As I write this, I am sitting in the visiting office of the Hock Family Pavilion. Just outside the door, I can hear saws, drills and workers moving to complete the final details of the construction. How exciting it is to be a part of a new facility that for many years to come will be a place of comfort, care and compassion for those facing death. I find new beginnings to be exciting. In the midst of the daily challenges of life, there remain places that provide solace and peace. There are still places where the goal of pain control and symptom relief are paramount to those whose earthly existence is coming to a close.

When I came here almost two years ago, I was asked during my first staff meeting “what are you passionate about?” That was not the first time I have been asked that question. The answer that I gave was one that I have given a great deal of thought. After over twenty years doing hospice care, I find the answer to be imbedded in my daily professional life as well as my personal philosophy and spiritual being.

Can you imagine, as a young boy being asked “what do you want to do when you grow up?” and the answer was working with dying patients and their loved ones. Generally, that is not in the top ten or one hundred. Most of us want to be a fireman, athlete, politician or doctor. For me it was to be the President of the United States. Today, I cannot imagine having or wanting that job for a multitude of reasons.

What causes one to choose to do hospice? How does make the commitment to advocate for dying people and their loved ones? Does that make someone special? For me, the answer is pretty simple and direct. I am working to provide the bed that one day I hope to die on. That matters to me just as much as it did twenty plus years ago. I am not special or chosen or doing something that is unique to just me. Rather I believe in the comfort, peace and dignity of hospice so much, that I chose to work to make those things a reality.

Thus begins our new and exciting care to the dying and their loved ones at the Hock Family Pavilion….

Our next Staff / Volunteer Memorial Service will be April 2 (Thursday), 8:30 a.m. at the Unicorn Bereavement Center in Hillsborough to remember those patients who died in January and February. We recognize that the reality of busy schedules may sometimes prevent you from attending the bi-monthly service that follows your patient's death. Although we will continue to organize the service to reflect the recent deaths, you are welcome to attend ANY memorial that fits your schedule. We will give you an opportunity to include your patient by name, and to share a memory if you so wish. So please consider coming to honor any patient that you have served. For more information or to RSVP, contact Allison Shultz, Unicorn Bereavement Center at 919-644-6869.
**March Continuing Education Opportunities:**

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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event Details</th>
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<tr>
<td>March 13 (Friday)</td>
<td>DHCH Grand Rounds, 8:30–10:00 a.m., Durham office, Determining medical capacity: What do we need to know and when? A Discussion of the Ethics of Decision-Making. Dr. Phil Rosoff, director of clinical ethics, Duke University Hospital</td>
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<td>March 24 (Tuesday)</td>
<td>How We Die in America: Death, Politics, and Hope Eleanor Clift (political commentator and author) and Richard Payne, MD (director, Duke Institute on Care at the End of Life) sponsor a public conversation on issues surrounding how we die in America. Goodson Chapel, Duke Divinity School. Free and open to the public. Reception and book signing—4 p.m.; Talk—5 p.m.</td>
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<td>March 31 (Tuesday)</td>
<td>DHCH-sponsored Grief Conference: Dealing with sudden death grief issues, 6:00–7:30 p.m., Durham Regional Hospital auditorium—FREE, Alan Wolfert, PhD, nationally renowned speaker on grief issues</td>
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<tr>
<td>April 1 (Wednesday)</td>
<td>DHCH-sponsored Grief Conference: Dealing with the ghosts of grief, 8:30 a.m.–4:30 p.m., Sarah P. Duke Gardens conference center—$100 registration fee, Dr. Alan Wolfert, nationally renowned speaker on grief issues</td>
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<td>April 28 (Tuesday)</td>
<td>Hospice Foundation of America Annual Teleconference, Diversity in End of Life Care, 1:00–4:00 p.m., Durham office</td>
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We have turned the corner on winter and spring is upon us. And do we have a deal for you and your itchy green thumb. The Inpatient Care Facility at the Meadowlands is looking for individuals or groups to **Adopt a Patio** this spring. Each of the 6 patient rooms at the ICF has a wonderful little private patio for the view and use of patients and their visitors. We are looking for sponsors to do seasonal plantings and maintenance for each of these little patios to bring an added bit of color, delight, and distraction to people who might really enjoy it. If you can see yourself bringing Mother Nature’s gifts to bear on this project, please give Carolyn a call.

**SAVE THE DATE:** It's that time again! The DHCH Development Department is working on the May 2, 2009 **Oh What a Night! Gala** to be held at Hope Valley Country Club in Durham. This black tie optional event includes hors d-oeuvres, plated dinner, desserts, and a silent and live auction. At this time we are seeking a sponsor for the Cocktail Reception ($2,500), a Floral sponsor ($2,000), and a Registration Table sponsor ($1,500). We are also looking for groups to underwrite/reserve tables of 10 ($1,000), or purchase tickets at $100/person, and to solicit items (gift certificates, vacation packages, etc.) for the auctions. Please e-mail Danielle Irving at danielle.irving@duke.edu or call 919-620-3853 x253 if you would like to offer help. As DHCH celebrates its 30th year, this year's gala is going to be extraordinary!

**Playmakers Rep Spotlight on Service program.** Starting April 1 Playmakers will stage Jane Austen’s Pride and Prejudice. In the best of all possible worlds there will be tickets available to our volunteers as a part of the SOS program and Playmakers will inform us each Monday about the tickets available during the upcoming week. If you’d like to know when tickets are available, please ask Carolyn to be put on the email notification list. And many thanks to Playmakers for their gift of quality theater to our hospice volunteers. (For information on current and future productions, please go to http://www.playmakersrep.org.)
Correction on Camp ReLEAF 2009 training dates from last month:

There will be several training dates during the month of April. All new volunteers will be required to attend one of the training sessions, either 4/7 or 4/14. All volunteers are required to attend on 4/20. All will be held at the DHCH office in Durham. Call William Holloman or Melanie Currie at 644-6869

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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
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<th>Session</th>
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<tr>
<td>April 7, 2009</td>
<td>6—8 p.m.</td>
<td>New Volunteer training</td>
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<tr>
<td>April 14, 2009</td>
<td>6—8 p.m.</td>
<td>New Volunteer training</td>
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<tr>
<td>April 20, 2009</td>
<td>6—8 p.m.</td>
<td>Camp preview (required for all)</td>
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We are having another monster Packet Assembly Work Day at the Durham office on Saturday, March 7 from 9 a.m. to noon. We are again making up packets agency-wide and will need a great deal of help that day. If you know anyone who is interested in helping (students age 14 and older are welcome), please give Carolyn a call.

Whether you are a veteran knitter / crocheter or brand new at the craft, plan to attend our next Care Shawl Meeting, Thursday, March 26, 7 p.m., at Chapel Hill Bible Church. (In 2009 we will be meeting on the fourth Thursday of odd months.) Knitting and crocheting lessons, as well as shawl instructions and motivation, will be available to all. This is one of our more popular service projects and has really taken on a life and personality of its own. Many, many thanks to Helen Cooper for her dedication to keeping the program so focused and on-track. Also, if you would be interested in participating in a daytime group at our Durham office, please contact Carolyn.

Patient/Family Support Volunteer Training will run in Oxford in early April for Granville volunteers and anyone else who would like to attend. Please get in touch with Carolyn if you know people who would be good volunteers for hospice and might be interested in training. The need is everywhere.

The next training for new volunteer ambassadors / receptionists for the Durham Inpatient Facility will be Saturday, March 7th. This is a new volunteer opportunity for the Durham Inpatient Facility: These volunteers will need to complete a four-hour training for new volunteers as well as reference checks, background checks, TB testing, and a health review to document immunity to measles, mumps, rubella, and chicken pox so the sooner we can start the process the better. If you would like to become part of this volunteer team or know someone else who would, please let Carolyn know. (Previously trained patient / family support volunteers, including those who volunteer at our Hospice at the Meadowlands facility, will only need to complete the new facility orientation.) The plans are to begin accepting patients at the Durham ICF Hock Family Pavilion in early March. ALSO, if you are interested in special projects as they arise at the Hock Family Pavilion ICF, please ask to be put on Carolyn’s on-call list.

The “Volunteer Reports via e-mail” program is rolling. If you would like to submit your volunteer reports over the internet, please let Carolyn know so she can work with you to set up a secure encrypted e-mail account to allow this. Please DO NOT send reports via your regular e-mail because these would not be encrypted to ensure patient privacy.

We are saddened to announce the recent sudden and unexpected death of hospice volunteer Bobbi Gage on February 24. In addition to the two years she volunteered for Duke Hospice, she was active for many years in the Durham Women’s Bible Study Fellowship. Her heart for other people was evidenced through her volunteer roles in both hospice and Stephen Ministries. We will miss her cheerfulness and we send condolences to her family.
A Note from Carol Ann Mullis, Project Manager, Hock Family Pavilion

Dear Duke Hospice Volunteers:

As we begin celebrating the public events that will open the new Hock Family Pavilion Inpatient Care Facility to our community, I want to thank you for the profound part you played in making it all possible.

When we needed help getting the word out, you were here processing mailings of 3000 and 5000 pieces. When we needed help setting up for the open houses, you were here moving tables and chairs, hanging pictures. When we needed food to welcome our guests, you were baking and mixing the treats you would make for guests in your own home. When we needed furnishings for the reception area and patient rooms, you brought us rugs and wall hangings, plants and books.

Whatever we asked for, whatever it took—you were there with the goods … and a smile.

It has never been more apparent to the administration and staff of Duke Hospice that the volunteers truly are the heart of hospice. Without you, this organization would not, could not be the resource it is to our community.

Thank you for this and for everything,

We want your input on our volunteer program, what is working and how we can improve. Please complete the attached survey and return it to Carolyn. Feel free to call if you would like to provide your comments and suggestions in person.

A RESOURCE FOR YOU . . . Continuing Education for March – “Tips for Improving Communication” by our very own Jeff Perez, RN, Duke Hospice clinical supervisor

For more information contact:
Carolyn Colsher, DHCH Volunteer Services Supervisor
(919) 620-3859 ext 235 or e-mail carolyn.colsher@duke.edu
Website dhch.duhs.duke.edu

“I don’t know what your destiny will be, but one thing I do know: The ones among you who will be really happy are those who have sought and found how to serve.”—Albert Schweitzer

And thank you, as always, for everything you do for our patients and families. Carolyn

Mission Statement: Duke HomeCare and Hospice will provide innovative, thoughtful care, using an interdisciplinary team approach, to achieve the best possible outcomes for the patients, families and communities we serve.