

# heart to heart

THE NEWSLETTER OF TANNER HOSPICE CARE

## Clearing Up Misconceptions About Hospice

There are often misconceptions and confusion about hospice care. Some wonder what hospice services are offered, when it is available and who it can help. Here is some helpful information about Tanner Hospice Care.

**Misconception No. 1:**  
**Hospice is for when there is nothing more a doctor can do.**

Hospice care is designed for patients with a life-limiting illness, yet it is not where a patient goes to die. For Tanner Hospice Care, "hospice" is a philosophy of care for patients with a life-limiting illness that provides peace, comfort and dignity to both the patient and his or her loved ones.

**Misconception No. 2:**  
**There is a limit for how long a patient may have hospice care.**

There is no fixed limit on the amount of time a patient may continue to receive hospice services. The length of hospice care depends on the course of the patient's illness.

**Misconception No. 3:**  
**If I choose hospice care, I have to leave my home.**

While patients have the option of being at home, Tanner Hospice Care is provided wherever the patient may be: in his or her own home, a family member's or an assisted living facility.



**Misconception No. 4:**  
**Tanner Hospice Care is just for the elderly.**

Tanner Hospice Care services are available for anyone facing a life-limiting illness, regardless of age — or even whether or not the patient has private insurance, Medicare or Medicaid.

**Misconception No. 5:**  
**Tanner Hospice Care is just for the patient.**

In addition to providing care for the patient, Tanner Hospice Care provides support services to address the psychological and spiritual needs of the family.

*Continued on page 2*

**SAVE THE DATE**

For more information, please call Tanner Hospice Care at 770.214.2355. Hospice volunteer meetings are for current volunteers only.

**Hospice Volunteer Meeting**

Tour of expanded surgical services and new ED  
11:30 a.m.  
Tanner Medical Center/Carrollton Classrooms 4 and 5  
Wednesday, Feb. 20

**Hospice Volunteer Meeting**

TB tests administered  
11:30 a.m.  
Tanner Medical Center/Carrollton Classrooms 4 and 5  
Wednesday, March. 20

**Hospice Volunteer Meeting**

Volunteer Appreciation Luncheon  
11:30 a.m.  
Tanner Medical Center/Carrollton Classrooms 4 and 5  
Wednesday, April 17

**Hospice Volunteer Meeting**

Program TBD  
11:30 a.m.  
Tanner Medical Center/Carrollton Classrooms 4 and 5  
Wednesday, May 15

*Note: There will be no Hospice Volunteer meetings in June or July.*

Taylor Gordon, MD  
Medical Director

Debbie Brock  
Director of In-home Services

Tommy Thomas, LMSW  
Social Worker

Kathy Booth  
Administrative Assistant

Mandy Jackson  
Volunteer Coordinator

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of In-home Services

Sharon Moody, RN  
Client Care Supervisor

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Christina Bassett, RN  
Christy Downs, RN  
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# Clearing Up Misconceptions about Hospice

*Continued from front page*

**Misconception No. 6:**

**Families are not able to care for people with life-limiting illnesses.**

Family members are encouraged, supported and trained by Tanner Hospice Care to care for their loved ones. Tanner Hospice Care staff is on call for the patient and his or her family 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

Because of financial gifts from compassionate donors and the community, Tanner Hospice Care is able to provide the hospice care and support services that families need, regardless of their ability to pay.

If you would like to support this important work, please mail your donation to Tanner Hospice Care, P.O. Box 1136, Carrollton, GA 30112, or call 770.214.2355.

**Misconception No. 7:**

**After a patient's death, Tanner Hospice Care stops.**

Tanner Hospice Care continues to follow the family for a year, with periodic phone calls, visits and counseling if needed. Staff members send cards, offer grief support groups and remember patients in an annual memorial service.

**Misconception No. 8:**

**Tanner Hospice Care is very expensive.**

Tanner Hospice Care has never billed a patient for service, relying on private insurance, Medicare, Medicaid and donations to continue providing care. No patient has ever been turned down based on an inability to pay. ❤️



## From the Heart

"We can't thank the Hospice staff enough for the amount of care that was given to my mother in her final days. Thank you!"

"Thanks to all Hospice staff for the loving care they give to each of their patients."

"This is our first Christmas without my mom, and I just want to thank Tanner Hospice Care for all they did for her. Thank you for all you do year round."

"This is my mom's first birthday in heaven. Without your help, she may have suffered dearly. Thank you for all you did for my precious mama."

"Thank you for all you do to make the end of life easier to bear for patients and their families."

# HOSPICE

D O N A T I O N S

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**Gift-in-Kind****In memory of****Mr. Leroy Robinson**

Mrs. Jacqueline M. Robinson

# Hospice Volunteers Celebrate Another Year of Serving Our Community



The volunteers of Tanner Hospice Care met on Dec. 19 at Tanner Medical Center/Carrollton to celebrate another year of serving the communities of west Georgia with an ornament exchange and luncheon. (Left to right) Mary Graves;

Tommy Thomas, LMSW, Tanner Hospice Care social worker; Iola Cole; Patt Hackett; Nancy Barnes; Bill Johnston; Eunice Brown; Betty McVeigh; Debbie Brock, Tanner Hospice Care director of In-home services; Susan Fleck; Vyckie

Thompson; Mandy Jackson, Tanner Hospice Care volunteer coordinator; Dita Pickering; Ed Wilson; Neda McDonald, M.Ed, Tanner Hospice Care bereavement coordinator; Anita Smith; Linda Hutchens and Jane Thomas. 🍷

## Getting to Know Us: J. Taylor Gordon, MD



Since 1999, I have been fortunate to be the medical director of Tanner Hospice Care, a vital part of Tanner Health System. The nurses, administrators, case managers and volunteers are some of the most gifted people that I have ever known. Their dedication to their patients during especially stressful times is inspiring. It takes special people to work in the field of hospice, and these are special people.

It is rewarding to see the entire Tanner Hospice Care team help our patients and their families, and we are proud that Tanner Hospice Care consistently obtains high patient satisfaction marks in surveys and has always passed state and Joint Commission inspections. Of all the things I have done and the responsibilities I have had in my medical career, being associated with Tanner Hospice Care is one of the most gratifying experiences I have been fortunate to have. 🍀

# A Tasty Tradition: 21st Annual Hospice Holiday Food Sale



Eager shoppers lined up more than two hours before the doors opened to the 21st Annual Tanner Hospice Holiday Food Sale on Saturday, Nov. 17, at the First Baptist Church in Carrollton. An estimated 300 people took part in the food sale, which opened with 24 tables filled with about 500 homemade dishes, including casseroles, turkeys, barbecue, hors d'oeuvres, soups and desserts. Within 30 minutes, only five tables of food remained.



Once again this year, the Carrollton High School's Health Care Science Students of America supported the food sale. The students made a \$2,854 donation with money raised from school fundraisers.



With support from countless Tanner Hospice Care volunteers, the sale raised more than \$15,000. All funds raised from the sale help Tanner Hospice Care patients who could not otherwise afford hospice care, including the purchase of medications and needed in-home medical equipment. 🍀

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770.214.2355

## Your Support of Tanner Hospice Care

Your donation allows Tanner Hospice Care to serve patients throughout our community. Many services are offered at no charge, with a focus on helping our community heal during a time of grief or loss. The need for your generosity continues.

As a not-for-profit public benefit organization, we rely on support from our compassionate donors to help us provide exceptional care and support to every individual and their loved ones as they fulfill life's journey. Your tax-deductible donation might be for a memorial, a special occasion or simply to show that you value the services that Tanner Hospice Care provides. We truly appreciate your generosity.



Tanner Hospice Care has never billed a patient for service, relying on private insurance, Medicare and donations to continue providing care. No patient has ever been

turned down based on an ability to pay. Please consider a tax-deductible donation to Tanner Hospice Care today. Thank you. 🍷

Contributions for Tanner Hospice Care may be mailed to P.O. Box 1136, Carrollton, GA 30112, or call 770.214.2355.