



Hospice and Palliative Care Month

By Kelvin Cao



November is National Hospice and Palliative Care Month, a month where hospices across the country are reaching out to raise awareness about the highest-quality care for all people coping with life-limiting illness. Every year, according to the National Hospice and Palliative Care Organization, nearly 1.6 million people living with a life-limiting illness receive care from hospice and palliative care providers in this country. Highly trained Hospice of San Joaquin professionals ensure that patients and families find dignity, respect and love during a most difficult journey. These professionals include registered nurses, certified nursing assistants, chaplains, licensed social workers, bereavement specialists, nurse practitioners and a medical director. Our staff provides the highest level of quality medical care with the emotional and spiritual support that

families need most when facing the end of life. Through this specialized quality care, we see many patients and their families experience more meaningful moments together. Hospice and palliative care helps them focus on living despite a terminal diagnoses.

As hospice providers, we also receive many gifts from those we care for – we are able to witness the love of families and friends as they come together to care for one of their own in need. We are taught valuable lessons in faith, dignity, compassion, care and love. As care providers, our lives are changed and touched by those families we serve in hospice care. We are proud of the compassion we demonstrate and comfort we can offer, and are grateful for our hardworking staff, committed volunteers, and supportive donors.

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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

An Important Conversation

2020 will surely go down in infamy, as the fight against COVID-19 continues and concern escalates as we enter "flu season".

We all have friends and family that, should they contract the disease, are more prone to serious complications from COVID-19. Age and/or underlying conditions play a key role in determining whether one succumbs to COVID-19 or not, but no one is guaranteed immunity.

Should you or a loved one be diagnosed with a life-limiting illness such as COVID-19, it is vital that wishes for treatment, including life support, be known and documented. Hospitals now have strict policies which limit visitation from family and friends once a patient is admitted.

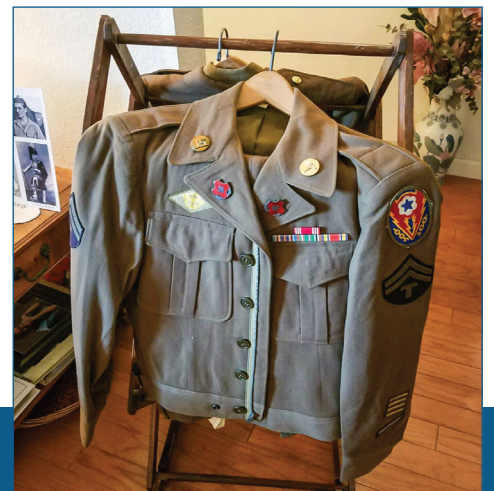
If it has been determined that a cure is no longer attainable, you have the option to remain with your family and loved ones, while your symptoms are managed in the comfort of your own home. But your desires must be known prior to finding yourself in this situation.

These conversations are not easy, but they are vital to ensuring your wishes are known.

Hospice of San Joaquin or the San Joaquin County Coalition for Compassionate Care can help you with these conversations.

Veteran Pinning Ceremony

Veteran's Pinning Ceremony brings closure and gratitude to our patients and their families by honoring their service to our Country. Hospice of San Joaquin patient, Wilbert Henneberg, was honored at his home and joined by his family, friends, and Hospice of San Joaquin staff members. They shared words of invocation, past stories, and extended a thank you to Wilbert for all that he has done.



RECAP OF PAST EVENTS

JULY 21, 2020 | 209GIVES

209Gives is an online 24-hour community fundraising campaign hosted by the Community Foundation of San Joaquin to help raise funds for local nonprofits. With restrictions due to COVID-19, this campaign helped re-engage past and present donors and volunteers and leveraged our online and social media presence. In one single day, we were able to raise \$1,765 from 22 donors. We want to thank everyone for their continued support in fostering the first hospice agency in San Joaquin County. Please join us once again in 209Giving Tuesday on December 1st.



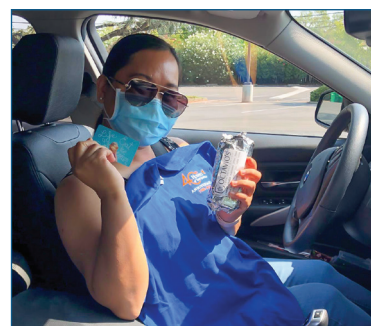
AUGUST 23 – 29, 2020 | THE BUTTERFLY WALK

Hospice of San Joaquin coordinated The Butterfly Walk, a virtual event, to not only encourage the community to get active, but to make a pledge to help raise funds and walk in memory of loved ones. We are grateful for the amount of walkers who participated. A total of \$14,530 was raised through this virtual walk.



AUGUST 26, 2020 | MORALE MAMA'S & PAPA'S BURRITO DAY

Our Morale Mama's & Papa's put together a burrito lunch drive-by for staff. They were also gifted a 40th Anniversary T-shirt, and a Baskin Robbins Gift Card to thank them for their hard work and commitment in fostering quality end of life care for patients and their families during the pandemic.



SEPTEMBER 14, 2020 | NATIONAL ASSISTED LIVING WEEK CARE BASKETS

Staff put together Care Baskets for our healthcare facilities in honor of National Assisted Living Week. This week provides a unique opportunity for residents, their loved ones, staff, volunteers, and the surrounding community to recognize the role of assisted living in caring for America's seniors and individuals with disabilities. The annual observance encourages assisted living communities around the country to offer a variety of events and activities to celebrate the individuals they serve, as well as to help educate members of the public about this distinctive aspect of long term care.



SEPTEMBER 30, 2020 | VOLUNTEER APPRECIATION DRIVE-THRU

We hosted our Volunteer Appreciation Drive-Thru event to thank all our wonderful volunteers and Butterfly Auxiliaries for their hard work, time, and dedication in supporting Hospice of San Joaquin and its mission of ensuring quality of the journey from serious illness through the end of life. We are blessed to have you all!



Would you like to Volunteer?

Contact Ann Leale, Volunteer Program Manager at aleale@hospicesj.org



"We're the one with the Butterfly"

How COVID-19 Has Impacted Us

Along with the rest of the world, COVID-19 has impacted Hospice of San Joaquin by introducing cascading challenges in our day to day operations. These challenges include additional effort conducting routine patient visits, reduced revenue due to the postponement of events and bereavement workshops, and overall difficulty engaging with our staff, volunteers, donors, and the community we serve. This, however, did not stop our commitment and responsibility of caring for our patients and families. Our priority has always

been the safety of our patients, families, staff, and volunteers while supporting the highest quality of care for the community. Our caregiving professionals across the region have enacted new safety measures both in our facilities and in our patients' homes, moved our in-person meetings to online communication, as well as modifying our Butterfly Auxiliary Events and Bereavement Workshops. We encourage all of you to continue to get tested, wear a mask, social distance, limit gatherings, and wash hands.

UPCOMING EVENTS



A popular annual holiday tradition is our Tree of Lights, which will now be held virtually on our website and Facebook page. Tree of Lights have been lighting up the lives of loved ones throughout the County since

1989. Not only does Tree of Lights offer a chance for anyone to recognize and reflect on the people who have impacted their lives through a memorial or honorary light dedication, but it also echoes the uniqueness of the community and local organizations involved. Memory boards list the names of those recognized by the tree at each city host site and lights will remain lit through the season. Proceeds from these ceremonies will continue to help foster and support Hospice of San Joaquin programs for terminally ill patients and their families for generations to come. To learn more about Hospice of San Joaquin or how you can honor a loved one this holiday season, visit www.hospiceSJ.org or call (209) 957-3888.