

HOPENOTES

Exactly what is *hospice*?

For patients facing a life-limiting illness, hospice provides expert medical care, pain management and spiritual and emotional support to the patient and family. Hospice focuses on living and caring—in any setting. Many patients are in their own home, but services can be provided at a nursing facility, hospital or any site.

Hospice has two main goals: to keep the patient comfortable and to allow the patient to live as long as he or she has to live. We do that through services like pain management and symptom control, regularly scheduled visits by professionals, respite care, spiritual counseling, professional volunteers, specialized therapies and grief and bereavement support, including special bereavement support for children.

At Liberty Hospital Hospice, we specialize in the care of cardiac, pulmonary and neurological illnesses as well as cancer. (In fact, only about 60 percent of the patients we care for have cancer.) Some of our patients also live with dementia, heart disease and lung diseases.

We seek to give financial assistance to the patient and family by providing all of the visits



needed and paying for any medication, equipment or supplies related to the illness.

We're available 24 hours a day, seven days a week, and our highly dedicated, professional staff have years of health-care experience.

VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT

Mary Ann Meyers

How did you get started as a hospice volunteer?

My daughter worked for Kansas City Hospice for many years, and I was familiar with hospice and so impressed with the service they provide to patients and families. I saw an ad in the Liberty newspaper advertising volunteer orientation for Liberty Hospital Hospice. I have been a volunteer for almost four years, and I love it!

What service do you provide as a hospice volunteer?

I provide relief to caregivers and just sit with patients providing companionship. I have read to patients, played checkers and cards, and quite often just been there with a patient to provide "Ministry of Presence." My experience has been a gift to me. I have met so many wonderful people who have shared wonderful life stories with me.

Would you recommend this volunteer service to others?

Absolutely! As a volunteer I have received much more than I have given. Patients, families and the hospice staff make me feel so appreciated and needed. I feel that so many people have a misconception about hospice. It truly is about living life to the fullest and with the least amount of suffering for whatever time you have left in this life.



BECOME A LIBERTY HOSPITAL HOSPICE VOLUNTEER!

Help people in your community who are facing a life-threatening illness. Liberty Hospital Hospice is in need of caring individuals to be part of our hospice team as volunteers. Volunteers are needed for a variety of roles such as sitting with patients and running errands. The time commitment is flexible and based on your availability. For more information, please call Carmella Kovach, volunteer coordinator, at 816-407-2200.

Need a speaker?
Liberty Hospital Hospice offers a speakers' bureau on a variety of topics to area groups and civic organizations. Call 816-407-2200 for more information.

CLASSES & SUPPORT GROUPS

Alzheimer's Support Group

Our Alzheimer's group offers support to those caring for family members and friends coping with dementia. The group meets on the third Thursday of each month from 7 to 8:30 p.m. at the Liberty Hospital Hospice & Home Health offices, 1134 W. Kansas St., Liberty, Mo. For more information, call 816-407-2200.

UPCOMING DATES:

Dec. 15, 2011 • Jan. 19, 2012 • Feb. 16, 2012
March 15, 2012 • April 19, 2012

Palliative Care at Home

Liberty Hospital Hospice is available to provide resources to assist in your decisions regarding compassionate end-of-life care for you and your family. Call 816-407-2200 for dates, times and to register.

Care in Your Home

This group provides support, general information, and community resources to those caring for a loved one in the home setting. The group meets quarterly on the third Tuesday of the month from 2 to 3:30 p.m. at the Liberty Hospital Hospice & Home Health offices, 1134 W. Kansas St., Liberty, Mo. For more information, call 816-407-2200.

UPCOMING DATES:

Jan. 17, 2012 • April 17, 2012



62% Cancer

5% Heart Disease

5% Dementia

18% Lung Disease

2% Debility

3% Neurological
Disease

Diagnosis Detail

In 2010, the patients we served through Liberty Hospital Hospice were facing a variety of life-limiting illnesses. We strive to provide medical care, pain management and spiritual and emotional support to all patients, regardless of diagnosis.

Gifts to Liberty Hospital Hospice

Liberty Hospital Hospice would like to thank all of our generous donors, who have made a memorial gift in the past year. Your generosity benefits our patients and honors your loved ones.

Mary Baker

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Bequests and memorial gifts in memory and recognition of a loved one can be made to Liberty Hospital Hospice at:

Liberty Hospital Hospice
1134 W. Kansas St.
Liberty, Missouri 64068
816-407-2200
www.libertyhospital.org

We appreciate the generosity of our community in allowing us to provide care to all of those in need at this time of life transition.