



HOSPICE PATIENT Bill Horton (left) of Calabash tells Hospice Patient Care Coordinator Buffy Tucker how much he appreciates the local organization's assistance and support, during one of her recent visits to the Hortons' home.

HOSPICE IS:

'A Special Kind Of Caring'

BY RAHN ADAMS

Some 26 Hospice volunteers are now providing "a special kind of caring" to terminally ill patients and their families in Brunswick County, but according to Patient Care Coordinator Buffy Tucker, more volunteers are always needed.

Ms. Tucker said she hopes at least 20 prospective volunteers will attend a training program set for Friday evening and Saturday at the Brunswick Electric Membership Corporation office in Shallotte.

"We're looking for people who are interested in devoting time to terminally ill patients," she said, noting that all types of volunteer help is needed—from patient care to office work to simply running errands.

Hospice, a United Way agency, is a service to patients who have been diagnosed as having a terminal illness.

Staff and volunteers are available to the patient and family during the illness, and then to the family for at least a year following the patient's death.

"Death is probably one of the most difficult things we deal with in life," Ms. Tucker said. "Our main goal and objective is to keep the patient virtually pain-free and comfortable, and allow them to be able to stay at home."

Hospice of Shallotte is a branch of Lower Cape Fear Hospice Inc., which has served Brunswick, New Hanover and Pender counties since 1980.

In July, the organization opened an office on N.C. 130 in Shallotte, with a full year's rent paid by community contributions, Ms. Tucker said.

Besides Ms. Tucker, who has been patient care coordinator for one year, other staff members include a full-time secretary and home health aide, two part-time nurses and four part-time aides.

Ms. Tucker said the local office also plans to employ a full-time bereavement social worker as soon as possible.

This year, Hospice will serve 61 patients in Brunswick County, she estimated. The local office handles an average of about 20 patients during any given week.

She said the Lower Cape Fear Hospice, on the whole, this year has recorded about a 40 percent increase in referrals over last year.

Also, Brunswick County—being a popular retirement area—has an older average population than most other counties—thus the increased demand for Hospice care and the greater need for volunteers.

Hospice volunteer Jean Stanaland, who lives between Hickman's Crossroads and Longwood, said her role is to help patients and their families with whatever their needs may be.

"Really what we do is try to be a friend to the family," Ms. Stanaland said.

She added that being a Hospice volunteer is a rewarding experience.

"You just feel like a person who is worthwhile to the community," she said. "You get so much more from the association with them (patients and families)—of being a friend than—anything else."

Often a Hospice worker's help can make all the difference in a patient's comfort at home, as in the case of Bill Horton of Calabash, who found out he had throat cancer in August.

Ms. Tucker herself has been helping Horton and his wife, Mary, for the past three weeks with problems as fundamental as finding food that he isn't allergic to and the proper healthcare supplies he needs.

"The most important thing (Hospice has done) is this tube in my nose," Horton said. "I can't eat any solids and can't drink thick liquids, so I have to be fed through this tube."

He said Hospice was able to find the right-sized tube to fit him comfortably after he and his wife had difficulty finding one on their own.

A Hospice social worker also has helped the Hortons with all of the paperwork that has accompanied his medical care.

And Horton knows more Hospice help will be on the way, if it is needed.

"They've been helpful in some very, very good ways," he said. "The big help is going to come later. If and when I need it, I know it'll be there."

Shelter Awarded \$15,000 Grant

Hope Harbor Home Inc. has been awarded \$15,000 in federal Family Violence Prevention and Services Act monies to help establish a local shelter for battered women.

Chairman Katherine Shawver and Secretary/Treasurer Isobel Beebe met last week with Julia H. Reeves, director of the N.C. Domestic Violence Project, to review the terms of the grant. Shawver said it will be used to pay staff and fringe benefits and to buy supplies for operating the facility.

Hope Harbor Home will be located between Supply and Bolivia in a donated house now undergoing renovation.

Among the items still needed before the shelter can open its doors are a septic tank, plumbing and electrical connections, a washer and dryer, insulation, heating system, refrigerator, household goods (excluding beds, stove and sofa), and office equipment such as a desk,

typewriter and filing cabinet.

Hope Harbor Home is relying extensively on contributions of labor and materials from church and business community volunteers.

The board of directors is awaiting word now on two foundation grants for which it has applied.

A program on domestic violence in Brunswick County and the need for the shelter will be held Saturday starting at 9 a.m. at the Public Assembly Building at the Brunswick County Government Center in Bolivia. It is being sponsored by the Brunswick County Council on the Status of Women.

The Barbershop Belles will entertain at the Nov. 18 meeting of the Calabash Elks Auxiliary No. 2679.

The meeting starts at 7:30 p.m. at the Elks Lodge adjacent to Traders Village and is open to all wives of Elks.

Hospice Training To Start Nov. 13

Hospice of Shallotte will offer a volunteer training program Nov. 13 and 14 at the Brunswick Electric Membership Corporation office in Shallotte.

The Nov. 13 session will be from 6 p.m. to 9:30 p.m., and the Nov. 14 session will be from 9 a.m. to 3:30 p.m., with lunch furnished.

Interested persons are asked to attend the training program to provide additional volunteers, which are greatly needed in this area, or to increase awareness of the local Hospice program.

For more information, contact the local Hospice office at 754-5356.

Belles Will Sing For Elks Couples

Plans for the Christmas party and a Dec. 5 yard, craft and cake sale will be completed.

On Monday, Nov. 23, at 9:30 a.m. auxiliary members will visit the Brunswick Village Residential Care facility in Shallotte to play bingo with residents.

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