



A Reminder of Gratitude

By Kelvin Cao



Life can sometimes feel chaotic and hectic at times, but it is important to make time and reflect on the feelings of gratitude. We try to find ways to practice self-care for happiness, peace, and well-being, but if we want to sustain and grow joy in our daily lives, it is important to incorporate gratitude into every possible moment.

Many people, nonprofits and businesses have been profoundly impacted by the current COVID-19 pandemic, and it's more crucial now that we come together as one community to remind ourselves of the work we do, and patients and their families we serve, and the wonderful volunteers and supporters who have helped us through the years. Many people have turned to organizations like Hospice of San Joaquin to provide care and expertise in our communities. For over 41 years, we have provided quality care to our patients seven days a week, ensuring that patients and families find dignity, respect, and love during life's most important journey.

Reminders of gratitude can be found in everyday occurrences, even when we least expect it. From reading thank you notes from patient families, seeing a patient's smile, or receiving an acknowledgment from members of the community recognizing

the compassionate care we've provided to thousands of families over the years. Gratitude can be defined and perceived in so many ways. Being grateful to see another day, enjoying a moment with those we care for, or experiencing a new treasured memory with loved ones; these all are simple ways to remind us of gratitude. We can train ourselves to experience thankfulness more often simply by paying attention to our lives differently.

We are grateful for our committed staff, dedicated volunteers, donors, supporters and wonderful patients and their families for allowing us to live our mission and vision. Thank you to our staff for always providing and being committed to fostering the end-of-life care we provide to patients, their families, and community. Thank you to our loyal volunteers, supporters, and donors for nurturing and promoting who we are, what we do, and why we do what we do. And importantly, thank you to the patients and their families for expressing their gratitude.

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 believe that the end of life can be just as beautiful as the beginning.

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



Rebecca Burnett
Chief Executive Officer

It has been a very tough two years at Hospice of San Joaquin. When COVID first hit, we were so busy we could hardly keep up with patient volumes. Donations, which are so vital to a non-profit, were down and all our events, which also help promote and support our many services, were canceled. This second year of COVID has had a different set of challenges; staffing shortages, increased costs related to patient care, as well as increasing regulatory demands. Some events have been brought back, although they have been modified per CDC Guidelines.

When you ask the staff why they keep showing up every day, they will tell you it's for their patients. They will also tell you they could not do it without the support of their friends and their families. So, I would like to take this opportunity to thank all our staff that have persevered through this global crisis and continue to fulfill our mission. They are the backbone of this organization, and I am honored to know them.

My deepest gratitude also goes out to our volunteers, donors and our community members for their dedication and continued support of our mission.

"We must find time to stop and thank the people who make a difference in our lives."

~ JOHN F. KENNEDY

It is a gift to be surrounded by people making a difference in the lives of others every single day. At Hospice of San Joaquin, our staff, volunteers, donors, and community members, all play an important role in making us a better organization.

Donor Highlight: Susan Salamon

In October of last year, we honored Susan Salamon and the Salamon family for their support of Camp Caterpillar with an in-person and virtual memorial tribute at our Stockton office. Susan



and her husband, Dr. Peter Salamon, have been major supporters of Hospice of San Joaquin and continue to do so in her memory.

"The Salamon family, in Susan Salamon's memory, has chosen to enduringly support Camp Caterpillar and the youth bereavement programs of Hospice of San Joaquin. Following Susan's careers as a Pediatric nurse at the University of Michigan and full-time mother to children Michael and Sarah, she worked as a nurse at Hospice of San Joaquin for 17 years. It is there that she became aware of the needs of grieving children. This understanding led to her advocacy and support for this population. At the same time, she was a founding contributor to the building of Hospice House. Susan was born on September 27, 1945, in Washington DC. She lived in Stockton for 44 years. She passed away at Hospice House on November 3, 2019."



RECAP OF EVENTS



NOVEMBER 1 – 30, 2021 | HOSPICE & PALLIATIVE CARE MONTH

For the month of November, we celebrated Hospice & Palliative Care Month to honor and celebrate the nurses, physicians, home health aides, therapists, social workers, and everyone who made a remarkable difference for the patients and families in our care. Here are just some of the recaps from internal events and giveaways!



NOVEMBER 11, 2021 | VETERAN'S DAY

Hospice of San Joaquin honors Veterans, and Veteran's Day makes it no different. Our staff participated in many Veteran observances onsite and in the community to express our appreciation to Veterans and show our Veteran engagement in our community.



NOVEMBER 12, 2021 | 20TH ANNIVERSARY BUTTERFLY AUXILIARY CELEBRATION

We celebrated our amazing Butterfly Auxiliary for their 20 years of wonderful service fostering the mission and vision of our Hospice House. 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.



NOVEMBER – DECEMBER 2021 | TREE OF LIGHTS

We closed out 2021 with our annual Tree of Lights ceremonies! Tree of Lights offered anyone in the community to recognize the people in our lives who have made an impact through a light dedication and lighting ceremonies in Stockton, Ripon, Manteca, Lockeford, Lodi, Escalon, Rio Vista, and Tracy. This year, over 8,600 lights were honored, and we could not be more grateful for the tremendous support from families this holiday season!

“We're the one with the Butterfly”

UPCOMING EVENTS



ANNUAL SPRING LUNCHEON & EGGSTRAVAGANZA

March 19, 2022 • Tracy Masonic Lodge, Tracy

A twist on the traditional Easter egg hunt, guests are invited to a vendor-style Eggstravaganza event with the theme "Hop Around for Hospice" where participants can walk to stations to purchase eggs, pick up their lunch, and pick up their prize basket at the end of the event. Tickets are \$35 per person and will include lunch and a donation to Hospice of San Joaquin. For more information, please visit: www.hospicesj.org/events/eggs-travaganza

CHAMPAGNE & ENGLISH TEA

NEW
DATE

September 24, 2022 • Church of the Presentation, Stockton

A classic afternoon Champagne and English tea, this elegant event features table settings of beautiful China set by members of the Auxiliary. Each table is unique and gives attendees a distinct experience while they enjoy tea sandwiches and small bites. The highly anticipated raffle does not disappoint, with large bountiful baskets. Stay tuned for updates by visiting: www.hospicesj.org/events/champagne-english-tea



KENTUCKY DERBY WEST

May 7, 2022 • Sargent Equestrian Center, Lodi

Break out the mint juleps and the big hats. Time to show off your best at Kentucky Derby West! Enjoy Southern hospitality as you delight in small bites, dinner and all the thrills the track has to offer. Win big on or off the track with live and silent auctions. Tickets are \$150. For more information or to purchase tickets, please visit: www.hospicesj.org/events/kentucky-derby-west

VIRTUAL BUTTERFLY WALK

May 22 - 30, 2022

Get active in the community and support Hospice of San Joaquin, the oldest not for-profit hospice agency serving San Joaquin County. Every dollar raised through the Butterfly Walk allows Hospice of San Joaquin patients to live life to the fullest through high-level hospice services. This walk will be hosted virtually, which means walkers can create their own path and walk when they choose. Be sure to use the hashtag, #HSJButterflyWalk to share your walk! To sign up and make a pledge, visit: www.hospicesj.org/events/butterfly-walk

