



# Friends of Hospice SAN ANTONIO

## Historical Newsletter 2001—2006

*Rest Harmony  
Love Hope Peace*

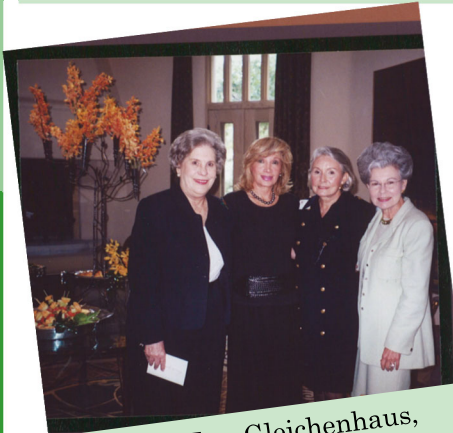
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### Founding Members Luncheon March 6, 1991 Club Giraud

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.

**Presidents 2001 - 2006 Hattie Lee Gleichenhaus, Gretchen Bealer, Lori Wright, Jill Adams and Pauleen Netting**



(l-r) Hattie Lee Gleichenhaus, Barbara Wulfe, Jennie Schoenbaum and Mary Ann Franzke at the Fall Coffee



(l-r) Minnette Buzzini, Gretchen Bealer, Charline McCombs and Rose Marie Banack at the Fall Coffee



(l-r) Lisa Blonkvist, Marty Guerra and Lori Wright at the Annual Meeting/Spring Party

(l-r) Jill Adams, Ginger Cave and Pauleen Netting at the Poinsettia Ball.



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.

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**Hattie Lee Gleichenhaus  
President 2001-2002**

*"One of my goals for the coming year is to spread the word to the community about what an important role hospice plays in the end-of-life care for individuals...too many people say they wished they had heard about hospice earlier."*

- Fall Coffee at the home of Barbara and Leon Wulfe, Jr., chaired by Mary Ann Franzke and Jennie Schoenbaum

*"Barbara was the most gracious hostess. From the beautiful food, the gorgeous orchids throughout the home, to valet parking and even music."*

- New Inpatient Center tour at Merrill Gardens complex in October
- Felice Wolff coordinated refreshments at the VNA & Hospice memorial service.
- 2001 Poinsettia Ball at Hyatt Regency Riverwalk, chaired by Lori Wright and Rita Freese; net proceeds \$120,000.

*"The Poinsettia Ball was a most beautiful evening. The evening was so elegant, the food delicious, the decorations were beautiful, everyone looked wonderful. Words cannot say enough thanks to Lori Wright and her committee for a job well done."*

- Friends members coordinated by Lois Jones and Yeola Mitchell helped VNA & Hospice deliver 2,000 poinsettia plants.
- Spring Lecture: *The Hospice Difference....It Takes a Team* – John Foster, Irene Gilliland, Phil Lewis, Pat Emerson, Chaplain Darwin Huartson  
*"The Spring Program is always well received in the community. Thanks to Nancy Maebius and Jennifer Cook for getting their committee to put together such an excellent program."*

- The Third Annual Golf Classic at Canyon Springs under the leadership of Martha and Dr. Dean McCracken and Jo and Herb Stier
- Annual meeting planned by Gretchen Burkholder and Karen Dawson was at the home of Janie and Jack Williams.
- Gave \$168,000 to VNA & Hospice of South Texas for uninsured patients

*"Words cannot express to you what a major role each member plays in the success of this organization. What a wonderful year this has been. All of my goals for the organization for the year have been fulfilled. Thank you for giving me the opportunity to be the president of the Friends of Hospice San Antonio."*

**Hattie Lee Gleichenhaus**



**Gretchen Bealer  
President 2002-2003**

*"We begin our year in August with board meetings and orientation of new board members to hospice services. I also plan to continue many of the fine traditions of our organization throughout the year."*

- Fall Coffee at the home of Charline and Red McCombs in October

*"Rose Marie Banack and Minnette Buzzini and their committee coordinated the arrangements and assisted as hostesses. Charline graciously donated the refreshments for the 135 members and guests."*

- Memorial service refreshments in October
- 2002 Poinsettia Ball at Hyatt Regency  
*"Lois Jones and Pauleen Netting co-chaired the event, assisted by many enthusiastic committee members. Hundreds of hours of hard work go into this gala, which netted \$83,000."*

- Friends delivered poinsettias, coordinated by Sarah Fox and Nancy Maebius.
- Prayer books printed
- Spring Lecture: *A Peaceful Death: Ethical Considerations for Hospice Caregivers*  
*"Linda Kiolbassa and her committee with the staff from Incarnate Word planned a lecture that received high ratings in the evaluations."*

- 5th Annual Golf Classic at Dominion CC  
*"Mary Lou Lamphear, Ginger and Bud Davenport assisted by their committee had 108 golfers participate in the tournament, which netted \$34,000."*

- Planning started for a Valentine's Day Event.
- Speaker's Bureau started to present Five Wishes to the community.
- Annual meeting at home of Katherine and Jean McPherson

*"Carol McGuire, Virginia Koehl and Earl Fae Eldridge planned this wonderful event. Special thanks to Margie Gross from Mini Mansions, who donated the refreshments. The board is delighted to present a check for \$35,000 this evening."*

*"Finally, Friends presidents before me have said what I also feel: thank you for the privilege of serving, thank you for your help and support, and thank you for loving our mission and our patients enough to make a difference."*

**Gretchen Bealer**



**Lori Wright**  
**President 2003-2004**

*"This year we made a giant leap with the successful culmination of the Valentine Luncheon to help patients with the DreamMakers' project."*

- Fall Coffee at the home of Glenda and Gary Woods

with 100-plus members and guests

*"Yona McNish deserves a special thank you for her meticulous planning on the opening event of the year."*

- Memorial Service refreshments coordinated by Felice Wolff
- Poinsettia deliveries coordinated by Laura Bartholomew, Ginger and Bud Davenport

*"December means Poinsettia Ball, a premier holiday event, which takes place each year. Nancy Torgerson, Gretchen Burkholder, Sally Owens, along with their committee delighted all with a gorgeous ballroom at the Hyatt Regency Riverwalk. Tireless volunteers spent many hours to ensure a successful and beautiful ball that netted \$97,000."*

- Valentine Luncheon on Valentine's Day *"This event was chaired by Johanna Comuzzi, Mary Gail Campbell and Carter Dreesman and my sincere thanks goes to them and for tackling a new fundraiser that netted over \$17,600."*
- Spring Program *"How Can You Better Relate to the Suffering and Grief as a Hospice Caregiver?"* with speaker Dr. Kenneth Haugk, Stephen Ministries founder, planned by Lois Jones and her committee
- 6th Golf Classic at La Cantera Resort with the leadership of Connie Linville and her committee secured auction items and goody bag contents. The event netted \$20,000.
- Annual meeting at the home of Dr. and Mrs. Ernesto Guerra orchestrated by Lisa Blonkvist.
- \$134,600 in donations given to VNA & Hospice of South Texas, with more to come from memberships in June.

*"Another year in Friends comes to a close celebrating success and with a renewed spirit to meet old and new challenges. Friends is composed of honorable and educated people who strive to help hospice patients and to educate the community at large. Thank you, each and everyone, for your dedication to our hospice patients who truly need you."*

**Lori Wright**



**Jill Adams**  
**President 2004-2005**

*"Financially we crossed the million dollar mark in total monies raised since the organization of Friends of Hospice in 1991."*

- Fall Coffee at the home of Mertie Wood *"We are most grateful to Mertie for hosting us and to Nancy Torgerson, Sally Owens and Garda Templeton for making all the arrangements for this lovely event. Our speaker, Nancy Maebius, gave an information talk about FIVE WISHES."*

- Pat Wood arranged the refreshments for both hospice memorial services.
- Poinsettia Sale was coordinated by Gretchen and Alex Bealer, Ginger and Bud Davenport and Ruth and Quintin Stansell and raised \$13,000.
- 2004 Poinsettia Ball was chaired by Jennifer Brown and co-chaired by Kristina Fentress.

*"The Poinsettia Ball, at the Hyatt Regency Riverwalk, was attended by 500 guests and raised \$98,500. Special thanks for Jenifer and Kristina for all their hard work in planning this glorious gala."*

- 2nd Valentine's "DreamMakers" Luncheon at the San Antonio Country Club with Dillard's providing the fashions for the style show *"Carter Dreesman and her committee did an outstanding job organizing this delightful event."*
- Spring lecture *"Hospice and the Humanities: Understanding and Empathy in End-of-Life Care,"* speaker Dr. Abraham Verghese *"Dr. Sarah Fox, assisted by Jennifer Cook, UIW Nursing School, prepared an exceptional program."*
- 7th Annual Golf Classic under the direction of Judy and Bruce Hooper brought ninety players to La Cantera Resort and raised \$26,500.
- Annual meeting in the beautiful home of Janice and John Brazil, chaired by Johanna Comuzzi, and Margie Groos donated the food.

*"Tonight we are pleased to present a check for \$20,000 to VNA and Hospice of South Texas. To date this year, Friends of Hospice has given \$134,200. This past year has brought challenges, but also opportunities and accomplishments. It has been an honor, a privilege and a most meaningful experience for me to serve as your president this past year."*

**Jill Adams**

**CHARTER MEMBERS 1991**

Lila Aguirre  
 Beverly Barshop  
 Kay Bashara  
 Alison Boone  
 Sarah Harte Gutizier  
 Winifred Cocke  
 Mary Davenport  
 Claire Daviss  
 India de Marigny Chumney  
 \*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 Dyslin  
 Ann McMullan  
 Ann Moore  
 Rev. Mary Margaret Mueller  
 Laura Negley Gill  
 \*Ginny Pace  
 Betty Parish  
 Camilla Parker  
 Julie Parker  
 Lucy Rasco  
 Bitsy Rubsamen  
 Nora Scott  
 Linda Seeligson  
 Diane Singleton  
 Anne Smith  
 Tookie Spoor  
 Missy Webb Walters  
 Mary Beth Williamson  
 Chica Younger

\*Deceased



**Pauleen Netting**  
**President 2005-2006**

*"What one word would you pick to describe 2005-2006 year? While many words might come to mind, one is virtually inescapable: transition."*

The major transitions for the year were:

- Redirected commitment to the newly merged non-profit hospice CHRISTUS VNA Hospice and Palliative Care San Antonio
- Mission statement rewritten
- Relocation of the Friends office to the northwest side
- Poinsettia Sale became the total responsibility of Friends.
- Friends Golf Classic hosted a one-prize raffle.
- A new executive committee position, VP Marketing, was created.
- Long-range planning committee was created to plan the next 3 to 5 years.
- Membership renewals were mailed in June to better align the membership year.
- Friends began applying for grants from foundations and community groups.

*"Through hard work, determination, and dedication, I have rarely seen in any organization, Friends worked through the challenges and made significant contributions to the Inpatient Center and to help uninsured hospice patients."*

- Fall Coffee at the home of Patty Hayes coordinated by Barbara Schneider and Nancy Zachry
- Poinsettia Sale coordinated by Ruth Stansell, Mary Ruth Welch and Pat Wood netted \$10,000.
- Poinsettia Ball chaired by Carter Dreesman and Johanna Co-muzzi at the Hyatt Regency Riverwalk raised \$100,000.
- Valentine's "DreamMakers" Luncheon chaired by Ann McMullan and Mary Vera Ramirez raised \$18,000.
- Spring program "Addressing Fears in End-of-Life Care: Ethical and Legal Aspects of Decision Making in the Care of the Seriously Ill" with speakers Javier Kane, MD, Robert Connelly, PhD, Justice Sandee Bryan Marion, Judge Peter Sakai and Judge John Specia

*"Special thanks to Jennifer Cook, UIW, and attorney Laird McNeil for their efforts in making a successful program."*

- 8th Golf Classic again at La Cantera Resort coordinated by Judy and Bruce Hooper added \$20,000 to the total year's donations.
- Annual meeting at the home of Lori and Mark Wright, where a check was presented to bring the year's total to \$175,000. Sarah Shaw chaired the event.

*"Let me say again to each volunteer, for each task you accepted and for each goal you achieved, thank you. Friends would not be the vital, viable, and visible organization it is without the devotion and commitment of its volunteers. The past twelve months have been extremely rewarding, as I have watched our members accept the challenges of transition. Knowing how well you have handled all we faced this year leaves me in no doubt that whatever the transitions might be for 2006-2007, you will handle them with grace, dignity, and a compassion for patients and their families in end-of-life care."*

**Pauleen Netting**