

# Hospice Headlines

Winter 2019



## MEMORIES, THE FOCUS OF RECENT CELEBRATION EVENT

“Memory is a way of holding on to the things you love, the things you are, the things you never want to lose.” This quote from Kevin Arnold sums up the way many of us feel about our loved ones and the times we have shared together. Remembering someone who is no longer with us is a powerful tool to help ease our grief. One way a group of area residents did so this past December was to participate

in Circle of Love’s annual Tree of Life Celebration. Among them was Jovita Lang (pictured above, center, second row) who signed up as a Hospice Circle of Love Volunteer after her mother passed away. Maxine Traynor was diagnosed with pancreatic cancer and went on hospice care in 2002. One of the things Lang remembers most fondly about her mother was her giving heart. An avid gardener, she was always taking extras to Our Daily Bread meal pantry for those in need. “Right up until she died she still maintained her garden. That was like therapy to her,” commented Lang. “After she passed away there was this beautiful green stuff growing in the garden. We didn’t know what it was. Eventually we figured out my mother had planted sweet potatoes. When we dug them up, they were huge, 5 to 8 pounds a piece. We took them all to our Daily Bread.”

Memories like this come flooding back to participants as they find the ornament with their loved one’s name on a trio of trees at the Tree of Life celebration. Around 200 attended the latest event, which was held in a new location, the Central National Bank Center.

During the ceremony, each name of those being remembered was read. In addition, Bereavement Coordinator Dr. Matt Miles delivered a brief spiritual message and the Enid High Choir sang “Angels We



Volunteers who helped with the Tree of Life Celebration stop to pose for a picture. The majority have had loved ones on Circle of Love services.

Have Heard on High” and “Peace, Peace.” The event ended with a cookie and punch reception, during which, former hospice families were able to catch up with staff members who had cared for their loved ones. “It was so nice to get to spend some time with some of our hospice families I hadn’t seen in a while. I had often thought of them and wondered how well they were doing,” commented staff nurse Holly Squire.

While Hospice Circle of Love patients who passed away in the last year were automatically included with an ornament at no charge to the family, others added their loved one’s names for a \$25.00 donation. For many it’s an annual tradition.

Next year will mark the 30th anniversary of Hospice Circle of Love’s Tree of Life Celebration. Plans are in the works for a new ornament for 2019.

Thousands have been remembered at this meaningful event over the years. Circle of Love hopes it continues to be a place families come together to remember for many years to come.

### INSIDE:

- You can become a Circle of Love Volunteer
- Upcoming grief group to help those in need
- Staff celebrate years of service
- Book Your Calendars for Our Spring Fundraisers

## GRIEF GROUP TO PROVIDE SUPPORT

Hospice Circle of Love will be offering a free community grief group coming up in February for those who are struggling with the loss of a loved one. The meetings will be held every Tuesday next month from 5:00 to 6:00 PM at Hospice Circle of Love's office, 314 S. Third. Participants are encouraged to attend all sessions, as each one will cover a different area related to the grieving process.

The group setting is beneficial to participants in that they are surrounded by others who are experiencing similar circumstances.

The group is open to anyone 18 and over who has lost a loved one. To sign up, call Matt or Gary at 580-234-2273. More information is available at [HospiceCircleofLove.com](http://HospiceCircleofLove.com).

## MAKE AN AFTERNOON OF THE RUN FOR THE ROSES

The 145th annual Run for the Roses will be celebrated in style at Hospice Circle of Love's Mint Julep Jubilee, May 4th at Oakwood Country Club. The event kicks off at 3:00 PM and goes until 7:00 PM.

The Mint Julep Jubilee turns the fastest 2 minutes in sports into a festive afternoon. Participants will indulge in some delicious southern themed food, listen to music, wager, participate in a horse auction and watch the race on a big screen. Tickets are \$100.00 and include food and drinks. A variety of nice prizes will be up for grabs. For more information or to purchase tickets, call 580-234-2273 or stop by 314 S. Third in Enid.



The Kentucky Derby is the longest continually held sporting event in the United States.

## STOCK UP AT THE SPRING BOOK SALE

Area readers won't want to miss the chance to pick up a variety of reading material for a steal of a deal at Hospice Circle of Love's 31st annual Spring Book Sale. This year's event will take place Friday, April 5th and Saturday, April 6th at 314 South Third. Friday's Sale will be held from 9 AM to 5 PM and Saturday's Sale will be from 9 AM to 7 PM.

Thousands of titles will be available. Mysteries, fiction novels, Christian works, westerns, cookbooks and children's books for every age will be up for grabs. In addition, you'll find nonfiction works such as biographies, books on history, self help, gardening books and much more. Other items include puzzles, audio books, DVD movies and music CDs. Hardbacks are only \$1.00 and paperbacks are only \$.50. There will also be baked goods available by donation.



A customer looks of the Science Fiction section during the 2018 Fall Book Sale.

### Grief Group

Every Tuesday in February

5 to 6 PM

Call Matt or Gary to Register

(580) 234-2273

### Spring Book Sale

April 5th - 9 to 7

April 6th - 9 to 5

@Hospice Circle of Love (314 S. Third)



## JOIN OUR VOLUNTEER TEAM TO HELP OTHERS AND YOU

Studies show many benefits to volunteering. It builds community and friendships, increases socialization and even promotes longevity and graceful aging. Current Circle of Love Volunteer Jean Syoen sums up her time spent sitting with patients this way, "I feel like I get more out of it than I give. It makes me feel good." In addition to seeing patients, Jean helps with the Book Sales, Mint Julep Jubilee and Tree of Life. She also works in the office, making up information packets that the nurses deliver to families upon intake.

Another Volunteer, Mel Spencer, signed up to volunteer following the loss of his wife Brenda. She was a Hospice Circle of Love patient in 2012 and passed away shortly before Christmas that year. Many of those serving on the volunteer team have had family members on hospice, but anyone with a giving heart is welcome to join the group.

A new volunteer training class has been scheduled for Tuesday, January 29th and Thursday, January 31st. It will be held from 2 PM to 5 PM at Circle of Love's office, 314 S. Third.

Recruits need to attend both sessions of the class and pass a background check to become a volunteer. For an application, stop by the office, call 580-234-2273 or go to [HospiceCircleofLove.com](http://HospiceCircleofLove.com)



Circle of Love Volunteer Mel Spencer looks at some of the ornaments on the 2018 Tree of Life. He helps with several fundraisers and sits with patients. Volunteer choose their areas of interest.

## NURSES RECOGNIZED FOR YEARS OF SERVICE

Staff nurses Terri Miller and Melissa Packan were recognized for 5 years of service with Hospice Circle of Love at the end of 2018. Both are Registered Nurses with many years of experience. Terri makes regular visits to patients to provide pain and symptom management for them and support and teaching for their family. Melissa audits charts and serves as one of the intake nurses. Both were presented with clock frames in December.

Melissa says what she most enjoys about her job is meeting with families that are getting ready to start hospice. "It is so important to explain what hospice does and clear up any misconceptions. For example, starting services doesn't mean death is imminent. It's also enlightening to share all of our services. Many people don't know about our Music Therapy and Pet Therapy programs and what an important role those services can play at end of life," she said.



RN Terri Miller and RN Melissa Packan were recently presented with awards for years of service.



314 S. Third  
Enid, OK 73701

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## 2018 HIGHLIGHTS

- Celebrated 35 years of service
- Increased admissions from 2017
- Was named the winner of the 2018 Reader's Choice award for Best Hospice Care
- Hosted 3 community grief groups
- Celebrated 35 years of volunteer service with Naomi Snow and 20 years of volunteer service with Cathy Wiles and Patrece Allen
- Celebrated 5 years of service with nurses Melissa Packan and Terri Miller
- Held 2 book sales, a Kentucky Derby event, and a clay shoot to raise money to care for patients without an insurance or Medicare hospice benefit
- Celebrated the lives of around 500 loved ones at the annual Tree of Life memorial celebration
- Helped vaccinate about 250 people against the flu by giving shots at a local flu clinic
- Participated in the Walk to End Alzheimer's, the MS Walk and the United Way Chili Cook off, raising money for all 3 organizations