



hope

Spring/Summer
2009

connection

Living, Dying Well

Because Life Matters – it seems like a strange motto for a hospice program. After all, isn't hospice about dying? The truth is, hospice done well is very much about living. It is about recognizing the complete cycle of life and then choosing to make life meaningful and joyful and peaceful up to the very end.

Too many of us will spend our last days struggling and fighting and holding out for cures that will not happen. We will miss the opportunity



Jan Lewis,
President and CEO

"The research shows that patients facing a terminal diagnosis live longer when they choose hospice and palliative care ..."

to laugh with our family and friends, the opportunity to savor time outdoors marveling at the wonder of God's creation, the opportunity to reflect in peace and quiet on our lives well lived. Given a choice do we really want our last days to be spent in a hospital?

The research shows that patients facing a terminal diagnosis live longer when they choose hospice and palliative care over aggressive, and often futile, treatment. The research also shows that the outcome for these patients is a "good death." What does that mean? It means they have come to peace with their lives, with their families, with their God. It means that they did not suffer, that their wishes were respected and their passage from this world to the next was accomplished with dignity and peace.

Jan Lewis
President and CEO

Quality of Life at the End of Life

Many in the community may not be aware that Catholic Charities of Northeast Kansas offers end-of-life care for patients and families facing life-limiting illnesses. Catholic Community Hospice's experienced nurses, social workers, chaplains and volunteers provide exceptional physical care and emotional support, with a focus on the whole person – body, mind and spirit.

Services reflect the belief that life is sacred – at every stage. Any patient or caregiver, regardless of faith, can request Catholic Community Hospice services – it's your choice. Another key difference: Catholic Community Hospice donates all revenue back into the community through Catholic Charities of Northeast Kansas programs and services.

Hospice care is tailored according to a patient's needs and wishes, in private homes, assisted living communities, care facilities and hospitals.

- Nurses manage care under the direction of a patient's personal physician and our hospice medical director.
- Social workers provide emotional support and can connect patients and families with additional resources as needed.
- Home health aides assist with bathing and personal care.
- Chaplains are available to provide spiritual care within the framework of the patient's faith tradition.
- Trained volunteers offer companionship and respite for patients and caregivers.
- Grief support specialists offer guidance, comfort and hope to families and loved ones, and bereavement care is provided for 13 months beyond the illness.

(continued on page 3)



Inside

Hunger Doesn't Take
a Summer Vacation _____ 2

Annual Golf Classic
Fills the Cup _____ 2

Garage Sale Leftovers? _____ 4



page
4

Hunger Doesn't Take a Summer Vacation

Summer. For students, this magical time of year means a three-month reprieve from the classroom. For parents, it means providing more meals for hungry kids each day.

Unfortunately for children who qualify for the federal school lunch program, hunger and nutrition needs don't take a summer vacation. More than 32,000 of them live in four of the 21 counties served by Catholic Charities of Northeast Kansas.

Three such children, ages 11, 10 and 3, belong to Lavonda Grant of Olathe, Kan. Each school day, the kids get at least one free nutritious meal. For a single mother with three mouths to feed, school lunches (and sometimes breakfasts) are a huge help. Once school is out, however, that help is gone. Bigger food bills can cut into an already limited budget, sometimes forcing a decision between paying for groceries or the rent or other necessities.

"Summer can be really hard on us," Lavonda says. "But Catholic Charities has always helped us get through it."

The Emergency Assistance Center in Olathe serves clients like Lavonda every day. In addition to helping with groceries, clothing and utilities, Catholic Charities can connect clients to job training and employment services. Lavonda, for instance, is currently studying to become a certified nurse's assistant.

Summer Surge

More than anything, donations of food and personal items are needed right now. According to Tamra Brandes, director of Family Support Services, the four Emergency Assistance Centers typically see a 20- to 30-percent increase in requests this time of year.

Because summertime means less fundraising activity at area schools and churches, supply can crash down just as sharply as demand shoots up. Add in a troubled economy, and the centers are looking at what could be a very high-traffic summer.

"We're definitely seeing new families," Tamra says. "It seems every other person I talk to has

been laid off. Many haven't been able to reestablish employment that meets their expenses. Now they're really in a bind."

To help serve the growing demand and alleviate the reduced inventories, Tamra urges individuals to organize food drives in conjunction with summer parties. Block parties, family reunions, Fourth of July parties, baseball and softball games, swim meets – all are valuable opportunities to collect donations.

"We encourage people to participate as much as they can," Tamra adds. "It's a wonderful thing to do in the summer."

Lavonda can attest. While a recipient of emergency assistance from Catholic Charities, she knows just how wonderful it is to give back. She volunteers at the Olathe center every chance she gets. "It's great to help families in need," she says. "I know what it means to receive this help, so I know I have to give back what I can."

Necessities Wish List

The four Catholic Charities Emergency Assistance Centers need your help providing these basic necessities:

Canned and Jar Foods –

Vegetables, beans, fruit, soup, tuna, chili, spaghetti/pasta, peanut butter, jelly, syrup, cooking oil.

Boxed and Bagged Foods – Cereal, pancake mix, crackers, macaroni and cheese, flour, sugar, salt, rice, dry beans.

Personal Items –

Toothpaste, deodorant, toilet paper, soap, shampoo, lotion, diapers. 🏠

Donations are accepted at any of the four Emergency Assistance Centers, from 9 a.m.-4 p.m., Monday through Friday:

2220 Central
Kansas City, KS
66102
(913) 621-1504

9806 West 87th St.
Overland Park, KS
66212
(913) 384-6608

333 East Poplar
Olathe, KS 66061
(913) 782-4077

716 North 5th St.
Leavenworth, KS
66048
(913) 651-8060



Annual Golf Classic Fills the Cup

For 28 years, the annual Catholic Charities Golf Classic has answered the call to provide



Ben Zarda, Michael Scott, Sean Scott and Phil Connealy



Toby Tyler, Bob Carter, Lon Switzer and Randy Huber

emergency essentials to those in need. This year, as those needs have become greater, tournament founders Ben and Betty Zarda and more than 150 golfers and volunteers stepped up their games and their generosity. On May 11, participants gathered at the Shawnee Golf and Country Club for a picnic lunch followed by a shotgun start. After a great afternoon on the course, they were treated to a poolside reception with raffle prizes, live auction and an awards ceremony that topped off the day's festivities, all of which combined generated more than \$150,000 in revenue and in-kind donations! 🏠

Quality of Life at the End of Life

(continued from page 1)

Medicare and Medicaid cover hospice services 100 percent, and most HMOs and private insurance carriers offer a hospice benefit, typically with no cost to the patient. Related medications, equipment, supplies, therapies and wound care are included as part of the hospice benefit.

'Because Life Matters'

In many ways, Catholic Community Hospice allows terminally ill patients the space and time to live their final days in peace, comfort and surrounded by loved ones. It's specialized medical care that's dedicated to improving the quality of life of individuals and families dealing with life-limiting illnesses.

Virginia, an Overland Park resident, was grateful her mother and family chose Catholic Community Hospice, which enabled her 95-year-old mother, Mary, to spend her final four months in Virginia's home.

Upon returning from Topeka's Saint Francis hospital, Virginia was

amazed to find her home completely outfitted for Mary's care, including a hospital bed, oxygen therapy, wheelchair, shower and commode. All it took was a call from the hospital social worker to Catholic Community Hospice.

"Our hospice nurse was outstanding," Virginia says. "She educated us about all the prescriptions and basically taught us how to take care of Mom. She also visited twice each week to check up on her and deliver prescriptions, and a home health aide stopped by periodically to wash her hair." It was a visit Virginia says her mother always looked forward to.

Choice in hospice care is every patient's right, and there are many hospice



programs from which to choose. Being the only Catholic faith-based service in Kansas City and Topeka is what sets Catholic Community Hospice apart. It's a choice for compassionate and competent care for the mind, body and spirit, delivered according to the wishes of patients and loved ones – Because Life Matters. 🏡

Become a Hospice Volunteer

Men and women of all ages and backgrounds work on the Catholic Community Hospice volunteer team, offering terminally ill patients and their families comfort, support and companionship during a patient's most challenging (and often most rewarding) days.

Training is provided for anyone interested in becoming a hospice volunteer. Start today by calling (913) 433-2020 or visiting www.catholiccharitiesks.org.

In Memoriam

Gifts made in memory of loved ones provide important support for Catholic Charities of Northeast Kansas' programs and services. The following are those who have been memorialized. (Names reflect gifts received between Jan. 1, 2008 and May 26, 2009.)

Norman P. Allen	Paul A. Burkhardt	Betty Gassaway	Karl Hotujac	Patricia Ann	Lawrence W. Nolan	JoeAnn Robertson	Leo J. Thoma
Loretta L.	Herbert Cast	Donald German	Catherine E. Howell	Manyak	Joyce C. Nolan	Irene Rockers	Wendell Thomas
Allenbrand	Amy L. Cawley	Maria S. Giatras	Edward Hurtado	Mary Marek	Marquez	Janet Roles	J. R. Thompson
Mary Amoury	Dorothy Cholesnik	Elizabeth Gloekler	William Irwin	Joseph R. Maroon	Christine	Ann Marie Rosey	George J. Upton
John E. "Jack"	Lillian Chop	Harold E. Glover	Kathleen M.	John A. Martel	Northern	Fanny Jean Ross	Ruth Vance
Armel	Estella Cobb	Sarah Lee "Sally"	Jackson	Dolores H. Marter	Ruth Norwood	Frank J. Russ	Marcella Viene
Virginia Arnold	Elizabeth Crossley	Goodwin	Mary Helen John	Alexander G.	Mary J. Nunnink	Harley Russell	Rosemary Wagner
Lisa Ashner	Rosemary Currie	George Grant	John H. Johnston	Matthews	Harry J. O'Brien	Margaret L.	Katie Wall
Delbert C. Baker	Amanda K. Daly	Shirley Gunther	Willadean Jorg	Gloria Ann Mayer	Thomas O'Dell	Sandusky	Alvin Washick
Kenneth Beckwith	Mary Evelyn Dame	Mary E. Guth	Donald A. Keller	Jane Mayer	Edna O'Donnell	Fidel G. Saucedo	Stella Washick
Mary Berdell	Larry Davis	Donna J.	Fred W. Kellerman	Julie Mayne	Hazel Oliva	Louis Saucedo	Mary L. Waterman
Willard Berkey	Billie Joan Delladio	Handwerk	Jean Kennedy	William A.	Maria L. Ortiz	Mary Lou	Mary C. Weiford
Alma M. Berry	Rosamond	Thomas Harr	Mary C. Kessel	McConnell	John F. Paduch	Schleicher	Margaret G.
Margaret	Dempsey	Glenn Eugene	Carol Jean	Maurice	Marilyn Peterson	Doris Seufferling	Weingart
Blessington	Winifred DeYoung	"Gene" Harrison	Knickrehm	McFarland	Mary Kathryn	Joseph A. Sharek	C. Craig Whitaker
Dorothy L.	James Downey	Robert J. Heble	Michael A. Kozak	Betty McGillen	"Kay" Pogge	Elizabeth Simone	Edward J. White
Boatman	Marjorie A. Doyle	George Paul Heier	Bob Kremer	Mary K. McGrath	Bernita Pollock	Ed Soenen	Hilda J. White
Lawrence J. Bonavia	Pauline R.	Jerry Heintzelman	Sid Kross	Bertha E. McKinch	Kathryn Ann	Eugene Southard	William L. Williams
Betty Jo Bondank	Draskovich	Gala M. Helfrich	Charles Lamble	Elinor E. Mellard	Powers	Evelyn Stokes	Clarence Wilson
Alex Borisov	John J. Driscoll	David Heller	Peggy Lehman	John "Jack" Melvin	Carl Ragusa	Russell Lester	Wilford C. Wilson
Marge Bosler	James R. Ellena	Eugene Hiatt	Peggy	Margaret M. Melvin	Rosemary A.	Anna Sullivan	Agatha Wolf
Genevieve Braet	Dorothy Esser	Virginia L. Hicks	Lerner-Altieri	James V. Meyers	Ralston	Gerda Sumrall	Laurence
Leonard Bram	Lammers	George Higgins	Marie Locke	Mary Moore	Caroline Rand	Jean Szymankowski	Wurtenberger
Elva C. Brengard	Alice Farley	Earl Higman	Virginia Locke	Donald A. Moyer	Elaine Reynolds	Robert L. Taylor	Benjamin Yehle
James R. Brough	Elnora V.	Rita Holthaus	Agnes Loftus	Anthony E. Natoli	Margaret Rickman	Edgar C. Terrass	Leo Zahner
John W. Bruce	Feuerborn	James N.	Walter Mailand	Carole Nichols	Elinor Rini	Mary Rachel Theis	Richard Zima
Mary Buda	Alice Garner	Holthouse	Jerry Mann	Dorothy M. Nick	Marjorie Ripperger		

hope connection

*Catholic Charities
of Northeast Kansas*
(913) 433-2100

Catholic Community Hospice
(913) 621-5090

To Volunteer
(913) 433-2080

To Make a Contribution
Catholic Charities Foundation
of Northeast Kansas
9720 West 87th Street
Overland Park, KS 66212
(913) 433-2033

www.catholiccharitiesks.org

If you would prefer not to receive
our newsletter, please e-mail us at
sprigel@catholiccharitiesks.org
or call (913) 433-2033.



United Way
Member Agency



Catholic Charities
OF NORTHEAST KANSAS

9720 West 87th Street
Overland Park, KS 66212

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Events Calendar

Kansas City Urban Farms and Gardens Tour

Sunday, June 28, 10 a.m.-5 p.m. –
Tour more than 30 urban farms and
gardens throughout the Kansas City area,
including Catholic Charities of Northeast
Kansas' New Roots for Refugees. Contact
Sharisa McDaniel at (913) 232-7173 or
smcdaniel@catholiccharitiesks.org.

Topeka Annual Gospel Concert

Sunday, July 19, 3-4:30 p.m. – Join us at
Christ the King Parish, 5972 W. 25th St.,
Topeka, Kan., for a day of gospel music
while raising funds for Catholic Charities.
Contact Cathy Lyon at (785) 233-6300
or clyon@catholiccharitiesks.org.

Topeka Open House

Friday, Aug. 21, 3-6 p.m. – Stop by
Catholic Charities at 234 South Kansas
Ave., Topeka, Kan., for an informa-
tive look at our facility and the critical
services provided. Contact Cathy Lyon
at clyon@catholiccharitiesks.org or
(785) 233-6300.

36th Annual Snow Ball

Saturday, Jan. 16, 2010 – Snow Ball
XXXVI, one of the region's largest
fundraisers, is set for the third Saturday
in January. The Snow Ball supports
Catholic Charities of Northeast Kansas
in our efforts to provide compassionate
care and support to more than 85,000
children and families of all faiths in our
community. Mark your calendar! 🏠

Garage Sale Leftovers?

Turn Them in to TurnStyles

Garage sale season hits its peak in spring and summer. Even with
garage-salers out in droves, every sale has items that don't sell. If the
merchandise is in good
condition, don't let it clutter the
garage or gather dust in the attic.
Turn it in to TurnStyles!

The Church of Ascension's
Social Concerns Ministry does it
on a grand scale. Each year, they
conduct a large parish garage sale.
Whatever doesn't sell goes to Turn-
Styles, the Catholic Charities thrift
store, and other organizations.
Other parishes and individuals are
encouraged to do the same.

Donations are tax-deductible and may be dropped off Monday through Saturday,
10 a.m. to 4 p.m., at 9750 West 87th St., in Overland Park, Kan., across from the
main Johnson County Library.



Leave a Legacy

We hope you will consider including a gift to Catholic Charities Foundation
of Northeast Kansas in your estate plans. Support received through wills,
trusts, retirement plan assets and insurance policies helps ensure that Catholic
Charities' programs and services are available to those in need for years to come. If
you have already planned for such a gift, we extend an invitation for you to join our
Legacy Society. Please call Eileen Brown at (913) 433-2086 to request information
about becoming a member of the Society.