

## Life Touch Hospice receives 2 grants

Life Touch Hospice is pleased to announce that it is the recipient of two grants: one from the Carl B. & Florence E. King Foundation in the amount of \$25,000 and another from The Plum Creek Foundation in the amount of \$6,000. The funds provided by the King Foundation are designated for capital support for computers and staff training to allow *Life Touch* to implement electronic patient medical records in the homecare program. The funds from The Plum Creek Foundation have been designated to provide medical equipment in patients' homes.

"We thank the Carl B. & Florence E. King Foundation and The Plum Creek Foundation for their philanthropic support. These grants will allow us to better serve our patients and families. We are excited to improve patient care through these opportunities," said Macy Braswell, Executive Director.

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**In 2010, *Life Touch* Hospice volunteers provided 4,300 hours of service and traveled 11,963 miles**

## A Note From The Executive Director

### ***Life Touch Hospice Celebrates its 20th Anniversary!***

*Life Touch* Hospice began delivering patient care in 1991. While many changes, have occurred during *Life Touch's* 20 years, the core mission has remained constant: honoring every moment...with respect, integrity, stewardship, and excellence.

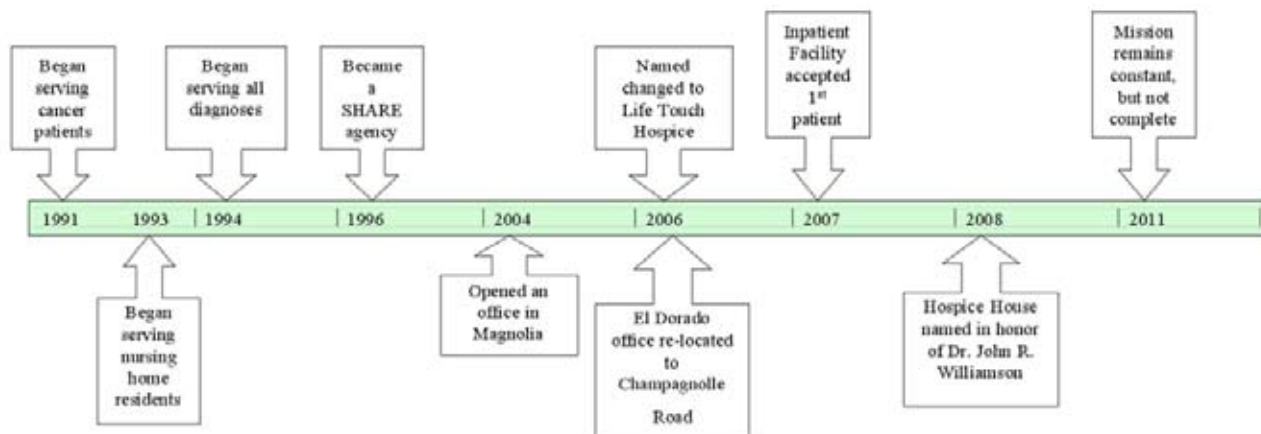
Our first patient was admitted on November 4, 1991. In the last 20 years, *Life Touch* has cared for just under 4,000 patients. Our staff and volunteers have been able to stay focused on our core mission because of the community support from those who share the commitment to providing quality end-of-life care in South Arkansas.

In 20 years, hundreds of individuals have helped shape *Life Touch*, and with each patient and family we are honored to know we continue to celebrate each life we touch and each opportunity to serve, and we are grateful for the ongoing support and trust of the community which makes our work possible.



**Macy Braswell**  
Executive Director

### ***Milestones in the history of Life Touch Hospice***



# Raising Awareness About the Benefits of Hospice

## ***How do caregivers know how to care for patients at home?***

Our staff teaches caregivers how to best care for their loved one- how to change dressings, prevent falls in the home, bathe a patient, administer medications, and much more.

## *Feature Article*

### **Experience with *Life Touch Hospice***

The family of **Faye January**, whom we affectionately call Faye-Faye, has a beautiful story to share about our experience with *Life Touch Hospice*. Our experience began with in-home care, with Josie helping Faye-Faye with daily activities. Josie won Faye-Faye over right away, taking special care to handle things the way she preferred, showing a deep and genuine respect for those who need her help. Her bright smile and sweet spirit lifted us all up each time we saw her! Ginger provided excellent nursing care, especially when there were questions, status changes or special needs. Brother Bob visited often to uplift Faye-Faye and the family. The care Faye-Faye was shown in her home made this difficult time so much more comfortable and manageable.

When circumstances changed, *Life Touch Hospice* care made all the difference at Christmas, a very special time of the year for the January family. For decades, Jay (Papa) and Faye-Faye hosted the January family for a fun- and food-filled Christmas each year at their home. Five years ago, the get-together moved to Memphis for her stepdaughter, who could no longer travel distances. We lost Papa in 2003, so Faye-Faye's son, Randy, brought her each Christmas.

This Christmas, despite her battle with cancer, Faye-Faye courageously still planned to travel for our get-together. Unfortunately, she took a severe turn a few days prior and was taken to John R. Williamson Hospice House for respite care. The family decided to abandon our usual Christmas plan and go spend time with her.

However, when we walked into the amazing facility – complete with a fully equipped kitchen, dining room, and family room with a beautiful Christmas tree – we decided it was quite possible to have our traditional Christmas! We were so touched at the kindness we were shown by the staff every step of the way. While checking out the kitchen, we met Liz [Butler], a volunteer. She gave us her cell phone number and generously offered to bring any other kitchen item from her own home that would help make our Christmas dinner possible!

We felt so at home that we just treated it as though it were. We put gifts under the tree, the children played, and the family girls prepared the traditional Christmas dinner we've enjoyed all these years, starting in Faye-Faye's kitchen. Cooking together in that kitchen was very sweet and reminiscent of all the years at Papa and Faye-Faye's house. The guys tended to Faye-Faye, helped with kitchen duty, and watched over the children. Faye-Faye joined us for her famous sausage balls and cheese log and spent some time in the family room with everyone. The children were a bit noisy, so we closed the double doors leading to the patients' rooms more evidence that the creators of the facility seemed to think of everything.

Over the course of the weekend, Faye-Faye had about 30 visitors, with 17 for Christmas dinner. It was such a gift to the family. Everything about the facility and staff shows the priority is placed on the patient's comfort and ability to spend time with their family. We knew every member of the nursing staff by name, because they would make a point of introducing themselves each shift change. We felt we'd gained sweet new friends. Faye-Faye received such wonderful care and as family members staying there, we felt as well cared for as the patient.

Faye-Faye improved enough to return home with her sister and brother-in-law with Josie and Ginger's care for a while. Upon returning to Hospice House, we couldn't have asked for a more responsive or helpful team to watch after Faye-Faye and the family in her final days. She left this world on January 16, 2011, in the kind-hearted care of the wonderful staff at Hospice House, to have eternal life with Christ, and reunite with her dear Papa.

On behalf of the entire Faye January family, we sincerely thank you, *Life Touch Hospice*, for your compassionate staff and for flexing to provide what the patient and family need. We are so grateful for your excellent care of our dear Faye-Faye, and the ability to have a sweet, memorable family Christmas and the best possible circumstances for our final weeks together.

*Kim January*

# Life Touch Hospice Volunteers

NATIONAL VOLUNTEER WEEK APRIL 10-16

Life Touch Hospice salutes our amazing volunteers that give unselfishly of their time to enhance our program in nursing homes, private homes and in the John R. Williamson Hospice House.

In 2010, volunteers provided **4,300** hours of their time and traveled **11,963** miles for Life Touch Hospice patients and families.

- **Pet Therapy**
- **Preparing a meal**
- **Bereavement contact**
- **Brightening someone's day**
- **Respite**
- **Mowing a yard**
- **Administrative work**
- **Visiting a patient**
- **11th hour vigil**
- **Running errands**



*Voncile Berry, Nell Channell, and Peggy Lybarger help fold, stuff, and stamp monthly newsletters.*

*Gayle Rogers works her magic on the computer by helping enter NHPCO surveys.*



*Liz Slater, Pet Therapy Instructor and Life Touch Hospice volunteer practices the "stay" command during the first night of Pet Therapy class.*

# Life Touch Hospice Volunteers

*Donna Wren helps out the Bereavement program by breaking down closed-out charts.*



*Honey Patterson enjoys visiting and talking about the Arkansas Razorbacks with Mr. Cupples.*

*Laurie Eckart spends her afternoon visiting with Ms. Hampton.*



*Kelly Sheppard enjoys her music while helping shred over 40 boxes of old documentation.*

*Bill Turnage helps prepare and serve noon meals every Thursday at the John R. Williamson Hospice House.*



## Hospice Advisory Board Spotlight

Since the early 90's, I have had the opportunity to be involved in hospice care in Union County as I shared John Solomon's vision of bringing hospice services to our community. Providing compassionate end-of-life care is an overwhelming task and needs a multi-discipline approach to the physical, spiritual, emotional, and social aspects one faces when the end of life of a loved one is near.

All of this would not be possible without volunteers. Special training is given to them as they understand the philosophy of hospice care. My position as Education Coordinator of the Area Health Education Center (AHEC) enabled me to provide training to our volunteers. For several years, we met in the basement of the old AHEC building bringing in specialists near and far to teach us more about this kind of care.

We learned about the medical aspects of dying, palliative care, dealing with family conflicts, and spiritual concerns. A side benefit to the training was the closeness we felt to each other as we considered our own experiences with death. When the bereavement specialist from Hot Springs came, we always had potato soup for our "comfort food." Gradually our numbers increased as the community became aware of the services provided.

Little did I know how valuable this knowledge would be to help me when my husband was taken off life support at the Medical Center of South Arkansas. Nothing more could be done to extend his life. We did not know how much longer he would live and the idea of staying in the hospital, or going to a nursing home, or even home, was not a good option for us. The moment we walked in the front door at the John R. Williamson Hospice House we knew this was the place to be. We had ample room for all of our extended family to be together, spilling out to the porch at times. We could eat together in the dining room, have family conferences in the sunroom and even got to watch the Belmont races on TV together. We were so thankful for this very comforting place to say our last goodbyes to Charles.

Knowing this Christmas would be a hard time with all of us, our family looked for ways to honor Charles. We decided to serve lunch to the families at the John R. Williamson Hospice House. It was a very meaningful time for all of us. Each one of us felt our lives had been enriched by talking with the families, interacting with the volunteers and the staff. After lunch, our family met in the chapel for a time of laughter and sadness. We told stories and laughed and shed a tear or two remembering the life of the one we loved. Our hearts are full of gratitude to those who worked so hard to make *Life Touch* Hospice the best in the world. Living life to the fullest for each of us is what hospice means to me.

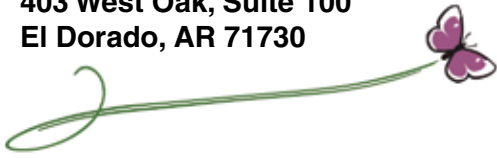


**Carol Cobb**  
**Advisory Board**

### **Advisory Board Members:**

- Harriette Allison, APN • Dr. Matthew Callaway
- Truman Channell • Betty Chatham • Carol Cobb • Sue Crawford, RN
- Jane Dudley • Laurie Eckart • Ken Kelley • Jim Miers
- Rev. Pierce Moore • Linda Stringfellow • Tom Sawyer
- Beth Weldon • Bill Yutzy

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*It takes a special person to work in hospice. Our care team members bring their special talents together to provide care and support to patients and their families.*



**Amy Callaway**  
LCSW



**Cindy Greer**  
LSW

**In recognition of National Social Workers' Month**

***Life Touch Hospice says thank you to our Social Workers!***