



## What is National Hospice & Palliative Care Month? Why how you live is important.

*By Kelvin Cao*



November is Hospice & Palliative Care Month. This year we honor and celebrate the millions of nurses, home health aides, therapists, and social workers who make a remarkable difference for the patients and families they serve in hospice care, and educate our communities about the importance of end-of-life care. It's a reminder to underscore the reality that hospice and palliative care are not ultimately about death, but how one chooses to live, through serious illness in their final days.

The COVID-19 pandemic represented a time of unprecedented challenges for hospices who are toiling to maintain quality of care in the midst of a global public health emergency, often with reduced income, higher expenses, staff spread thin, and difficulty reaching patients in institutions such as nursing homes and assisted living. Those facilities represent about 37% of hospice days of care, according to the National Hospice & Palliative Care Organization.

Rising above adversity is something hospice and palliative care providers know how to do. After all, caring for people in their most vulnerable moments – at the end-of-life or during times of debilitating illness – is never an easy task, especially when also navigating an ever changing regulatory and reimbursement landscape. At Hospice of San Joaquin, we continue to deliver person-centered interdisciplinary care to more than 1,500 patients annually.

It has always been our mission to provide comprehensive and compassionate hospice care, counseling, and support to terminally ill patients and their families, regardless of ability to pay. We are steadfast in educating and collaborating with healthcare partners and the public in promoting quality, end-of-life care. We believe that the end of life can be just as beautiful as the beginning.



## BOARD OFFICERS

Gary L. Spagh  
*President*

Donna J. Kane, CFP  
*Vice President*

Gayle Asuncion  
*Secretary*

Lou Meyer  
*Treasurer*

## BOARD MEMBERS

Paul Balestracci, JD  
Rebecca Burnett, MPA, BSN,  
RN, CHPN, CHA  
Penny Mallette  
Rebecca Sanders, RN, MN, CNML  
Kirti Solanki, MD  
Evia Briggs Moore  
Malik K. Rahman  
Dr. Gary Pickell, MD  
Linda Bradshaw  
Judith M. Chambers

## 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  
3888 Pacific Avenue  
Stockton, CA 95204  
(209) 957-3888  
hospicesj.org



**Rebecca Burnett**  
*Chief Executive Officer*

## Hospice is a Choice

I have been asked more than once why a person should choose hospice. As we celebrate National Hospice and Palliative Care month, I think it is important to know the answer to this question.

First, hospice is a choice. Anyone who elects to have hospice care when nearing the end of life, can also rescind that decision at any time.

Hospice is about focusing on the present for both the patient and those closest to them. It is not a place. A person can choose to receive hospice services wherever they call home; anywhere from a boat to a skilled nursing facility.

Once a person chooses to have hospice service in their home, our hospice team will open a dialogue that is focused on the wishes of both patient and family, for whatever time remains. This often means simply being at home, surrounded by loved ones, friends and pets.

However, we have had patients that wish to take a last minute trip or attend a major life event like a marriage or a graduation. Whatever decisions are made by the patient and family, our hospice team is alongside them, to help in whatever way necessary.

When someone chooses Hospice of San Joaquin, they are giving the gift of open communication to all involved. We strive to open a dialogue between family and patient so that nothing is left unsaid and no attainable wishes left unfilled.

## Patient Story: Melvin Caldwell

An American hero, a loving husband, and caring father, meet Melvin Caldwell, a Hospice of San Joaquin Veteran patient, who served in World War II, the Korean War, and Vietnam War. Melvin served as a Warrant Officer and is a decorated Army Veteran. At Hospice of San Joaquin, we pay tribute and express our appreciation to Veterans. Providing for their needs and expectations aligns with one of our core values and key approaches - to provide compassion and high-quality care. What makes our Veteran Patient experience so important is the opportunity to celebrate their service to our Country. This celebration involves the Veteran-to-Veteran program that includes the Veteran Pinning Ceremony and the gift of a hand-sewn quilt made by one of our talented volunteers. We thank all our Veteran patients for their bravery and selfless acts of service.



Support Hospice of San Joaquin by making a contribution on our website at

# RECAP OF EVENTS

SEPTEMBER 25, 2021 |

## CHAMPAGNE & ENGLISH TEA CHURCH OF THE PRESENTATION

We had a great time at our Champagne & English Tea! This annual classic afternoon tea featured elegant table settings of beautiful china sets by members of the Auxiliary and is accompanied by small bites, refreshments, and raffle prizes. Thank you to everyone who attended, and all of the staff, volunteers, donors, and Stockton Butterfly Auxiliary for putting this elegant annual tea together!



OCTOBER 16, 2021 |

## HATS, HEELS, & HARVEST VINEWOOD COMMUNITY CHURCH

Hospice of San Joaquin's Lodi Butterfly Auxiliary hosted the annual Hats, Heels, & Harvest. This fall-themed luncheon was filled with warm and beautiful table settings decorated with distinct dishware collections, raffle prizes, and a delicious lunch.



## JUNE 23, 2021 | VIRTUAL MEMORIAL SERVICE & BUTTERFLY RELEASE

Thank you to everyone who joined in our 2021 Virtual Memorial Service & Butterfly Release. The Memorial Service gave those who have lost a loved one the chance to reflect on life and death. The event included excerpts and writings related to grief and a reading of the names being remembered, followed by a butterfly release where participants are encouraged to let their memories and love soar on the wings of beautiful butterflies.



## Butterfly Auxiliary Celebrates 20 Year Anniversary

"The purpose of the Butterfly Auxiliary is to maintain an association of people affiliated with and for the support of Hospice of San Joaquin, to focus attention on community education and fundraising for the purpose of sustaining Hospice of San Joaquin's Hospice House for terminally ill individuals." Butterfly Auxiliary members serve as ambassadors for Hospice of San Joaquin's programs and services. Their events raise funds in support of our Hospice House. They have knowledge of all Hospice of San Joaquin programs and services. They know whom to call when help is needed. Chapter members participate in Tree of Lights and other events promoting Hospice of San Joaquin. Butterflies may choose to volunteer in a variety of roles including family team members, bereavement volunteers or office/administration volunteers.

The first event was a tea in Stockton in 2001, organized by 20 women. In 2006 the second chapter was formed in Lodi and finally the third chapter was formed in Tracy in 2008. In 2013 the auxiliary chapters celebrated a major milestone of donating \$1,000,000 to Hospice of San Joaquin's Hospice House. Four short years later, they marked \$2,000,000 with their record contribution check of over \$400,000. Teas, BBQs, and Luncheons, Moonlight Sip & Stroll, Kentucky Derby West, Bunco Nights, Poinsettia Sales, Lobster Feed, and Raffles are just some of the many events they put together every year. This year, the Butterfly Auxiliary celebrates their 20th anniversary.

*"We're the one with the Butterfly"*

## UPCOMING EVENTS



### OUR STOCKTON BUTTERFLY AUXILIARY WELCOMES YOU TO OUR ANNUAL POINSETTIA SALE!

Outfit your home or office for the holidays, show your appreciation to colleagues friends or clients with a festive poinsettia. You can also brighten the lives of our patients and families by donating a plant of your choice! Plants are available in three color options, red, white or jingle bell. The red is offered in either a 6" (\$12.50) or 10" pot (\$34.00), white and jingle bell are only available in a 6" pot. Plants will be delivered to the greater Stockton area residents, while plants for patients will be delivered by our nurses and social workers. For purchases or for more information, please visit: [www.hospicesj.org/events/poinsettias](http://www.hospicesj.org/events/poinsettias) or call (209)957-3888.

### TREE OF LIGHTS

Tree of Lights offers a chance for anyone in the community to recognize the people who have impacted their lives, through a memorial or honorary light dedication. Donations for Tree of Lights begin in October and are accepted through the end of the year for all of our eight trees. Your donation will light up our Tree of Lights and support Hospice of San Joaquin's programs for terminally ill patients and their families. To purchase a light, visit [hospiceSJ.org](http://hospiceSJ.org) or call (209) 957-3888.

#### STOCKTON

NOVEMBER 23, 2021  
5:30 p.m.  
San Joaquin Delta College

#### RIPON

NOVEMBER 29, 2021  
5:30 p.m.  
Veteran's Memorial Wall

#### ESCALON

NOVEMBER 30, 2021  
5:30 p.m.  
Main St. Park

#### MANTECA

DECEMBER 2, 2021  
5:30 p.m.  
Doctors Hospital of Manteca



#### LODI

DECEMBER 2, 2021  
5:30 p.m.  
City Hall

#### LOCKEFORD

DECEMBER 4, 2021  
5:30 p.m.  
Bank of the West

#### TRACY

DECEMBER 8, 2021  
5:30 p.m.  
City Hall

#### RIO VISTA

DECEMBER 4, 2021  
5:30 p.m.  
City Hall