

Hospice Headlines

Winter 2012



Circle of Love's Lynn Curl Named Social Worker of the Year

Over the last 15 years, Social Worker Lynn Curl has touched the lives of hundreds of patients and their family members in countless ways. At the end of last year, she was recognized by the Oklahoma Hospice and Palliative Care Association (OHPCA) as the 2011 Social Worker of the Year.

Lynn's daily accomplishments vary greatly from assisting with paperwork to identifying local resources. One day she might be working to keep someone's electricity from being shut off and the next finding a dentist to make a house call. Sometimes Lynn is able to help patients fulfill end of life wishes such as taking one last trip or getting a visit or phone call from a loved-one serving overseas or who is incarcerated. Other examples of her work include assisting with funeral plans or a DNR order or sending letters to out-of-town employers asking that a daughter or son be granted leave from his/her job to take care of a parent who is on hospice. Lynn's coworkers are often impressed with the impact she makes on hospice patients and their families. "Lynn never shirks from helping out. She has a special touch and it shows in all she does," commented co-worker Lenora Beckwith, RN.



Lynn looks at pictures with one of her patients.

Lynn was singled out by the Veteran's Administration in 1998 for the countless hours she had put in assisting patients and families with filling out paperwork for VA benefits. They presented her with a certificate at a special ceremony. In one year alone, Lynn was responsible for helping families receive over \$200,000.00 in benefits from the VA. "I just like helping people," said Curl. "My gratification comes from being able to meet the needs of our families during a time that's difficult for them and being able to take some of the load off their shoulders."

Lynn received a 15 year service award from Hospice Circle of Love in December. "I feel really blessed as an employer for this organization to have someone of Lynn's caliber here," commented Circle of Love Director Chad Caldwell. "Her most incredible attribute is her heart. She always goes the extra mile and extraordinary effort really has become her ordinary."

Also honored for her years of service in December was Nurse Aide Linda Malone. Malone has been with the non-profit organization for 10 years. Linda is also a past recipient of an OHPCA award. She was named Home Health Aide of the year in 2005. A Hospice Circle of Love employee or volunteer has won an OHPCA award 4 out of the last 7 years.



Nurse Aide Linda Malone (left) was recently recognized for 10 years of service at Hospice Circle of Love. Social Worker Lynn Curl received an award for 15 years of service.

Dementia Patients With Hospice Shown To Receive Better Care

A recent study published in the *Journal of the American Geriatrics Society* looks at quality of care of dementia patients who died in a nursing home. The results show that family members who received hospice care for their loved one, reported increased perceptions of quality of care. In addition, they rated the peacefulness and quality of dying more positively than families members whose loved ones didn't

receive hospice.

The study results showed:

- 51% were less likely to report unmet needs
- 49% less likely to report an unmet need for pain management
- 50% less likely to have wanted more emotional support before a loved one's death

A Look Back At Our 2011 Accomplishments

2011 was a busy year at Hospice Circle of Love. We said goodbye to Secretary Cheryl Robinette after 20 years of service, implemented the latest Medicare regulations for hospice and welcomed new staff members. Some of the other highlights of our year are listed below.

In 2011 Hospice Circle of Love:

- Hired Jennifer Boydston as the organization's new Patient Care Coordinator
- Had an OK Hospice and Palliative Care Assoc. award winner-Lynn Curl, Social Worker of the Year
- Assisted Evans Pharmacy in giving out around 1,500 flu shots to area residents
- Supported Relay for Life in Garfield and Major Counties, Enid Community Clinic, 4RKids & Jr. Welfare League among other causes
- Hosted our first ever Mint Julep Jubilee Fund-raiser on Kentucky Derby Day
- Hosted two book sales, a pancake feed, and a clay shoot
- Remembered 500 loved ones at our annual Tree of Life Celebration
- Offered free care to all area residents without Medicare or private insurance
- Had a 2% increase in admissions over the year before

Thousands of books were sold at Circle of Love's Fall Book Sale.



Lynn Curl was the 2011 Social Worker of the Year.



Hospice Circle of Love hosted a Clay Shoot at Cimarron Junction in October.



Nearly 500 ornaments adorned trees at our Tree of Life Celebrations in December.

A Look Forward To Some of Our 2012 Events

Pancakes on The Menu Valentine Weekend

Area residents are invited to the Fairview Conference Center on Saturday, February 11th from 5:30 to 7:30 PM to

*Pancake Feed
February 11th
5:30 PM to 7:30 PM
Fairview Conference Ctr.*

partake in fresh sausage and pancakes. There will be both syrup and fresh fruit toppings to choose from. The come and go event will be hosted by the Fairview Masons. Admission is by donation.

Participants will be entertained with live music while they eat and door prizes will be given. In addition, a baked goods auction will take place throughout the evening. A large variety of cakes, pies and cookies will be up for bid. This will be a good chance for attendees to pick up a sweet treat in time for Valentine's Day.



Pancakes & fresh sausage will be on the menu in Fairview Feb. 11th.

Anyone who would like to donate a baked good can drop it off at the Conference Center the night of the event.

Participants will also have the chance to purchase raffle tickets for some items that would make great Valentine gifts.

Group Will Assist the Grieving

A community grief group is scheduled in March to help those who have lost a loved one. The group will meet once a week for about an hour starting March 6th. The sessions will be held every Tuesday for 4 weeks starting at 5:00 PM at the Hospice Circle of Love Enid office, 314 S. Third. Sessions are designed to support participants and give them the skills to help them on their grief journey. Call Kevin or Gary at 580-234-2273 to register.

*Grief Group
Tuesdays from March 6th - March 27th
5:00 PM @ Hospice Circle of Love*

Volunteer Applications Being Accepted

Hospice Circle of Love will host a training course for prospective volunteers starting February 2nd. The class will be held over three consecutive Thursdays from 2:00 to 5:00 in the afternoon at the Hospice Circle of Love Enid office.

The course covers the basics on what hospice care is all about, bereavement, family dynamics and more. It is designed to prepare volunteers to provide companionship to patients in the home or nursing home. In addition to sitting with patients, hospice Volunteers are utilized to assist with office work and agency fund-raisers.

Current volunteers say they get a lot out of the experience. "I feel this is a very rewarding experience and I enjoy the opportunity to give back to others. I think it is as full-filling to me as anything I have ever done," said Judy Beniger.

Call Julie at 580-234-2273 for an application.

Kentucky Derby Event Planned For May

Attendees at Hospice Circle of Love's Mint Julep Jubilee will be watching the Kentucky Derby on a big screen TV at the Oakwood Country Club. The



event is planned for May 5th at 4:00. It will also include southern style hors d'oeuvres and drinks such as mint juleps. After the race is over the event will continue with a casino night. Other features of the Jubilee include a best hat contest, a "horse auction" with a 50/50 pot and the chance to win a great prize through wagers for the winning horse. Tickets



Mint Julep Jubilee Participants are encouraged to wear Derby Day attire.

to the event are \$75.00. Please call the office at 580-234-2273 for an invitation. Sponsorship opportunities are also available.

Hospice Circle of Love
314 S. Third
Enid, OK 73701

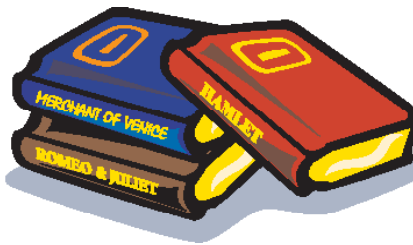
RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Non-Profit
Organization
US Postage
PAID
Permit # 183
Enid, OK

Spring Book Sale to Take Place in April

Hospice Circle of Love has already been receiving donations for our Spring Book Sale. The event has been scheduled for Friday, April 20th, from 9:00 to 5:00 and Saturday, April 21st, from 9:00 to 1:00 at Hospice Circle of Love's North Building at 314 S. Third in Enid.

Books will be available in a large variety of categories, including mystery, biographies, cook books, children's books and romance novels among others. Hardbacks will sell for \$1.00 and paperbacks will only



be \$.50 each.

"The Hospice Circle of Love Book Sale is a great way to stock up on reading material without spending too much and of course the money goes to a great cause," commented event organizer Julie Nelson.

Book donations are accepted from 8:30 to 5:00 Monday through Friday at the Enid office.

*Spring Book Sale
Friday, April 20th - 9 to 5
Saturday, April 21st - 9 to 1
Circle of Love, North Building*