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SPRING 2014 - CENTRAL COAST

DYING HAPPENS ON THE LAST DAY; EVERY OTHER DAY IS ABOUT LIVING.

# Wilshire Hospice Dazzling Diamond Ball

A dazzling win for patients and families!



We proudly announce the long-awaited return of the elegant Dazzling Diamond Ball, a benefit for Wilshire Hospice held on March 15th. Supporters and friends came together for one evening to raise over \$45,000 in much needed funds for Wilshire Hospice patients and their families!

It was a spectacular Venetianthemed evening of gowns and glamour, champagne and peach belinis, local wines, food and friends along with the lilting, gypsy sounds of Café Musique and the reeds and brass of the San Luis Jazz Band. We danced the night away under twinkling lights and true Venetian charm.



A sincere "grazie" to all who

contributed to the auction; bought tickets or auction items; and showed their support for the mission of Wilshire Hospice with open hearts and wallets. Bravo to Nic Gaudiuso & Toni Erpenbach (above right) the winning bidders of the spectacular Dazzling Diamond Necklace created by Marshalls Jewelers. It truly is a piece of art - from the heart! We would also like to applaud Ball Honorees; Liam Bennett, Caring Hospice Volunteer, Gary Harkins, M.D., Healthcare Professional, and Marshalls Jewelers, Business Philanthropist, on their unwavering dedication and support of Wilshire Hospice in so many ways. Your gracious support provides us the ability to serve those in need in our community.



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Guy Fitzwater & Libbie Agran, Jeff & Andi Portney, Gorelick & Uslaner, KCOY & American General Media

# WILSHIRE HOSPICE ANNUAL REPORT

By Laurie Smith, Administrator

2013 was a significant year for Hospice Partners of the Central Coast as we undertook a name change to Wilshire Hospice. This step was not taken lightly, however, in the ever-changing landscape of health care we felt we needed to more clearly identify ourselves as associated with the entire range of services that Wilshire Health & Community Services has to

offer. Hospice
Partners, Inc., now
Wilshire Hospice,
established hospice
services in 1998 in San
Luis Obispo County
after the close of the
County-subsidized
hospice agency, which
served the region from
1983-1998. Wilshire
Hospice is a 501(c)(3)
not-for-profit agency
and a State licensed

Medicare and Medi-Cal certified hospice with comprehensive and progressive programs serving residents of the Central Coast. Our truly dedicated and gifted staff continues our tradition of extraordinary community-based hospice care that has been a hallmark of our organization since our beginnings; and together, we take this important step forward.

Wilshire Hospice's interdisciplinary team of nurses, dieticians, spiritual counselors, medical social workers, bereavement counselors, therapeutic musicians and volunteers were privileged to make 22,008 visits in 2013 to 628 patients on the threshold of life. We love what we do and continue to provide patients and their families with a full range of hospice and palliative

care services that emphasizes quality of life, choice, dignity and family in the dying process. Our goal remains simple - to enhance our patient's quality of life *every* day because dying only happens on the last day.

Our hospice care is available to all individuals who qualify and desire our services regardless of race,

religion, sex, national origin, sexual orientation, age, physical, mental or economic status. One-on-one counseling is available to all our hospice families after the death of their family member. In addition, we provide the same level of support to those who may have suffered a sudden unexpected loss unrelated to hospice care. We have

considerable experience dealing with very tragic and complicated situations including the death of a child or suicide of a loved one. Wilshire Hospice has the only Center with this level of bereavement services in our region.

I want to extend a personal thank you to our 1,129 community supporters who donated a grand total of \$326,971 to Wilshire Hospice in 2013. On behalf of our patients and their families, we offer our heartfelt appreciation for your generosity and continued support which enables us to serve all patients regardless of their insurance coverage or ability to pay for services.

Laurie Smith

Thank you!

Compassion.

Comfort, Choice.



### THE CENTER FOR GRIEF, EDUCATION AND HEALING

Licensed, certified hospice programs are mandated by Medicare to provide 13 months of bereavement follow-up to our families; but they provide no reimbursement for those services. Wilshire Hospice Bereavement Services represent 5% unreimbursed expenses of our agency. Your generous contributions enabled us to serve 337 people, which included survivors of hospice patients and survivors of persons not receiving hospice care.

People Served	Bereavement Services
194	Survivors of Hospice Patients
143	Survivors of persons not receiving Hospice care

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# PET THERAPY DOGS BRING SMILES AND SNUGGLES

Wilshire Hospice Patients Enjoy comfort and well-being delivered on four paws



Introducing our dedicated Wilshire Hospice Pet Therapy Volunteer Teams; Deb Dight with (Mia) the Rottweiler, Toni Destro with (Buster) the Pit Bull and Denise Fitzgerald with (Mr. Darcy) the English Toy Spaniel (Linda Long not pictured with Zoe the veteran therapy poodle). Our Certified Pet Therapy volunteer teams have been trained to visit hospice patients upon request of the patients or their families. They travel to hospitals, nursing homes and patients' homes and are paid only in the smiles and memories they receive in return.

Therapy dogs are trained to bring comfort and companionship; to nuzzle patients in beds or wheelchairs; make themselves available for petting and even snuggle in bed if they have been invited.

The Pet Therapy Program is just one of the palliative care programs that Wilshire Hospice is proud

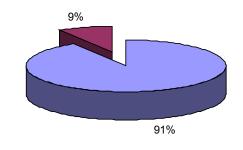
to offer in concert with the One Voice Supportive Music Program and Wilshire Hospice's interdisciplinary team of clinicians and volunteers. Your support of Wilshire Hospice makes these types of programs possible.

Pet Therapy has been shown to increase pain tolerance, reduce stress, lower blood pressure, and bring an immediate sense of well-being to patients in need. It can be especially useful to dementia patients who have withdrawn from the people around them but find interacting with a pet much easier. Pet visits may also stimulate life review and reminiscence as patients recall their favorite pets from their past or childhood.

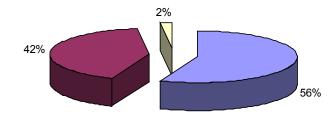
"Mia and I have visited our local nursing homes many times. The residents love the dog visits. Occasionally there are people who don't care for dogs. I always ask if someone would like a dog visit before I approach. Most of the residents want a visit and love to share stories of a beloved pet. I have met several residents who show signs of dementia. What impressed me about one resident was the fact that she learned to remember my dog and me. She would ask me, "Where is your dog?" I love the smiles and stories I receive from the residents. They in turn put a smile on my face. It is very rewarding. I have met some truly wonderful people I never would have met any other way. "

- Deb Dight & "Mia"

## 2013 REVENUES & EXPENSES



■ Patient Revenue ■ Fundraising Gifts, Grants & Bequests



□ Patient Expenses ■ Administrative & Overhead □ Fundraising Costs

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Martha Miller

Vita Miller

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#### GIVING OPPORTUNITIES

Each level provides one of the following:

#### \$5,000 Platium Level Contribution:

- 20 patient and family in-home visits from the hospice medical interdisciplinary team of nurses, dieticians, spiritual counselors, and medical social workers
- 20 grief-counseling sessions for survivors at our Center for Grief Education & Healing
- 60 in-home visits from a Wilshire Hospice Musician
- 400 hours of volunteer training, supervision & consultation
- Training, support and supervision for 6 in-home volunteers annually

#### \$2,500 Gold Level Contribution:

- 10 patient and family in-home visits from the hospice interdisciplinary team
- · 10 grief-counseling sessions
- 30 in-home musician visits
- 200 hours of volunteer training, supervision & consultation
- Training, support and supervision for 3 in-home volunteers

#### \$1,000 Silver Level Contribution:

- 4 patient and family in-home visits from the hospice interdisciplinary team
- · 4 grief-counseling sessions
- 12 in-home musician visits
- 80 hours of volunteer training, supervision & consultation
- Training, support and supervision for 1 in-home volunteer annually

#### \$500 Bronze Level Contribution:

- · 2 patient and family in-home visits from the hospice interdisciplinary team
- 2 grief-counseling sessions
- 6 in-home musician visits
- 40 hours of volunteer training, supervision & consultation

#### \$250 Copper Level Contribution:

- 1 patient and family in-home visit from the hospice interdisciplinary team
- 1 grief counseling session
- 2 siblings attend summer Camp Wishing Star
- 3 in-home musician visits
- · 20 hours of volunteer training, supervision & consultation

#### \$100 provides 1 of the following:

- 1 in-home musician visit
- 1 child attend Camp Wishing Star for children grieving loss
- · 8 hours of volunteer training, supervision & consultation

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# A TRIBUTE TO JOHN "JOHNNY" BORUK

By Mark Wilson

It's difficult to capture the essence of any man - to summarize, in a few words, the life and fundamental nature of any one person, especially if that man is John Boruk. John... or "Johnny," as he liked to be called, was an ordinary guy. An everyman who worked hard throughout his life and was spending his retirement years living quietly with his dog, Booger, in a manufactured home on the edge of town. He passed away on Christmas Day with

Booger right by his side. But, not without leaving a legacy that will serve others on the Central Coast for some time to come. You see, this seemingly ordinary man did an extraordinary thing. He donated \$400,000 to Wilshire Hospice.

John Boruk was born in Texas; played football in college; served his country in WWII and was proud to call himself

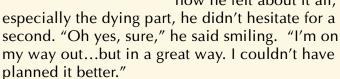
a momma's boy. John Boruk was also a giver. Anyone who spent time with him was sure to get at least a small dose of his personal philosophy about givers and takers. He didn't much care for the latter of the two and spent a lot of time devoting himself to finding ways to be a giver.

The seed of Johnny's giving spirit appears to have been the result of a car accident. The accident wasn't his fault, but was, in fact, the fault of the other driver. When he noticed that the other driver was a young mother with two children and was clearly not a woman of means, he decided right then and there to pay for the damages himself. In hindsight, perhaps it was divine intervention or maybe even his momma's voice speaking to him; but, either way, it wasn't so much the accident itself but the card he received from that young mom that changed his outlook and his life. The card read, "I want to thank you for your kindness. I am deeply sorry for creating a problem and incredibly relieved that you were so generous. I hope that your kindness comes back to you tenfold."

"It was minor, but it was an indication that I should turn my life around and be more polite to people," he said. "Now, whenever I'm feeling kind of bad, or in the dumps or something, I'll pick up that letter and read it and it'll revive my senses – I want to be a giver not a taker, and from then on, it changed my life."

John's death wasn't unexpected. He saw it coming from a distance. When I first met him, he had

> known for quite some time and he was, in fact, a patient with Wilshire Hospice. We met at his home where we drank beer and talked about life, politics, sports and the good that his \$400,000 was going to do for so many people that would never have the opportunity to thank him. When asked about how he felt about it all.



In life and in death, John Boruk shows us how liberating it is to give. His example serves as a reminder that words are not enough. The power is in the doing. It is in the giving, not the taking. He also helped us to understand the invisible bond we all share, regardless of our situation or circumstance in life...that there is something found in caring for others that makes us achieve who we are. John Boruk left this Thanks and Godspeed Johnny. We'll miss you.

John Boruk's generous gift will help Wilshire Hospice continue its mission to provide care and services to local patients and their families on the basis of need rather than their ability to pay.

world a better place simply for having been in it.

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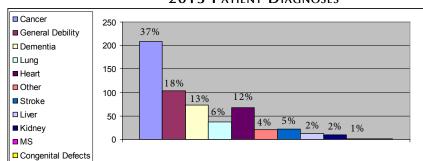
Ms. Honorina Thomas



Butch

Janet Schoening

Ms. Joyce Ford Marty Schrader



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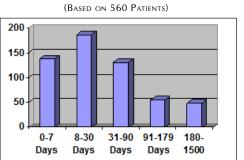
Letter Carriers

**Amy Rice** 

National Association Of

Mr. Charles Rheinhardt

#### 2013 PATIENT LENGTH OF SERVICE



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Angela Toncic Mr. & Mrs. Jeremy Bond Eda Torigiani Jim Burke Ford Lincoln Jaguar Sharon Sealund Mr. Frank Torrigiani Bev & Al Tornquist D. Tornquist Tony Torres John & Yvonne Edmisten Steve Trauth Mr. Stephen Brown Frances & William **Travers** Ms. Ann Travers **Neil Travis** Ms. Janie Thompson Mavis Tripp Mr. & Mrs. Theodore Richard Trowbridge Angelynn Trowbridge Sharon Whisenhunt Bill & Lano Trussler Ms. Martha Miller John Tunnicliffe Anne & Alfred Tunnicliffe Vivian Turner Mr. Bob Handwork Laird Van Artsdalen Mrs. Bette Van Artsdalen Vanir Construction Management, Inc Mona Van Eck Sperto Mrs. Ann Pinkerton Donna Van Noy Ms. Doris Davis Ms. Linda Frezza Howard Vander Linden Ms. Zelma Haber Suzanne Velenzuela Ms. Beverly Cinal Mabel Vierthaler Miniature Cottage Shop Yvonne Villa Charles & Mary Brooner Joseph Villara Mr. & Mrs. Arthur Giumini Olive Vincent Ms. Evelyn Baird James Violette Ms. Sharon Farrell Ms. Judith Violette Helen Von Werner Ms. Mary Diodati David Wagner Mrs. Ardith Wagner Patrick A. Walsh Ms. Nancy Walsh

**Bob Warden** Jeff & Carla Cole Janice & Philip Irwin Carolyn Warmington Mr. Jon Priest Robert Waterman Ms. Leslie Lariz Marlene Webster Mr. James Webster Louise Wegge Ms. Debbie Owen Harvey White Mr. & Mrs Bruce Cook Pastor Robert Whited Mrs. Phyllis Tiegs Matthew Will Mr. Christopher Will J.C. Williams Ms. Ruby Crye Shirley Williams Ms. Audrey Gagnon Ms. Susan Martinez Ms. Shirley Young Willie Williamson Anita Williamson Dee Willis Cantleberrys Golden Hill Farm Carol Winch Mr. Gary Winch Celia Wink Anne and Paul **Bittner** Mr. George Wink
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Save the Date:

# Day of the Dead

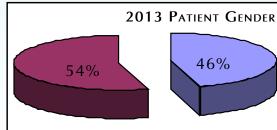
"Dia De Los Muertos"

## **November 1, 2014**

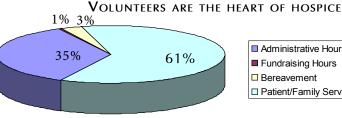
Traditional Community Celebration & Procession Presented by Wilshire Hospice Mission Plaza, San Luis Obispo



"Day of the Dead" is a traditional Latin American holiday that honors the dead. Join us in this unique celebration - both reverant and festive - as we prepare to welcome the spirits of our loved ones and friends to San Luis Obispo.







Administrative Hours ■ Fundraising Hours Bereavement □ Patient/Family Services Hours



277 South Street, Suite R San Luis Obispo, CA 93401 Tel: (805) 782-8608 Fax: (805) 782-8614 www.wilshirehospicecc.org whocinfo@wilshirehcs.org

Wilshire Hospice (formerly Hospice Partners of the Central Coast), is a community-based, 501(c)3, not-for-profit, tax exempt agency and has been meeting the special needs of local patients facing life-limiting illnesses since 1998.

Our team of highly skilled nurses, physicians, counselors and volunteers are here to provide comfort, dignity and choice for every patient, every time regardless of their race, age, faith, diagnosis or ability to pay.

#### HOSPICE PARTNERS BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Return Service Requested

# SAVE THE DATE

12th Annual Wilshire Hospice (formerly Hospice "Pardners")

#### HUEDDWH

Saturday, August 2, 2014

#### ETEARST RATER

Stake your claim early to have fun, raise money for Wilshire Hospice patients and families and scoot your boots with Monte Mills & the Lucky Horseshoe Band.

Look for your invitation in June.

#### T'ALL COME ON UP TO THE PANCH NOW

www.wilshirehcs.org



August 2, 2014

Wilshire Hospice is an agency of Wilshire Health & Community Services, Inc., a not-for-profit tax exempt organization.

E-mail: who cnewsletter@wilshirehcs.org

Call: (805) 547-7025 Extension #25

Mail: Newsletter Editor, Wilshire Hospice

277 South Street, Suite R, San Luis Obispo, CA 93401

Every effort has been made to assure accuracy. Please accept our apologies if we've made an error and please let us know at: (805) 547-7025 extension 25.