

Kaua'i Hospice

a special kind of caring

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Executive Director Message

Abundance

Aloha. When I began my employment at Kaua'i Hospice three years ago, I sat at my desk and felt an overwhelming sense of gratitude. I was thankful for the opportunity to lead an amazing team as we continued to carry out the mission of Kaua'i Hospice. I went to each staff member and said, "From this point forward, we are going to focus on abundance."

Since that day, abundance has manifested itself over and over. The most tangible way has been through the growing number of patients and families we are privileged to serve on a daily basis. There is truly an abundant awareness of hospice services on Kaua'i.

We see abundance in the changing face of those we serve to be more representative of our diverse community. We see abundance in the increased number of physicians making referrals and the increased requests for community bereavement support; in the growing number of requests for community and professional education and in our "out-of-the-box" thinking to develop new, creative community partnerships.

As I write this, I see how many times I wrote the words "community" and "abundance" and I realize it is out of community that abundance is allowed to flow. Kaua'i Hospice remains steadfast to provide this Garden Island community the highest quality end-of-life care, grief and bereavement support and education.

Mahalo nui loa,



Lori j. Miller
Executive Director



Hospice: *noun.*
from Latin "hospes,"
the mutual caring
of people for one
another.

Kaua'i Hospice has launched a new website!
Visit us online at www.kauaihospice.org

Our Mission



To ensure the highest quality of life possible for individuals and their families facing a life-threatening illness; to provide bereavement support to individuals; and to promote an understanding of Hospice services.

Vital Statistic: 100% of hospice families surveyed said the emotional support they received while under the care of Kaua'i Hospice was the BEST.

Source: *Family Evaluation of Hospice Care Survey - Q2, 2010.*

The Dragonfly – A Hospice Story

By Eileen Erikson

On May 8, 2006, my husband Lee and I received a call from Harvey, a close friend of ours in Missouri. He reported to us that his beloved wife, Eileen, passed away due to complications from breast cancer. She suffered for 10 years and fought the battle to the end. Eileen was with the local hospice program for just weeks before her death.

Eileen and I became friends while our husbands were attending Kent State University in the seventies...yes, during the notorious shooting incident. Harvey was a law student and Lee a chemistry major. As Eileen and I attended a meeting of the wives club on campus, I noticed her beautiful auburn hair. She also spoke with an accent that was familiar to me and I immediately identified it as "Philadelphian." I was right! Lee and I were born in the same city as Eileen and Harvey. We soon became fast friends and went through many stages in our life – finishing college, the birth of children, moves, job changes as well as illness and serious accidents of our spouses.

Eileen and I not only shared the same name, we shared the same basic philosophy of life. We respected each other's differences. She and Harvey were Jewish; Lee and I, Catholic. We saw "Jesus Christ, Super Star" and "Fiddler on the Roof" together and marveled at both of these shows.

During Eileen's fight with breast cancer and subsequent decline, I introduced her to a book for children about the explanation of death. It was recommended to me by one of the chaplains at the hospice organization where I worked. When I told Eileen about the dragonfly theme of the book, she agreed for me to send it to her.

In the story, a water bug is found climbing up a stalk in a pond. When it reaches the water level, it becomes a beautiful dragonfly. However, it is not able to return to the water to tell the other water bugs what happens when they reached the top. The dragonfly is blissfully happy flying around in the beautiful world above the pond. This story is a comparison to our souls leaving the drudgery of this world to become a new form in a beautiful place.

I sent the story to Eileen but never did hear from her as to her reaction. I knew she was still going through treatment for her cancer so I did not mention it to her again. As we prepared to go to Missouri for the funeral, I talked with Lee about the dragonfly story and he listened with skepticism. He believes in an afterlife and is a Christian, but some of my hospice stories were hard for him to comprehend, even symbolic ones.

Harvey chose my husband as a pallbearer. When Lee came back from the ceremony of bringing Eileen's casket to her resting place, he sat down and looked very pale. I asked him if he felt alright. He said in a somber tone, "I'll tell you later in the car." As we headed to Harvey's home after the service, Lee spoke about what startled him at the cemetery. "As I stood on the hill with the other pallbearers, I noticed a dragonfly flutter by along our path. It circled over the hearse then disappeared. What amazed me is that it stopped in front of me just long enough to notice its color. The dragonfly had auburn wings. My husband, to lighten the moment, said to himself "you can't fool me, I know who you are." It gave me comfort to know that perhaps Eileen was consoling us by portraying our little analogy of heaven and afterlife.

I love you, Eileen, and I hope that you are enjoying your eternal reward and displaying your beautiful colors for all to see.

2010 Concert in the Sky FRIENDRAISER

by Sandra Tedder, Event Coordinator

When it came time to start planning this year's Annual 4th of July event, the organizing committee and Board of Directors had a tough decision to make. While the Concert in the Sky has been the island's biggest Independence Day celebration for the past 20 years, it has not been as financially successful as we hoped in recent years. Should we take a year off and apply our energies toward other programs and events for the organization? After all, with over 700 volunteers putting in over 6000 hours on the Concert in the Sky, it is a huge commitment from our community as well as the staff of Kaua'i Hospice and the committee. In the end, that's what swayed our decision – commitment.

We renamed the event a FRIENDRAISER in acknowledgement of our appreciation to the many friends of Kaua'i Hospice and their unwavering support of our mission and programs. It is our commitment to you that we will continue to provide an opportunity to come together on July 4th and celebrate our nation's Independence, as well as provide the people of Kaua'i with compassionate, comprehensive end-of-life care.

This year's Concert in the Sky featured John Cruz as our headliner and an amazing line-up of talent including the Showtime Characters, Shilo Pa & Friends, Halau Ka Lei Mokihana `o Leina`ala, and The Quake. Ono food, water slides, inflatables and fun for kids of all ages, massage and Healing Touch, plus a Silent Auction and drawings ensured a great time was had by all!

734 volunteers, including the Hawaii Firefighters Association, donated 6,449 hours! A sincere mahalo to our volunteers, to our sponsors for their generosity, and to our many friends who attended the event and helped to make it a success!

**Kaua'i Hospice would like to extend a sincere mahalo to Sandra Tedder for serving as our Concert in the Sky Event Coordinator the past 3 years. Her expertise will be greatly missed!*



2010 is the Year of the Volunteer



Mahalo Kaua'i Hospice volunteers.
You are the heart of hospice.



FALL 2010 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

OCTOBER

Family Grief Support Group – Getting Through the Holidays
Monday, October 4 from 5:00PM – 7:00PM at QLCC

Pet Loss Support Group

Thursday, October 7 from 5:30PM – 7:30PM at Kaua`i Hospice

Journey Through Grief Workshop – 6 Week Series

Wednesdays - October 20, 27 from 5:30PM – 7:30PM at Kaua`i Hospice

NOVEMBER

National Hospice & Palliative Care Month

November 1 - 30

Teen Bereavement Support Group – The Rainbow Connection

Monday, November 1 from 5:00PM – 7:00PM at QLCC

Journey Through Grief Workshop – 6 Week Series

Wednesdays – November 3, 10, 17, 24 from 5:30PM – 7:30PM at Kaua`i Hospice

Kaua`i Hospice Hosts Chamber of Commerce Business After Hours

Thursday, November 4 from 5:00PM – 7:00PM at Kaua`i Hospice

Pet Loss Support Group

Thursday, November 4 from 5:30PM – 7:30PM at Kaua`i Hospice

Trees of Remembrance

Friday, November 26 – Friday, December 24 at Princeville Shopping Center and Kukui Grove Shopping Center

DECEMBER

Pet Loss Support Group

Thursday, December 2 from 5:30PM – 7:30PM at Kaua`i Hospice

“Mrs. Claus in Menopause” – A “hot” one woman musical comedy starring Delia Valentin. All proceeds benefit Kaua`i Hospice!

Friday, December 3rd and Saturday, December 4th
Location to be determined

Annual Candle Lighting Memorial

Monday, December 6, 5:30PM at Immaculate Conception Church, Lihue

To learn more about any of the events listed above, please contact Kaua`i Hospice during regular business hours of 9AM – 4PM, Monday through Friday.

The Beauty of Canyons

by Lisa Rapha El

“Should you shield the canyons from the windstorms you would never see the true beauty of their carvings”–Elisabeth Kubler-Ross

For most of us, the experience of loss - be it of a loved one, a job, a pet, a home, a favorite object – leaves a void in our lives. How we deal with that void is of vital importance. To avoid the feelings associated with loss by filling the empty space with busyness, new ventures, relationships or drugs is like trying to shield a canyon from the windstorms, rain, and changing weather patterns that create its unique carvings.

Two things stand out from my five intense days with Elisabeth Kubler-Ross in 1983. The first is the large mattress and length of rubber hose at the center of each gathering of sick or terminally diagnosed patients, caretakers, ministers and social service professionals. As participants were so moved, they were invited to come to the mattress and beat, yell and scream out our anger.

Most of us know that prayer, forgiveness and compassion are important in dealing with loss... but anger? Kubler-Ross believed that if every home had a screaming room, there would be no more wars.

The account of how she first became interested in the work is the second thing that stands out. As a student in Switzerland after World War II, Kubler-Ross served as a volunteer cleaning out Nazi concentration camps. Inside the children's barracks, located within a stone's throw of the crematorium, the walls were covered with drawings of butterflies. Those children, so close to death, knew that death is not an ending, but a freeing of our eternal spirit from the body, the cocoon of our spiritual growth.

Whenever you experience a loss, take time to express ALL your feelings. There is no such thing as a bad or wrong feeling. Remember that sadness, fear, anger and joy are simply part of the weathering process that hones the beauty of our souls.

LISA RAPHA EL is a transformational holistic healing consultant, author, classical pianist and seminar leader on Kaua`i since 2007. For the past several months, Lisa Rapha El has been providing support to Kaua`i Hospice staff and volunteers through our “Care for the Caregivers” program.

www.lisaraphael.com



This-n-That

Calling all Techies

Kaua`i Hospice is looking for someone with a strong background in technology and computer systems who is willing to volunteer their time and expertise to help maintain our technology base a few hours a week. To learn more about our technology needs and how you can be of service, please call our office at 245-7277.

Toad Toting Volunteer

The toad population of our serenity pond has gotten out of control and disrupted the habitat of our beautiful koi. Toad fanciers are encouraged to make weekly visits to collect the toads at our Lihue office and geographically redistribute them to areas more suitable.

Arts & Crafts


We're looking for creative hands and minds to assist with Trees of Remembrance this year. We need a volunteer to create biodegradable ornaments that can be written on and displayed outdoors. We also need a "set designer" to create and set-up an attractive space to feature the memorial trees at Kukui Grove Center. Please contact our Volunteer Coordinator, Sharon Leslie, at 245-7277 to help with this important project.

Honor a Volunteer

If you would like to pay tribute to a special volunteer that has impacted your life or that of someone close to you, consider honoring them with a donation to Kaua`i Hospice during the "Year of the Volunteer." A memorial gift is a wonderful way to pay tribute and help ensure that the care and comfort that Kaua`i Hospice gives is available to everyone who needs it.

For each memorial gift or tribute, Kaua`i Hospice sends notification of the gift to the individual that you designate. Please include the name and address of the individual(s) you would like us to notify along with your gift.

Face Time – Join The Conversation

Join our growing community of friends and family on Kaua`i Hospice's new Facebook page! Network with patients and families, learn about upcoming events and lean on your hospice 'ohana during life's difficult times. Just search for "Kaua`i Hospice" and add a friend! 

Going Green

Kaua`i Hospice offers you the opportunity to receive our newsletter via email. Email subscriptions reduce printing and postage costs, as well as our impact on the environment. If you would like to receive the Kaua`i Hospice newsletter via email, or be completely removed from our mailing list, please contact us at development@kauaihospice.org or call 245-7277.

Vital Statistic: 100% of hospice families surveyed said Kaua`i Hospice provided EXCELLENT patient care.

Source: Family Evaluation of Hospice Care Survey - Q2, 2010.



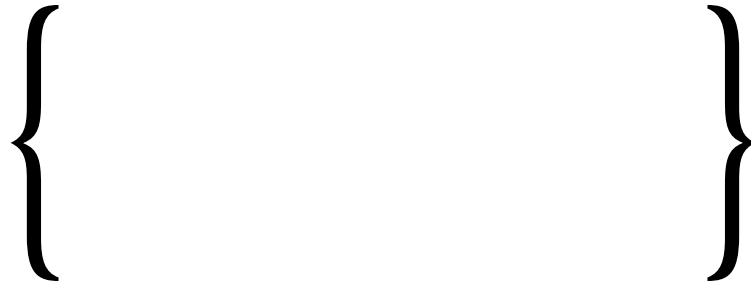
Kaua'i Hospice
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Fall 2010 Newsletter

The Harry & Jeanette Weinberg Center for Compassion
4457 Pahe'e Street, Lihu'e, Hawai'i 96766
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www.kauaihospice.org

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How do you know when to call Kaua'i Hospice?

When someone you know has a serious, progressive illness and

- Is losing weight unintentionally
- Has difficulty or cannot care for themselves
- Seems to be declining physically and/or mentally
- Their caregiver is exhausted

If you can say yes to even one of these choices, call us today.

We want to help.

For referrals and information call
245-7277