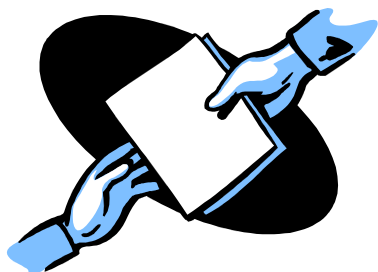




## Volunteer Newsletter

Volume 3, Issue 1

JANUARY 2009



We NEED Y O U in 2009!

Please attend RED TAPE DAY  
To update your paperwork!

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**RED TAPE DAY**

**Tuesday JANUARY 13, 2009**

*Lufkin Office - 11AM - 1PM*

**&**

**Tuesday JANUARY 20, 2009**

*Livingston Office 11am - 1pm*

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Let Patsy know which meeting you will attend. If you are unable to attend either one, call to discuss alternate arrangements.

**EVERYONE WHO WANTS TO  
BE AN ACTIVE VOLUNTEER  
IN 2009  
MUST UPDATE PAPERWORK.**

## Volunteer Training

**Tuesdays 9am – 1pm  
February 3, 10, 17, & 24,  
2009**

**In the NEW Livingston Office  
1601 Highway 59 Loop North  
Northridge Plaza, Suite 600  
(Turn on W. Park Drive just past the Livingston Hospital)**



*Call Patsy to sign up  
936/327-8888  
in Livingston  
936/633 – 0556  
in Lufkin  
1/800-324-8557*

.....  
**VOLUNTEER HELP NEEDED  
Wellness Program**

**At Lufkin State School  
Friday January 16, 2009  
Call Patsy if you would like to help with this  
event.**

***VOLUNTEER COORDINATOR'S CORNER***

Dear Volunteers:

It was wonderful to see those of you who attended our Christmas parties in Lufkin and Livingston. Those of you who could not attend missed a great time.

**RED TAPE DAY** is the MOST important meeting of the year for volunteers. This is our way of streamlining the annual TB test, insurance renewals, and paperwork needed to keep your file up to date. We will do this each and every year in January. The same paperwork will be at both locations so you only need to attend one. Call me to make other arrangements if you can't make either one. Get a head start with the Red Tape Day paperwork by completing the yellow pages in this newsletter and bringing them with you on January 13 or 20.

**VOLUNTEERS NEEDED** in the following areas.

- IN-PATIENT UNIT
- FILING IN LUFKIN

If you have interest in helping, please let me know ASAP.

If you belong to a group that has guest speakers, don't forget to offer someone from Hospice in the Pines. We love to go out into the community to spread the word about our great organization. We need you to open the doors for us!

I am looking forward to sharing wonderful things with you in 2009.

***Patsy***

*Livingston Office 936/327-8888*

*Volunteer Office in Lufkin 936/633-0556*

*1/800-324/8557*



**VOLUNTEERS ARE THE ♥ OF HOSPICE**

*Many, many, many thanks to:*

♥ **GLORIA BYLEY, SHANA BREVARD, BARBARA EAVES, LOIS GUSE, BILLIE PRICE, and LELA RICHARD** for taking the time visit with us during the Christmas Party in Lufkin. We had a GREAT time.



♥ **MARY HENDERSON, BETTY JOHNSON, SHIRLEY LARRICK, DALE LOSACK, FAYE PALMER, CINDY THOMAS, and ORVILLE WRIGHT** for making the Polk County Christmas Party a wonderful event. We all brought a dish and had a wonderful time together. Faye Palmer once again out did herself by providing good food, beautiful decorations and a comfortable place to have the event.



♥ **PAT BOOTH** for organizing the volunteer files and statistics.

♥ **DALE LOSACK** for making our very first huggable bear for a family out of their loved one's clothing. Thank you so much for this true labor of love.

♥ **KATHY DORSETT and GALE SCOTT** for spending time with a patient so his wife could get a much needed break.

♥ **MARTHA WINDSOR** for visiting her lifelong friend as a hospice volunteer and providing a much needed break for her dear husband.

♥ **DICK GRANT** for making Bereavement calls weekly.

**WITHOUT A WORD**

By Patsy W. Piner

I went to a Health Fair at an assisted living facility in Sugar Land. I usually do not go to these events; typically volunteers do this for us so we can stay in the office and “do our thing”, whatever that may be! Anyway, I was working this for two reasons – the volunteers who live in the area had previous commitments and the admissions counselor at this particular facility is a friend of mine. She really wanted me to attend so we could share the latest information (I hesitate to use the word “gossip”) about some of the people we had worked with in the hotel industry years ago.

So, it was with an attitude of joy and anticipation of fun that I went to this fair. I saw it as an opportunity to share information about hospice while reconnecting with my friend. The day started and ended as most of these events do – a flurry of activity setting up and many conversations and exchanging of wares with a group of new “vendor” friends as we tore down our displays at the end of the day. These events are all about talking – talking to anyone who looks your way, getting people interested in your product. Mostly, people amble by, pick up whatever give-away you have, say hi to you out of courtesy and continue on to the next booth. On the rare occasion, someone stops to share his or her hospice story. This happened a couple of times during this event; they were tender moments – the kind of stories that reaffirm the value of what we do. I found myself hugging strangers and telling them what a wonderful thing they did for their loved ones and thanking them for allowing hospice to be a part of one of the most sacred and private events of life. Each time this happened I could see the lady across from me at the Avon booth bite her lip and rearrange her “Skin So Soft” bottles yet again.

The most incredible thing happened right in the middle of the day. In the midst of a crowd wandering through, I noticed a lone man in a business suit standing with his hands folded in front of him and his head bowed. His lips were tightly closed as he looked at the pictures of the Hospice without raising his head. He stood motionless for what seemed minutes, then he slowly walked up to the table, never looking at me, just staring intently at our pictures on the display board with his hands tightly clasped. I finally said to him softly, “It seems you might already know about our Hospice.” He jerked his head up, looked at me in surprise and abruptly walked away. My Avon neighbor and I stared at each other; we were about to speak when the man returned. He startled me as he quickly grabbed my hand, shook it firmly, turned on his heels and briskly walked out of the building. I stared at his back, wondering who he was and what had happened with hospice that rendered him speechless. I slowly turned to resume whatever it was I had been doing before this profound event occurred when I noticed my Avon lady staring into space with tears streaming down her face. We continued through our day, keenly aware that something remarkable, almost sacred, had taken place. As we were packing to leave, the Avon lady came over and began to tell the very painful story of her father’s death. I believe the mute stranger opened the door that allowed her to share her feelings with me. If he had the courage to silently acknowledge his grief by coming back to shake my hand, surely it was safe for her to open up, just a little.

Health fairs are all about talking but the most powerful thing that took place at this event happened without words – it was pure emotion. Perhaps that was the lesson I needed to learn, again, - it is not what we say that matters, it is what we feel and how we share those feelings and emotions with those around us – without ever uttering a word they will know we care and we are real.

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*“Intimate friendship provides us with a picture of what awaits us with God in Heaven.”*

Author Unknown

Our God created us to be relational – first with Him and then with each other.... We are meant to give and receive. Friendship requires both. Really special friendships require putting the other person’s needs and concerns above your own. It’s been said that in order to have a friend, you must first be one.

Celebrate your friendship. Cherish your friendship. Nourish your friendship by getting together with old friends and contacting those childhood friends you haven’t seen for years. In the overall scheme of things, life is brief but people are eternal.

Taken from JUST BETWEEN FRIENDS compiled by Terry Meeuwsen



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Lufkin, Texas 75904

Editor: Patsy Piner

*Please note 3 pages were inserted here for Volunteers to fill out and bring to In Service in February 2009 to meet Medicare documentation requirements for active volunteers.*

*Pages included –*

*Assignment Information Update*

*TB information*

*Self Evaluation*

*License and Insurance Updates*

*Competency Fact Sheet*

*Competency Test*