

40th HOSPICE of SAN JOAQUIN



ANNIVERSARY
1980-2020



“40 Years of Continuous End of Life Care”

By Kelvin Cao



Ribbon cutting to celebrate the beginning of our anniversary celebration. Nov 2019.

2020 marks 40 years of care for Hospice of San Joaquin – the first non-profit hospice agency serving the greater San Joaquin County. Hospice of San Joaquin originated from a small group of community volunteers working together to establish an identity in fostering hospice care in San Joaquin County to becoming a regionally recognized, Joint Commission accredited, healthcare organization serving an average census of 185 patients per day.

Throughout history, Hospice of San Joaquin has remained true to their founders’ vision of providing the highest level of care to our community patients and their families and has always been committed to be the leader in ensuring quality of the journey, from serious illness through end of life.

Hospice of San Joaquin is most notably known for their Hospice House that opened in 2004, providing 24-hour nursing and compassionate personal care for patients enrolled in their hospice program who cannot remain in their homes.

The Hospice House is supported in part, through generous community donations and fundraising by the Hospice of San Joaquin Butterfly Auxiliary, a dynamic group of men & women who fundraise and work to fulfill the ongoing needs of the Hospice of San Joaquin Hospice House.

It takes a passionate and dedicated team to ensure that we as an organization are meeting the needs of our patients and delivering care of the highest quality to them. We are a group made up of individuals with a shared mission for serving those in need. This group includes Administrative and Clinical Staff, - Patient, Family and Office Volunteers, - Butterflies – and a host of Donors who make our work possible.

Through 2020, we will be highlighting the passion, love, life and comfort that our staff provides to people throughout the region by reflecting where we started, what we have achieved, and what our plans are for the future. Thank you for supporting Hospice of San Joaquin through our 40th year.

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VISION

To be the leader in ensuring quality of the journey, from serious illness through end of life.

MISSION

Our Mission is to honor life by ensuring Patients and their Caregivers are the focus of everything we do.

Hospice of San Joaquin
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Stockton, CA 95204
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hospicesj.org



Rebecca Burnett
Chief Executive Officer

which resulted in the proliferation of providers. Unfortunately, this included the beginning of for-profit hospice care.

As community members, you have the choice of hospice care providers and so many of you have chosen to trust us, your non-profit Hospice of San Joaquin, to care for your loved ones for the last 40 years.

Many have experienced the work that we do and we are honored that some of the individuals involved in the formation of Hospice of San Joaquin have generously agreed to share their memories. We hope you enjoy looking back with us.

Here's What the Original Founders Had to Say:

Karen Hanson Quinn

First Board Member and One of the Founders of Hospice of San Joaquin:



“Hospice care was being discussed internationally and we thought, wouldn't it be great to have hospice in Stockton? Hospice of San Joaquin started as an open concept with the idea of supporting patients. We knew we didn't want to charge patients and that anyone was eligible for hospice care. Physicians that we worked with at the time saw a lot of value in pain control. Hospice is not an exception - patients have a choice they never used to have. You can't forget about patient experience; what their needs are and what the families want. It allowed patients and their families to know that we are ready when you need us. To be on the level and see what the Hospice of San Joaquin has become in our community, it warms our hearts.”

Interview with the Founders

Hospice of San Joaquin has been providing physical, spiritual and emotional support to patients and their loved ones throughout our 40 years. When we started, hospice care was not covered by insurance. Therefore, we were established as a charity so a patient's ability to pay was never a consideration. However, individuals now more than ever are opting for hospice care at the end of life.

The choice to spend one's final days at home has not always been an option. When legislation was passed, funding improved and Medicare reimbursement rates increased,



Sheila Stephens

First Board Member and One of the Founders of Hospice of San Joaquin:

“We were working in the Oncology Department at Saint Joseph’s Medical Center and wanted something beyond the wall. I had the pleasure of introducing hospice in Stockton. The project was drafted and

outlined, and next was to pull people together. We wrote a grant to the American Cancer Society and received \$38,000 to fund the initial operations of Hospice of San Joaquin. Everyone was volunteering and working together. We knew we wanted to keep it community focused and to be led by community members. At the time, hospice was done in small facilities. The most important thing for us was to keep patients at home with families and their loved ones. We recognized barriers and fixed issues as they came. Keeping patients comfortable was always our focus and supporters began to recognize the value of hospice care. We’re glad to be able to create that bridge for families and hope to continue the good things and legacy of providing compassionate care for families.”



Barbara Tognoli

First Executive Director of Hospice of San Joaquin:

“Hospice of San Joaquin started in 1980 from a group of community volunteers with two chairs and a card table. We did not have established rules, policies, or procedures, but we knew we had to provide end of life

care in San Joaquin County. At the time, Stockton didn’t have hospice care for the dying and we wanted to provide them with end of life care so they could transition with dignity. We began with a three month pilot program with the help of Dr. Robert Browne, who gave us credibility in healthcare. In 1986, we received licensing to practice hospice care and that allowed us to hire more clinical staff to expand our services. We worked in a storage room at Stockton’s American Red Cross and slowly expanded to our current campus on Pacific Avenue that features the Hospice House. My mother died when I was young and I learned very quickly about human needs. Hospice care not only allows people to die, but also allows people to live. Being one of the founders of Hospice of San Joaquin was my biggest accomplishment and it now belongs to the community.”



HOSPICE of SAN JOAQUIN

TREE OF LIGHTS

Lighting Up Lives since 1989

A very important part of our history is our signature event – the annual Trees of Lights celebrations that are hosted in eight cities throughout San Joaquin County. For more than 31 years, Tree of Lights has been a family tradition to honor and remember loved ones. Individuals and families ‘purchase’ lights that shine brightly on the designated city tree throughout the holiday



season. Each community holds a ceremony in their ‘community square’ where hundreds of citizens join in the tree lighting ceremony. Each light purchased helps support the many Hospice programs of nursing care and bereavement services for terminally ill patients and their families. Tree of Lights has raised an average of over \$200,000 per year since inception, with over 3 million dollars raised since 2004! We are very grateful to Pacific Gas and Electric for their generous sponsorship throughout the years. This year, we are excited to again bring Tree of Lights to San Joaquin County via virtual celebrations. Each city will still conduct their tree lighting ceremonies with virtual broadcasts so patrons can safely join the event. For information on the 2020 Virtual Tree of Lights dates, visit the Hospice of San Joaquin website: Hospicesj.org.



HSJ History and Timeline of Accomplishments

“Hospice Affirms Life!”

“Hospice exists in the hope and belief that through appropriate care and promotion of a caring community, sensitive to their needs, the dying and their families are helped to attain a greater mental and spiritual freedom. This freedom is the garden in which acceptance and preparation are nurtured.”

- *Proposal for Hospice for the Stockton Community, 1980*



1980

FILLING A NEED

In 1980, a group of concerned nurses and social workers came together to review the need for hospice services in San Joaquin County. Their “Proposal for Hospice in the Stockton Community” was published in August 1980. On November 5, 1980 Hospice of San Joaquin was incorporated as a California Nonprofit Benefit Corporation. Our first ‘office’ was a single phone on a folding table in Delta Blood Bank’s storage room.

1982

READY TO SERVE

With a full 12-member volunteer Board of Directors and a volunteer interdisciplinary care team, by January of 1982 we were ready to serve patients and their families in San Joaquin County. Our first five patients were scattered across San Joaquin County and we worked diligently to meet their needs. As awareness and need for our services grew, so did we. Tracy and Manteca patient care teams were formed, and services and staffing were expanded.

1985

SETTING A STANDARD OF CARE

Hospice of San Joaquin became one of the first hospices in the nation to earn accreditation by the Joint Commission in 1985 for its demonstration of organizational and clinical excellence, an accreditation we maintain today.

1995

GROWING WITH SAN JOAQUIN COUNTY

We quickly outgrew our original office, moving first to Benton Hall on the grounds of San Joaquin General Hospital, then to a two-story home on Park Street where we grew and thrived until the early nineties. In 1995 we opened the Hospice of San Joaquin Center for Caring at Hammer Lane and Lorraine Avenue. This spacious building became home for over 60 staff members and volunteers, allowing us to offer comprehensive education for patients, families, health care providers, volunteers, and the larger community.



1990

PRESIDENTIAL RECOGNITION

We received national recognition in 1990 when President George H. W. Bush selected Hospice of San Joaquin as the first Presidential Daily Point of Light in Northern California. The Daily Point of Light Award honors individuals and groups creating meaningful change in communities across America. We were honored to be the 182nd point in the President’s Thousand Points of Light Campaign.



We work every day to ensure our patients receive the highest quality hospice care in San Joaquin County. The Latin term 'hospes' means both host and guest. When applied to 'hospice' it implies an interaction of mutual caring between patient, family and hospice staff. Our goal is to embody this idea as we enter as guests into the end of our patients' lives and help support them and their families through their final days.

2004

HOSPICE HOUSE OPENS

The need for a larger office for our staff and a place our patients could call home. This started a two-year process resulting in the opening of our current campus on Pacific Avenue in 2004. The Hospice House provides 24-hour nursing and compassionate personal care for patients enrolled in our hospice program who cannot remain in their own homes. The Hospice House is supported, in part, through generous community donations and fundraising by the Hospice of San Joaquin Butterfly Auxiliary, a dynamic group of professional women who work to fulfill the ongoing needs of the Hospice of San Joaquin Hospice House through fundraisers and rallying of community support.



2009

TRANSITIONS PROGRAM

In 2009, we developed a transitional palliative care program which provides support and clinical direction for patients and families who are undergoing extensive treatment for a diagnosed chronic illness but are not yet ready for the full hospice program.

SETTING THE STANDARD

The United States Department of Commerce Special American Business Internship Program held Hospice of San Joaquin up as the standard for hospice care in the United States when in 2009, they brought Health Care Leaders from the former Soviet Union to benchmark Hospice of San Joaquin.



2014

KENTUCKY DERBY WEST

Kentucky Derby West was first introduced by the Lodi Butterfly Auxiliary in 2014 to raise funds for the Hospice House, as part of their advocacy in supporting Hospice of San Joaquin. This event is hosted at the Sargent Equestrian Center in Lodi, where guests enjoyed southern hospitality over mint juleps, wine tastings, live carriage rides, small bites, and dinner while watching the Kentucky Derby real-time on the big screen. This annual summer event has brought in about \$584,000 for the Hospice House since it started in 2014.



2012

MORE LOCATIONS

Our first satellite office opened in Manteca in 2012, followed by the Lodi satellite office in 2014. These offices allow a closer connection, as well as convenience for our patients and families.



2015

REBECCA BURNETT BECOMES CEO

Rebecca began her role at Hospice of San Joaquin in 2009 and held positions of Case Manager, Chief Clinical Officer, and Hospice House Manager before becoming Chief Executive Officer in January 2015. As CEO of Hospice of San Joaquin, Rebecca provides leadership for the day to day operations and oversees the success of individual and family services, public relations, and marketing of the agency. Her accomplishments have made Hospice of San Joaquin the top hospice in San Joaquin County. Her commitment in fostering our mission and vision of honoring life by ensuring patients and their caregivers are the focus of everything we do and to be the leader in ensuring quality of the journey, from serious illness through end of life continues to live on.



2016

MEMORY BEARS

We started our latest bereavement program in 2016 to comfort families and help them preserve the memory of a loved one. Our Memory Bears are created by volunteers out of the clothing from a loved one who has passed and allows the recipient to physically hold onto a memory of that person and are treasured as a huggable keepsake. Hospice of San Joaquin patient families are eligible to receive a complimentary bear. Additional bears and ones available to the community are available for a \$30 donation per bear. To learn more about our Memory Bears, visit our website at hospicesj.org/services/memory-bears

2019



NEW MEDICAL DIRECTOR, **DR. SHARMA**

Hospice of San Joaquin was pleased to announce our new Medical Director, Krupa S. Sharma MD HMDC. Dr. Sharma brings years of experience in the health care industry, with Board Certification in Hospice, Palliative Medicine in 2010, as well as Internal Medicine in 2006 and 2016 through the American Board of Internal Medicine. Dr. Sharma found her calling working in the Inpatient Palliative Care Program at Kaiser in Modesto, California, where she fostered patients' improvement of life by aligning their goals with quality care. She worked as the Associate Medical Director for Community Hospice Inc. (CHI) where she honed in her experience before assuming the role as Associate Medical Director at Optimal Hospice before beginning her role as Medical Director at Hospice of San Joaquin in 2019. Dr. Sharma has a passion for teaching and she enjoys speaking to various audiences about Palliative Care and Advanced Care Planning. In her spare time, she enjoys baking, reading, browsing Pinterest, and spending time with her husband and three beautiful children.



2017

PACIFIC PALLIATIVE CARE

Hospice of San Joaquin saw the need for interdisciplinary team approach to provide integrated palliative care services that aligned with patients' goals of psychosocial support and symptom management. Pacific Palliative Care was introduced in 2017 as a home-based, outreach, consultant support service for the discomfort, symptoms, and stress of serious illness. The goal was to prevent and ease patients' suffering by managing their symptoms and improving patients' quality of life by providing emotional, physical, psychological and spiritual support to patients and their families. By 2019, Hospice of San Joaquin earned The Joint Commission's Gold Seal of Approval for Palliative Care Certification. This certification demonstrates our focus on achieving optimum care for patients with serious illness. The Gold Seal of Approval is a symbol of quality that reflects an organization's commitment to providing safe and effective patient care.





Our Valuable Volunteers

Behind every successful non-profit organization, you will find a team of dedicated, passionate volunteers. At Hospice of San Joaquin this especially rings true.

Volunteer work at Hospice of San Joaquin is essential, and we have been blessed with a diverse and talented group over the years. In addition to overall support, our Hospice House staff depends on these dedicated volunteers to provide daily assistance and support to our patients and their families.

Various needs call for different talents and commitments. **The Family Team** members give direct patient support to our patients - offering comfort, reassurance and often times a much-needed respite break for the caregiver. Making a special connection and establishing trust by sharing common life experiences, the **Veteran-to-Veteran** program matches up volunteer Veterans with Veteran patients. And who doesn't love animals? The **Pet Therapy** teams visit our patients offering a welcoming distraction and helping to lessen stress and loneliness. And at the heart of our mission and purpose, the **Every Life Matters**

program provides a volunteer for bedside vigil at very end of life, ensuring no one dies alone.

We are also fortunate to have an **Administrative Volunteer Team** that helps in most of our departments, supplying thousands of clerical and essential administrative hours. **Bereavement Volunteers** provide yearlong support to the families, facilitate support groups, and help with the Children's Bereavement Program.

Lastly, our **Butterfly Auxiliary** work tirelessly all year to provide funding and advocacy for our Hospice House. Well known for their dedicated service in the communities we serve, they are the most visible because of the fundraising events they plan and produce. With Butterfly Auxiliary Chapters in Stockton, Lodi, and Tracy they have coordinated popular events such as Champagne and English Tea, Kentucky Derby West, Eggstravaganza, All American BBQ, The Sip n' Stroll, as well as, The Hats Heels & Harvest Luncheon. These events have provided well over \$2.1 million to support the Hospice House since it started in 2001.



3888 Pacific Avenue
 Stockton, CA 95204

“We're the one with the Butterfly”

**2020 Virtual
 TREE OF LIGHTS
 SCHEDULE**



TREE OF LIGHTS

November 24 – December 12
 Stockton, Ripon, Escalon, Manteca, Lodi,
 Lockeford, Tracy, Rio Vista

Our Tree of Lights ceremonies have been lighting up lives across the county since 1989. All are welcomed to dedicate a light to remember or honor a loved one on any of our eight trees. The light donations help support the agency's programs of nursing care and bereavement services for terminally ill patients and their families.

Visit our website hospicesj.org/events/tree-of-lights for event updates!



For the past year we have been planning our 40th Anniversary Celebration. So much has been accomplished since the doors of Hospice of San Joaquin opened in 1980. We had such grand plans for an amazing Gala Celebration. In addition, we had planned mini-celebrations at each fundraising event throughout the entire year - events such as the Sip and Stroll, Kentucky Derby West, and others that we have highlighted in this Anniversary Edition of our newsletter. The funds raised at these events are vital to the continued support of our services.

Of course, due to COVID-19 all of these fundraising events have been put on hold. As we follow the guidelines and enact every safety measure possible, we miss gathering with you during this Celebration Year!

However, there are many ways that you can help! Please go to our website Hospicesj.org to read about all the opportunities for you to give of your time, treasures and talent. We appreciate your past and continued support - especially during this Anniversary year!

Thank you until we can safely gather again!

