



Remembering Kristi Lobb

Hospice of San Joaquin is saddened by the loss of one of our own – Kristi Lobb. Patients and their families will remember her as a dedicated and vibrant Registered Nurse. Kristi passed away December 26 from cancer.

“It was an honor to have met Kristi,” said Marilou Mercado, an RN here at Hospice of San Joaquin. “May she rest in peace knowing she was a wonderful person and that she was well loved by her family and by us.”

Kristi is fondly remembered by all of us for her smile and sense of humor. She served Hospice of San Joaquin from 1996-2015 and returned to the organization January 2023.

Our Chief Clinical Officer, Cheryl Berglund, CHM, RN, remembered joining Hospice of San Joaquin during Kristi’s 19-year tenure and being in awe of what an example she set for compassionate, holistic care for her patients and their families.

“In the short 9 months she was here after her return, we were flooded with compliments from family members of her patients,” Berglund said. “When she told me her diagnosis, Kristi expressed frustration that this was going to pull her away from her patients. She had made a promise to show up for them every day – that was her level of commitment as a hospice nurse.”

It was a bittersweet honor to care for Kristi in her final days, one that we will all treasure dearly.



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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

Letter from Rebecca

Hospice of San Joaquin has been serving the San Joaquin County and surrounding areas for 44 years. Until a few years ago when someone said they had hospice care, it was almost guaranteed that it was with Hospice of San Joaquin. However, that is not the case today.

In 2014, there were six hospice agencies in San Joaquin County. Today, that number is over 30, many of those for-profit. This trend isn't isolated in the San Joaquin area. At the start of the 21st century nonprofit hospices largely outnumbered for-profits. Today, almost three-quarters of the United States' hospices are for-profits.

Why is this happening? It is happening because individuals have discovered that if you provide the absolute minimum care to patients that you can make money owning a hospice. This has been sadly well documented – a recent report from the Medicare Payment Advisory Commission found that while both nonprofits and for-profits received the same amount of Medicare money per patient, for-profits were spending far less on patient care. That translates into fewer visits, less pain medication and a fraction of support families so dearly need.

One of the most disheartening things that we are experiencing here at Hospice of San Joaquin is the opposite of years past. At least once a week we will have an interaction with a caregiver or patient situation where someone calls Hospice of San Joaquin to complain that they have not seen a nurse in over a week, or that their loved one is in pain, but they do not have any pain medication. We of course immediately respond by asking their name, so we can locate them in our system. Although at this point, we already have a suspicion that they are not receiving care from Hospice of San Joaquin, because this would not happen here. We then confirm with them that they do not have Hospice of San Joaquin and then we work to get them transferred to our services so that we can immediately get the patient seen and symptoms of dying controlled.

One of our employees had a family member admitted to the wrong hospice because another agency said "yes, we are a hospice in San Joaquin", a simple play on words and you end up with the wrong hospice agency. The most heartbreaking and infuriating part of all of this is that because of tactics like these, people in our community are suffering needlessly.

At Hospice of San Joaquin, we believe in giving the best care to every patient that comes on service. People are not paychecks. People deserve dignity in death. Their families deserve peace of mind that their loved one is getting the highest level of care.

While you are in hospice care you have the right to receive effective pain management and symptom control. You have the right to receive care from a hospice of your choice. And you have a right to change hospices at any time for any reason.

So, protect your families and friends by making sure you get the best care. There are many hospices in the San Joaquin region, but there is only one Hospice of San Joaquin.



Celebrating 35 Years of Tree of Lights

Thank you for joining us for our 35th Tree of Lights. From Ripon to Rio Vista, memorial trees shone in memory to all who have come before us. Every light was a precious memory, and every donation made a difference.



With your help, we raised \$285,000 toward Hospice of San Joaquin's non-profit mission. Your generous donations go right back into the San Joaquin community. When children get the grief support they need through our Camp Caterpillar program – it's because of you. When someone without insurance can receive hospice care in their final days through Charity Care – it's because of you. When members of the community gather to mourn and to heal through one of our many grief support groups – it's because of you.

Throughout the year, you can view a copy of the memory boards on our website, along with a gallery of photos from each event. Thank you to all of our partners, sponsors and volunteers who make this annual event possible.

Celebrating Milestones

An “honorary” graduation ceremony was held for the grandson of one of our Hospice House patients. Julius is graduating from McNair High School with a scholarship to San Joaquin Delta College. It was his grandfather's wish to see Julius receive his diploma. We were honored to make that dream a reality thanks to our Hospice House staff. At Hospice of San Joaquin, we help our patients celebrate important milestones and final wishes. Experiences like these are part of the Hospice of San Joaquin difference “our founding mission to honor the journey of life, and keep our patients and their caregivers the focus of everything we do.”



RECAP OF EVENTS



FEBRUARY 16 | VOLUNTEER TRAINING

Volunteer Trainings are held several times a year. The February 16th training focused on our Family Care Team Volunteers. Members of this group offer their loving heart and caring ears to help meet the needs of our hospice patients and families. These needs include companionship, practical and emotional support, and respite care. The respite break allows the caregiver to step away and take a break, run errands, or meet their personal needs. If you are interested in providing comfort and support as a Hospice volunteer, please visit our website at www.hospicesj.org/contribute/volunteer or contact Georgie Nguyen, Volunteer Manager at (209) 957-3888, gnguyen@hospicesj.org

“We're the one with the Butterfly”

WE'RE HIRING FOR AN ACCOUNTING MANAGER

We are seeking a skilled, self-motivated Accounting Manager who thrives in a fast-paced environment and supports our mission. This is a Full-Time position reporting to the Chief Financial Officer (CFO). Must have a bachelor's degree in accounting or finance and 5+ years of progressive accounting experience. Find out more on our website.

UPCOMING EVENTS



EGGSTRAVAGANZA

March 9 • 11:00am-1:00pm

Masonic Lodge, Tracy

A twist on the traditional Easter egg hunt, guests are invited to a vendor-style Eggstravaganza Spring Luncheon, where every egg is a chance to win a multitude of gift baskets. This is a fun family-friendly event hosted by our Tracy Butterfly Auxiliary. Tickets and sponsorships available – contact the Development department for more information.

CAMP CATERPILLAR – LODI

March 16 • 8:30am-1:30pm

Emanuel Lutheran Church, Lodi

Camp Caterpillar is a special grief day-camp for children who have lost a loved one in the last two years. This program is for children 5-13 years old. Children are



taught that the process of grieving is not forgetting their loved one but remembering with less pain. Campers learn to express their feelings, improve communication, and learn coping skills to deal with current and future losses. Camp Caterpillar, like all our grief services, is free and open to the public. Sponsorships available – contact the Development department for more information.



CHAMPAGNE & ENGLISH TEA

April 6 • 1:30-4:00pm

Church of the Presentation, Stockton

A classic afternoon Champagne and English tea, this elegant event features table settings of beautiful china sets curated 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. The highly anticipated raffle does not disappoint, with large bountiful baskets. Tickets and sponsorships available – contact the Development department for more information.