



Friends of Hospice SAN ANTONIO

Historical Newsletter 1991—1996

*Rest Harmony
Love Hope Peace*

Volume I, Issue 1

April 2011

Founding Members Luncheon March 6, 1991 Club Giraud

IN THE BEGINNING.....in 1991, a small group of dedicated volunteers interested in supporting the not-for-profit Hospice San Antonio formed Friends of Hospice San Antonio.



Vicky LePere, left, and Chica Younger



Tookie Spoor, left, and Camilla Parker

LIFESTYLE



Spring Lecture speakers Patricia Kelley, left, and Maggie Callanan with Lynn Hamby (center)



POINSETTIA BALL: Preparing for the Thursday benefit are Ann McMullan, left, Annabelle Loyd, Lynn Brill, Jane Phillips, Diana Harris and Marge Johnson.

RIC VASQUEZ

Published in the San Antonio Express-News

The mission of Friends of Hospice San Antonio, Inc. is to increase community awareness and understanding of hospice and to raise funds in support of patients and their families in end-of-life care.

Friends of Hospice San Antonio, Inc.
P.O. Box 40487
San Antonio, TX 78229-1487
Phone: 210-785-5850 Fax: 210-785-5851

Editor: Ginger Cave — 210-785-5852
Email: ginger.cave@christushealth.org
Web Site: www.friendsofhospicesa

VICKY LePERE - PRESIDENT 1991-1992

"Though it seems we have progressed slowly, a FIRM FOUNDATION will lead us, hopefully, to the point where we will really be the kind of supporters who effectively inform the community of what hospice has to offer, help raise funds, and can provide volunteers to whatever capacity is needed."

Vicky LePere

The Friends of Hospice San Antonio is in the cocoon stage of growth, wrapping themselves in layers of by-laws and articles of incorporation, electing officers and recruiting new members. The purpose of Friends is to educate members of the organization and the community of Bexar County about Hospice San Antonio; to promote and publicize the hospice message through various community events and activities; and to raise support funds for the continuations and expansion of high-quality hospice services.

- Legal name voted on was Friends of Hospice San Antonio, Inc.
- By-laws established
- The pomegranate established as the logo
- Annual dues \$25, with 125 paid members
- Committees formed: Publicity, Yearbook, Newsletter, Volunteers, Fund Raising
- November membership meeting at home of Chica Younger

"There was good food and a moving and informative talk by Betty Parish telling how hospice helped and supported her family."

- Membership letters
"In December 450 letters were sent to prospective members, resulting in 47 new members in January."
- Spring annual meeting suggested
- \$2,000 gift to Hospice San Antonio
- February 1992, first spring program on advanced directives; speakers were Taylor Boone, Dr. Lon Smith and Dr. Henry Perkins
- Hospice San Antonio hired Ginger Cave to be staff liaison to Friends

"It has been exciting and rewarding to see Friends grow from a group of 40 charter members who met for the first time in the spring of 1991 without even a board or officers to a present membership of 230 with a board of 28."

Vicky LePere

DIANA HARRIS - PRESIDENT 1992-1993

When asked about her year as president, Diana responded with an enthusiastic, *"Great year, excellent board, and our goals for increasing membership were met."*

Friends of Hospice held regular board meetings; hosted the fall coffee at the home of Linda Seeligson; accepted responsibility for planning the 1993 Poinsettia Ball, co-chaired by Marge Johnson and Jane Phillips; held a spring lecture on pain management with Dr. C. Stratton Hill; participated in the 10th anniversary celebration of Hospice San Antonio; and held the first annual meeting at the home of Chica and John Younger.

- \$5,000 gift to Hospice San Antonio
- Added a \$35 Family membership
"Our membership grew this year with a large number of new members. Membership dues were largely responsible for our financial success."
- Fall coffee
"Bonnie Griffith told her heart-warming story of hospice and of her work at Hospice San Antonio."
- 11 committees were at work throughout the year
- Increased membership to 273
- Applied for and granted 501 (c) (3) status with the IRS
- Spring lecture
"Our education event at Trinity University featured Dr. C. Stratton Hill, who spoke on the management of pain in the hospice setting."



Dr Hill and President Harris

- History/scrapbook started
- Local artists were asked to donate artwork for the cover of the Ball invitations

"We have had a really fine year. All of you have contributed to its success. The future of Friends of Hospice looks bright. I have every reason to believe that this group will experience continued growth and success in the years ahead."

Diana Harris

LYNN HAMBY – PRESIDENT 1993-1994

"It has been my privilege and pleasure to serve as the third president for the Friends, following the able leadership of Vicky LePere and Diana Harris. Part of the pleasure of my position has been working closely with the officers, board, and many members of our group, as well as Fred Hines, Ginger Cave and Bill Rasco, representing Hospice San Antonio."

Lynn Hamby

- 370 members
- Publication of first Friends membership directory
- Fall coffee at the home of Ann and Glenn Biggs
- Spring lecture: "FINAL GIFTS *Understanding the Special Messages of the Dying*"
"Ann McMullan chaired the program my year. The two of us had a great time having lunch with our speaker and introducing her to La Villita and its many interesting shops."
- Mary Lou Lamphear was asked to request Friends to sponsor a prayer book for the dying.
"Mary Lou's idea of developing a prayer book originated through her close friendship with a priest who visited the sick and dying in the hospital. He had told her how much he wished he had something significant to leave with his patient or their family. Our board heard her heartfelt request and was immediately committed to the project. I am so happy that this little, but very special, book has had many reprints."
- Continue the Ball as a joint event with the Hospice Board of Directors
"The Poinsettia Ball was particularly significant this year because of our joint venture with the Hospice San Antonio Board of Directors. Bill Rasco was the president of the Hospice board that year. At the Ball, we danced the 'first dance' together as a symbol of our joint endeavor."
- Note card project will now include Christmas cards in the mix
- Evening meeting
"I did introduce the first spring evening meeting, which was held in the home of Chica and John Younger. That event became the alternative to a 'ladies lunch' and made it possible for more men (husbands, etc.) to become informed and involved in the work of hospice."

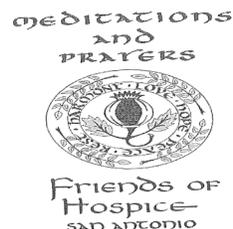
Lynn Hamby

ANN McMULLAN – PRESIDENT 1994-1995

- Fall coffee at the home of Linda Seeligson and jewelry donations for the thrift shops
"Sixty guests heard Kathy Hess-Reneau's moving account of the role of hospice during her husband's recent illness and death. Guests brought jewelry to donate to the hospice thrift shops in Devine and Uvalde. Louise Lewis, from Devine, started an impromptu bazaar and raised \$300."

Ann McMullan

- Prayer book committee established
"Dedicated committee members have been meeting since September in order to develop a prayer book for the terminally ill. Members are the Rev. Hoyt Dudley, the Rev. Mary Earle, Sharon De La Garza, Charles Biggs, Judy Lackritz, Father Mark Scheffler, Rabbi Samuel Stahl, Barbara Stanush, Dr. Nedra Voorhies, and Dr. Elaine Wagener, chair, Mary Lou Lamphear and I have almost completed our task. The pocket-size book will include prayers in English, Spanish and Hebrew and will be given to hospice patients and their families."



- Poinsettia Ball
chaired by Claire Daviss and Betty Parish
"The Poinsettia Ball was an extraordinary success! Claire and Betty and their committee provided a magical space and time for a record number of guests as they raised \$55,000 for hospice."
- Establishing a hospice inpatient center was first discussed
- Spring lecture: "Caring for the Caregiver: You" with speaker Mary L.E. Vachon, RN, PhD
"Co-sponsored by Incarnate Word College, the lecture was well-organized and attended by more than 220 people."
- Esther Vexler's Fiesta Fancies Sale
"Esther chose Friends as the beneficiary for a special sale in her home, which resulted in a \$1,000 gift."
- Annual meeting and spring party at the home of Suzanne and Tim Word
- Added \$100 membership category
- 339 members

Ann McMullan

CHARTER MEMBERS 1991

Lila Aguirre
 Beverly Barshop
 Kay Bashara
 Alison Boone
 Sarah Buttery
 Winifred Cocke
 Mary Davenport
 Claire Daviss
 India de Marigny
 *Rowena Dillon
 Barbara Dreeben
 Joan Gaither
 Cathy Garison
 Toni Goldsmith
 Lynn Wilson Hamby
 Diana Harris
 Jane Henry
 Jill Howe
 Ruthie Kendrick
 *Neil Krause
 Judith Lachman
 Vicky LePere
 *Casey Lieberman
 Annabelle Loyd
 Nancy Maebius
 Katie McGee
 Ann McMullan
 Ann Moore
 Rev. Mary Margaret Mueller
 Laura Negley
 *Ginny Pace
 Betty Parish
 Camilla Parker
 Julie Parker
 Lucy Rasco
 Bitsy Rubsamen
 Nora Scott
 Linda Seeligson
 Diane Singleton
 Anne Smith
 Tookie Spoor
 Missy Webb
 Mary Beth Williamson
 Chica Younger

*Deceased

TOOKIE SPOOR – PRESIDENT 1995-1996

“As Friends of Hospice San Antonio approaches the end of our fifth year, I would like to express sincere appreciation to the membership, the staff of Hospice San Antonio and especially to the members of the Executive Committee and the Board of Directors, who have demonstrated such devoted and enthusiastic commitment to our organization and its purpose.” Tookie Spoor

- Fall coffee at the home of Genie Calgaard
“Guests at the fall coffee were deeply moved by the eloquence of our speaker, Hospice San Antonio Medical Director Dr. Richard Ferguson. We gained 13 new members and raised almost \$200 for area hospice thrift shops by the sale of donated costume jewelry.”
- Revisions to the by-laws were made
- Prayer book is ready for distribution in the fall
“Barbara Stanush and the prayer book committee began the organized distribution of the second printing of 5,000 copies to the hospice patients and their families and members of the community.”
- Poinsettia Ball chairs Diana Harris and Cecil Scanlan
“A beautiful highlight of the holiday season, the ball raised more than \$55,000 to help Hospice San Antonio provide its special medical and spiritual services to all of the members of the community.”
- Talk of merger between Hospice San Antonio and Visiting Nurse Association of South Central Texas
- Friends would remain a support organization of hospice
- Esther Vexler’s second Fiesta Fancies Sale
“About 50 Friends attended the special sale. Proceeds of \$1,000 will be presented to Hospice San Antonio.”
- 410 members
“Membership vice president Linda Hallstead and her committee prepared and mailed 1,500 letters.”
- \$14,500 gift to Hospice
- \$10,000 gift to the Inpatient Center for furnishings
- Spring lecture: “Music in the Hospice Setting - Ancient Practices, Modern Possibilities,” with harpist, music therapists
“Program vice president Toni Goldsmith and her committee planned the program, which addressed and demonstrated the use of music in the care and treatment of the terminally ill. It was received with great enthusiasm by more than 200 attendees.”
- Annual meeting and spring party at the home of Lucy and Bill Rasco
“About 125 members gathered for an enjoyable evening of fellowship and good food prepared by Margi Groos and her staff.”

Tookie Spoor

Footnote: Lynn Hamby remembers, *“One memory regarding Tookie’s year: I did have Zelime Matthew develop the pomegranate pin as a gift for Tookie for her service as president. I presented it to her at the spring meeting. From there, the pin has become an important symbol of our cause.”*