



# We're Still In This Together!

*By Kelvin Cao*



Since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic, our priority has always remained the same: to provide the highest quality end-of-life care and to continue to ensure safety for our patients, their families, our staff and volunteers. The COVID-19 pandemic has affected every single one of us and has made it a challenging time for many across the world. Since its start, Hospice of San Joaquin has faced cascading challenges in our day to day operations. Despite this, our staff has worked tirelessly to ensure our patient's wishes continue to be fulfilled. Through the year, we have made adjustments and developed new plans to adapt to the new normal of 2021. Telehealth patient visits are being conducted when in-person visits are not possible, social workers and chaplains are busy speaking with patients and caregivers by phone,

our Bereavement Department provides on-going grief and spiritual support services through phone and Zoom, clinical staff are proactive with all safety protocols that meet and exceed CDC guidelines, volunteers provide tuck-in calls to patients and are putting together training manuals and admission packets, and our Development Department is developing new campaigns and making adjustments to our events to help foster the continued support for the Hospice House. For over 40 years, Hospice of San Joaquin has always remained true to our founders 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, and will continue to do so through 2021.

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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.

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**Rebecca Burnett**  
*Chief Executive Officer*

## Looking Beyond COVID-19

Hospice of San Joaquin's Mission and Vision remains solid and unshaken through the COVID-19 Pandemic. It has indeed changed all our lives, as well as the way we view our health and personal freedoms, which until 2020 were, for the most part, taken for granted.

In many ways none of us will ever be the same, because we are no longer naive about our vulnerability as individuals. We have learned that, now more than ever, we are intertwined in our communities, but also as a part of the human race. We now depend on those around us to help keep us safe, and we accept the responsibility of doing the same.

What has not changed is the amazing dedication of our staff, both clinical and administrative, as well as all our volunteers who want nothing more than to resume normalcy so they can return to what they do so well, helping us function as the county's number one non-profit hospice.

We look forward to the day when the word "COVID" is part of our history. A part from which we have all learned about ourselves, our strengths and our ability to give, even when we feel we have little left to do so.

## Introducing New Team Physicians and Medical Director

Playing a crucial role in the care team are the Hospice Team Physicians and Medical Director. An expert team of physicians that are responsible for ensuring that every patient's care wishes are honored, that the hospice team is supported, and that the care goals set for each patient are being achieved. Hospice of San Joaquin has expanded its original strategic plan of having two team physicians and one Medical Director to introducing a total of four new team physicians and our new Medical Director, Dr. Deepak Shrivastava, to enhance all home-base patient care. Transitioning from two teams, both covering the greater North and South county regions, to now having four, each team physician is responsible to oversee the patients on their particular team. The smaller teams result in less patients per team, which will help enhance patient care, allows for greater oversight and teamwork between our Registered Nurse Case Managers and Hospice Clinical Staff to provide the high-quality, compassionate end-of-life care we are committed to providing. Please welcome the following Team Physicians and Medical Director:



**Dr. Herrera**  
Team Physician



**Dr. Goswami**  
Team Physician



**Dr. Vasavda**  
Team Physician



**Dr. Shrivastava**  
Medical Director



**Dr. Puthillath (AJ)**  
Pacific Palliative  
Care Physician

# RECAP OF EVENTS



## FEBRUARY 12, 2021 | VALENTINE'S DAY DRIVE-THROUGH

Our Morale Mamas & Papas, employee morale committee, gave Valentine's Day treats to staff to give a special thanks for their continued hard work.



## MARCH 11, 2021 | EMPLOYEE APPRECIATION SANDWICH DRIVE-THROUGH

Our Morale Mamas & Papas put together a Sandwich Lunch Drive-Through, from our friends at Gian's Deli, to express our appreciation to staff for their commitment in providing high-quality care.



## APRIL 27, 2021 | VOLUNTEER APPRECIATION DRIVE-THROUGH

In honor of National Volunteer Appreciation Week, we put together a Volunteer Appreciation Drive-Through to show our gratitude to all of our volunteers' and Butterfly Auxiliaries for their selfless acts in supporting our mission of ensuring a quality journey for patients. We're blessed to have you all!



## MARCH 27, 2021 | EGGSTRAVAGANZA

Our Tracy Butterfly Auxiliary hosted our annual Eggstravaganza. This sold out event was a twist on the traditional Easter egg hunt and guests were invited to a socially-distanced, vendor-style event. Theme was "Hop Around for Hospice" where participants walked to stations to purchase eggs, pick up their lunch and their prize basket at the end of the event. Thank you Sharen Patrig and Linda Dopp, Co-chairs.



## APRIL 2, 2021 | CONGRESSIONAL RECORD HONOR

We were honored with a Congressional Record by California's 10th Congressional District Congressman, Josh Harder for our 40 years of care. "I'm honored to recognize the exceptional service of the Hospice of San Joaquin and its staff. It is both fitting and appropriate that we honor them for their countless contributions to the people of my district and the Central Valley," said Congressman Josh Harder



## MAY 16 - 22, 2021 | VIRTUAL BUTTERFLY WALK

Thank you to our wonderful community members for walking in memory of their loved ones and participating in our Virtual Butterfly Walk! Every dollar raised from this event supports the high-quality end of life care we provide for patients and their families through comprehensive and compassionate care, counseling, and support, as well as our Hospice House operations. It's not too late to make a contribution! We are still accepting pledges through the month of June! Visit [www.hospicesj.org/events/butterfly-walk](http://www.hospicesj.org/events/butterfly-walk) to walk in honor of a loved one.

*“We're the one with the Butterfly”*

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### **ANNUAL MEMORIAL SERVICE & BUTTERFLY RELEASE** | JUNE 23, 2021

Hospice of San Joaquin welcomes the community to our Virtual Annual Memorial Service & Butterfly Release, held virtually on Wednesday, June 23, 2021, at 10AM on our Facebook page and website. Our event gives those who have lost a loved one a chance to reflect on life and death. The event includes excerpts and writings related to grief and a reading of the names being remembered. This event is a tribute to those who have passed. We end with a butterfly release where participants are encouraged to let their memories and love soar on the wings of beautiful butterflies.



### **RUNABOUTS ON THE RIVER** | JULY 17, 2021

The Stockton Sailing Club presents Runabouts on the River, happening Saturday, July 17, 2021 at the Stockton Sailing Club from 9AM to 3PM. You will have the opportunity to view classic boats up close, enjoy art and craft vendors, food and entertainment. A portion of the proceeds from this event will benefit Hospice of San Joaquin. For more information, contact the Stockton Sailing Club at (209) 951-5600 or visit [www.stocktonsc.org](http://www.stocktonsc.org).

### **HOT SUMMER NIGHTS** | AUGUST 14, 2021

The Stockton Sailing Club invites you to Hot Summer Nights, Saturday, August 14, 2021 from 5PM to 8PM. Enjoy classic cars, food, and live music. This free event is open to the public with proceeds and donations supporting Hospice of San Joaquin. For more information or to register a car, call (209) 951-5600 or visit [www.stocktonsc.org](http://www.stocktonsc.org).



### **CAMP CATERPILLAR** | SEPTEMBER 18, 2021

Join us for our annual child grief day camp, Camp Caterpillar! Campers will learn that they are not alone in their feelings of grief or their anxiety about the ways their lives have changed. Children will be taught that the process of grieving is not forgetting their loved one but remembering with less pain, and will learn to express the feelings, improve communication, and learn coping skills to deal with current and future losses. Stay up to date on where we will be having it this year by visiting our website, [www.hospicesj.org/grief-support/camp-caterpillar](http://www.hospicesj.org/grief-support/camp-caterpillar).

### **CHAMPAGNE & ENGLISH TEA**

SEPTEMBER 25, 2021

A classic afternoon Champagne and English Tea, this elegant event features table settings of beautiful china set by members of the Stockton Butterfly Auxiliary. Each table is unique and gives attendees a distinct experience while they enjoy tea sandwiches and small bites. Visit our website, [www.hospicesj.org/events/champagne-english-tea](http://www.hospicesj.org/events/champagne-english-tea), to learn more and get updates on this year's event!