will see that we have our garden planted. It is growing well thanks to the rainy fall. This year we will be focusing on the walkway and getting those first bricks in place. The response from our hospice friends has been wonderful and it is these supporters that make all of this possible.

The beginning of a New Year is the time we all look back on the past year and make those resolutions for the New Year. How many of you remember resolutions you made a year ago? If you can remember, did you keep that resolution and reach your goal? Goals must be realistic or one will become easily frustrated and not put forth the effort. With your support it is much easier to stay focused and challenged. At CCH we set goals every year and it takes the entire team and all of our supporters to facilitate reaching our goals. Each year we want to serve more families and increase awareness of CCH in all the areas we serve. We want to increase funding in any way possible in order to serve everyone regardless of the ability to pay.

This year is no different from the other 14 years, but I am asking you to make a simple and realistic resolution. This resolution will provide you the opportunity

to help your community and CCH at the same time. Are you willing to tell one person about CCH? Are you willing to ask that person to do the same? This can be very easily done, it takes very

little time and you don't have to go very far to do this. CCH is *your community* hospice. CCH remains the only non-profit community-based hospice in the entire Richmond and tri-cities areas. There are still those who think everyone is affiliated with the same agency if the agency provides hospice services. Every hospice program operates independently. Our goal is for everyone in our service areas to recognize the name Crater Community Hospice. With your help and the help of those you know, I think we can make CCH the known place to call or visit for anyone who needs information or help related to care giving, end of life planning, bereavement issues, or perhaps a listening ear. CCH cannot do everything, but we will work with everyone to assist however we can.

As we begin 2010 I want to thank everyone for your past support; it is because of you that CCH has continued to be your community hospice. CCH has developed many partners over the years and by each of us helping each other, all have benefited. We look forward to another year of strong partnerships. Again, thank you for all you do for CCH and please begin to spread the word-*CCH is the community hospice*.

Promote your business and highlight

your commitment to serving the community by becoming a 2010 special event sponsor. New this year is a unique opportunity which offers visibility to a variety of community minded, active residents and businesses. If you or one of your friends, colleagues or business associates would like to learn more about sponsoring events and in-kind and financial sponsorship opportunities, please contact Krista Ratliff, at KRatliff@CraterCommunityHospice.org or 804-526-4300.

CCH BOARD OF DIRECTORS

We would like to recognize the contributions of several members of our Board of Directors who recently completed their terms as board members. We appreciate their valuable contributions to Crater Community Hospice and thank them for their countless hours of service. Thank You!

Philip R. Oakley	1994 - 2009
Mary French Elder	1994 - 2009
Jo Ann Glazier	2003 - 2009
Tracy Taliaferro	2001 - 2009

We would also like to welcome our newest Board members, and recognize our current Board members and their roles as officers and directors

Howard Brown, Chair, and member since 2007
Jim Russell, Vice Chair, and member since 2007
Jane Elliott, Secretary, and member since 2007
Beverly Epps, Treasurer, and member since 2008
Karen Hayes, 2007
Janice Johnson, 2009
William N. Miller, 2006
Blair H. Nelsen, 2009
Beverly Bzdek Smith, 2004
A. Christine Sovine, 2009
Brenda Mitchell, CEO and ex officio member since 1997

*On Saturday, April 17
at 6 pm,
celebrate
the 15th anniversary
of our founding
with a reception and live auction
at the Indian Cultural Center in
Chester.*

*Festivities get started
at 6 p.m.
The evening will be shared
with 300 friends
and supporters
from across Southside
Virginia.
Go online or call early
to Krista at 526-4300 to reserve
your tickets.*

Technology offers solutions

Today's technology dictates the demand and need for computer knowledge from people of all ages, and senior citizens are determined not to get left behind.

Seniors are signing up for computer classes through local schools, colleges, community centers, and online (Internet) resources. Many of us learn through practical use that computers serve helpful but unintended purposes for the caregiver.

“When my children encouraged us to use a computer I gave in but now I find it so easy,” said one senior who feels the computer has simplified communication with friends and family, “It’s frustrating when you first begin, but the pleasure outweighs

the frustration. Keyboarding is a lot like piano keys. It takes use and practice. When things get quiet it focuses my mind on something else without too much effort. Some people take a walk to clear their minds but for me, the computer is able to do that.” For caregivers email can be a much needed time-saver. “It’s a wonderful way to keep up with the family and out of town friends. We communicated with people through email when my husband became ill. People have let us know they really appreciated that we kept them informed



throughout his illness. It made things less stressful for me.”

CaringBridge.org/ is an internet service that allows patients, or their families, to communicate with loved ones through their own personal web site. The CaringBridge program is a free and easy-to-use way for patients to keep far-off family and friends informed of their condition while they are hospitalized or ill.



Left : Toy Newcomb and Stacy Bowen, of Dunlop House, present Brenda Mitchell, CEO, a \$2,000 donation.

Right: Debbie Schrum, of Bank of McKenney, was the top fundraiser for the 2009 *Angel Walk*, entitling her to participate in and win the TV raffle.

Calendar of Events

Grief Education and Support

Thursday, January 28, 6:30-8 p.m. through March 4. Groups meet on six consecutive Thursdays at the CCH office. This group is designed to provide support to individuals who have experienced the death of a loved one focusing on the grief process. Additional support groups will be offered beginning March 18 through April 22 and May 6 through June 10. Call 526-4300 to register or learn about bereavement groups offered. Free and opened to the public!

Hospice Volunteer Training

Come to learn the history and philosophy of Hospice. Our training will enable you to develop skills to support friends and neighbors and will give you an overview of our volunteer opportunities. We offer training programs on days, evenings and weekends. Call Ursula at 526-4300 to set up training to meet your schedule.

Second Thursday Knitters

This is an informal group of knitters who get together once a month to meet new folks, chat, and 'have a knit'! If crocheting is your passion, we want you too! All levels are welcome! We meet the second Thursday of each month from noon to 1 pm in the Community Room at CCH, located at 3916 South Crater Rd. Petersburg. For information, call Krista Ratliff at 526-4300.

National Healthcare Directives Day: Thursday, April 15 at 2 p.m. CCH office. In recognition of National Healthcare Directives Day, CCH welcomes you to learn about advance healthcare planning and medical directives. With planning and communication about our personal medical preferences, fewer families and healthcare providers will have to struggle with making difficult healthcare decisions in the absence of your guidance. Healthcare providers are better equipped to address issues before a crisis and are better able to honor patient wishes when the time comes to do so. For more information call 526-4300.

A Volunteer's story

My patient had just moved to Virginia and had few family members or friends in the area. When she was very near death her family came to visit from out of state. There were two little boys about six or seven years old in the family and of course there were no toys, bikes or other things to occupy children in the currently very somber house. So guess who got the job of taking out the boys to find some entertainment! We started by going to see a movie, but then unfortunately they spied an amusement arcade on the way out of the mall. With a little time to kill we went in, and it was my first and last arcade experience. (Not my idea of fun!) Whenever I now pass an arcade I think of those two little boys, who will now be grown up.

I realize that my job as a hospice volunteer is to meet the immediate need, whatever that is. I felt good about helping that family to have some quality time to say their goodbyes before the patient died.

New Years Day

Each thing in the clean morning light is a promise.
I start the day by building a feeding place
for the birds,
stacking up castaway crates in the snow.
How they come!
Sparrows and blue jays
dropping like leaves from the elms,
which though burned with disease
still promise some sort of spring,
their branches lined with hard buds
like birds perching, or the seeds of birds,
still more birds to come.

Ted Kooser
Flying at Night

Crater Community Hospice Donations

Catherine Alderson
M. C. Alderson, Sr.
Anthony and Robyn Katsarelis

Mary Hamilton Bass
Eric & Nancy Hamilton & Family

Jack Blankenship
Kenneth Martin

Mildred P. Boyd
Dr. & Mrs. Herbert R. Boyd, Jr.

Aubrey Britt
Ann & Gordon Aters
Kimberly B. Barbour
Brenda & William Beale
Beverly Branch
Sara Clary
Linda Chamberlain
J. Leo & Virginia Crosier
Ilene Dougherty
Lee and Louise Gochenour
Bernard and Shirley Howard
Andrew G. and Rebecca B. Hutto
Lin and Diane Parrish
Greta S. Perkins
Barbara & Jim Porach
Ravencroft Fed Women's Club
L. Phillip Stroud
Rachel Traylor
Linda Chamberlain
Betty Webb
Charlotte Weeks

Jeff Burton
Louise Dilalla
Janice Gibson
Elizabeth Johnson
Linda Maitland
William and Adele Maxwell
John & Barbara L. McHale
Brenda D. Mitchell
Krista Ratliff
Virginia & Wayne Virag

J C Carr
Mary Ann Epps

Calvin Cates
Home Depot Employee Fund #4624

Franklin D. Coburn
Carolyn Coburn

Delvin Corrett
Mary E. Lane

Bowen & Juanita Cox
Kaye & Don Seay

Adrian Crowder, Jr.
Daniel and Sandra Apple
Beverly L. Cogle
Sandra W. Evans
Arlene L. Hoffman
Hopewell Women of the Moose

Joan Cummings
Alicia DeVane

Dennis and Ruth Denson
James H. and Norma D. Kilpatrick

Elsa & Joseph Dodge
Henry G. Allard

Shirley Eastman
Dr. & Mrs. Phillip Yerby, III

Rosa Elam
Jonathan & Gilda Carter

Alice P. Farmer
Roy & Le Ann Binger

Annabell Guizar
Kim Spade

Mary Gunn
Ruth T. Williams

Billy Gupton
Martha M. Davis
Nancy Dixon
Dorothy O. Ford
Lewis & Betty Labin
Vera W. Moore & Bridge Club
Vincent Paletta
Bette Potts
Juanita & Robert Timmons

Ayako Hardy
Anne Hardy Sherrick

Mildred Harvey
Louis D. Harvey

Melvin R. Harwell, Sr.
Mary Alice Harwell

Theodore J. Hawk
Virginia Dept of Transportation

Margaret Hoylman
Daniel and Sandra Apple

Robert Hummer
Anna M. Hummer

Frank R. Jones, Jr.
Shayna Jones Johnson

Ruby Kies
Col. (Ret.) Robert Kies

Inez J. Laine
Mary Ann Epps

Faye Lowrance
Walter L. & Billie Nelms
Calvary Baptist of Mars Hill

Nancy Lamb
Paul H. Lamb

Eric Lee
J S and Irish Schutt

Clifton Maitland
Karen T. Hayes
Patricia Vaughan

Shelby McCarter
Charlie & Carolyn Herring
Gayle Miller
R. Blackwell Smith
Anne R. Titmus

Joseph McClure
Henry G. Allard

Lee Ann Melton
Carolyn and Claude Shell

Everette L. Messer
Charlotte Seibert

Jean Anthony Metosh
David and Wanda Shea

Joseph Minor
Krista Ratliff

Joseph Mitchell
Brenda D. Mitchell

Brander Y. Mitchell
Theolette Y. Ledbetter

Carolyn Morgan
Claire T. Baxter

Pauline & Joseph Munyat
Mary Munyat

Kevin Nolan
Evelyn Nolan

Mildred Patterson
Ruth Duncan

Thurman Pelter
Friends of Burrowsville School

Vickie L. Lloyd
James River National Wildlife
Nancy Pelter

Kathrine Powers
John Gould
Local Union No 666

Audrey Raitt
Bandyworks, LIC
William & Jeanne Barga
Richard & Janice Condit
Jacqueline K. Graham
Petersburg Chamber of Commerce

Gertrude Reed
Phyllis & Chris Davies
June Porter
Jere C. and Joyce Hotchkiss
Rayburn and Elizabeth Joyner
Lorenz & Anastasia Zimmerman

Franklin Ricks
Betty Harrell

Helen Rudolph
Charles A. Rudolph

Louis Shell
ACC-Beta Court Reporters
John & Mary Albert
John & Martha Beall
Dr. & Mrs. Herbert R. Boyd, Jr.
Barrett & Staci Chappell
Country Club of Petersburg
Frank & Denise Farrar
Kenneth L. and Ruth B. Figg
John Edwin Griswold
Jean Haire
Vincent and Cindi Hardy
Charlie & Carolyn Herring
Elizabeth Johnson
Gail Johnson
R. T. Leonard
Robert D. McIlwaine
John & Cecelia Oakley
Helen Schurz
J S and Irish Schutt
C. Frank Scott
Carl & Terri Shell
Carolyn and Claude Shell
Roger & Betty Shell
Claudia Teass
Charles & Linda Williams
Raymond & Helen Williamson
C.W. & Katherine Wray
Tom & Linda Zuk

and Memorials: August-October 2009

Mildred P. Snead
Carman E. Elchuck

James Stansbury
Bernard and Shirley Howard

Brandy Stivers
Chesterfield Co. Planning Dept
Vincent Payne
Leslie S & Gloria M Thysell
Tidewater Dirt Riders
James & Janet Womick

JoAnne R. Stoll
Allen R. Stoll

Francis Michael Strother
Judith S. Jones

Melody Trihau
Thomas & Marian Gunn

Frances Twibill
Mr. and Mrs. Vincent Derasmo

Richard Vaughn
David & Janet Hammel
Patricia Shaffner

Elizabeth Barbour
Patricia & George Harbuck

Angel Walk Supporters
Ursula Ardy
Paula Britt
Care Advantage
Devona J Cristobal
John & Teresa Crowder
Calvin & Lynda Cunningham
James & Judy Dyson
Justin & Brandy Harville
Karen T. Hayes
Heaven Sent/Home Town Health
Victoria & Raymond Heller
Elizabeth Honea
William & Melanie S. Humphreys
Daniel & Oneikka Jacobs
Carolyn Johnson, MSW
Elaine Lambert
David & Paula Lessem
Richard M. Liles
Linda Maitland
Michael's Textiles
Brenda D. Mitchell
Sharon Mitchell
Kate Moore
Jim Nicol

Other Donors
Rebecca Brault
Howard Brown
Michael R. Cohen
Anne P. Dallmeyer
Jane Elliott
Beverly Epps
Dominion Foundation
Armand & Phyllis Gagne
Gary's United Methodist Church
Karen Hayes
Home Depot Employee Fund #4624
Honeywell

Dora H. Pritchett
Emily Rivera
George M. Rapp
Alicia M. Rodriguez
Abigail Schrum
Debbie Schrum
Kaye & Don Seay
Anne Hardy Sherrick
Anita Sinks
Konni Small
Barry & Betsy Stafford
Tracy Taliaferro
Patricia Vaughan
Kelly Ward
Kevin & Meredith Webster

Hopewell Family Center 1472
Shayna Jones Johnson
Claudia Kepner
Robert F. and Debora Lee
William N. Miller
Frank & Althea Miller
Phillip & Juanita Oakley
Garnetta Poe
Grady W. Powell
Anne G. Rogers
Beverly Rogers
Frank and May Schultz
Betty Sheffield
Clifford & Doris M. Short
R. Blackwell Smith
Alexander Soroka
William & A. Christine Sovine
Sutherland Ruritan Club
The Cameron Foundation
Bonnie J. Tipton
Tri-City Jewish Community Fund
Ukrops

Other Donors
Rebecca Brault
Howard Brown
Michael R. Cohen
Anne P. Dallmeyer
Jane Elliott
Beverly Epps
Dominion Foundation
Armand & Phyllis Gagne
Gary's United Methodist Church
Karen Hayes
Home Depot Employee Fund #4624
Honeywell

Civic organizations and CCH families memorialized in community garden



Look for our garden in bloom this spring! The Crater Community Hospice Garden was officially completed in October 2009. Located adjacent to the CCH office building on South Crater Road in Petersburg, the garden acts as a tranquil setting for the community and CCH families to enjoy the beauty of nature. It is a place of peace and reflection. In addition, it is a place for loved ones to memorialize their family members. Designed and constructed by *Landscapes by Deadmon*, the garden features benches and beautiful flora, including rose shrubs, viburnum, wisteria and perennials. The garden is open seasonally, and all are welcome to enjoy it! Churches, clubs and civic organizations, as well as individuals, are invited to support the garden with engraved pavers. Contact the development office at 526-4300 for information.



Non-Profit Organization
U.S. Postage
Permit #
Richmond, Virginia

3916 S. Crater Road
Petersburg, VA 23805
www.cratercommunityhospice.org

The Beacon is published by Crater Community Hospice, a non profit organization, providing comprehensive end-of-life services and education to the Tri-Cities area and surrounding communities including Chesterfield, Prince George, Dinwiddie,

Sussex, Surry, Greensville, and Charles City Counties and the cities of Petersburg, Colonial Heights, Hopewell and Emporia. If you do not wish to receive fundraising communications from Crater please call the development office at 804-526-4300.



The 2009 Angel Walk took place at Petersburg National Battlefield Park on October 24. Walkers enjoyed a beautiful autumn walk in moderate weather and raised over \$1800. Look for information coming on the 2010 Angel Walk!

Crater Community Hospice is a non profit, community-based organization that offers care to patients, their families and friends throughout the dying and grief processes. We cover a nine county and four city area and provide the same quality care to every patient regardless of their disease, age or ability to pay.

