



# HOLMES PARK HOUSE

SOUTHERN OREGON FRIENDS OF HOSPICE



October 31, 2018

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## Magnanimous Donation Names and Completes Hospice House Campaign



IN HOLMES PARK

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This last Saturday, generous donor, Jed Meese, pledged a one million dollar naming gift to Southern Oregon Friends of Hospice in honor of his lovely wife of 56 years, Celia. The hospice house's new name is "Celia's House in Holmes Park." The name Celia means "heavenly beauty" in Latin, which seems appropriate for the 12-bed historic Medford hospice residence at 217 S. Modoc Avenue which is surrounded by a botanical garden and park.



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Founding board member, Dr. Bruce Johnson, board member, Dr. John Forsyth, and executive director, Susan Hearn met with Jed Meese, and learned about his appreciation of palliative and hospice care, knowledge of the need for residential hospice and long familiarity with the Harry Holmes mansion. Jed and Celia Meese thought about buying the mansion back in the mid-1990's when it was in disrepair. This amazing gift from the Meeses, combined with the extraordinary support of our 1023 donors and foundations, meets and exceeds our capital campaign goal to create a hospice residence to serve Southern Oregonians at the end of life for many years to come.

## **"Better in reality, than envisioned" 56 people cared for in five months**

Father Joel Maiorano, chaplain from the Rogue Valley Manor, has known of the vision for our hospice house for many years. After visiting his friends being cared for here, he said "It's better in reality than what was envisioned." When we dreamed about opening a specialty hospice residence, we knew of the need for this specialized care (44% of hospice patients are unable to spend their last days in their own home). Since opening May 14, 2018, 56 residents on hospice and over 2,000 visitors have used our space and services for their final days.

We didn't fully realize the power of the place and the power of the mindful caregiving embracing our residents and their loved ones. We didn't realize how a retired nurse might find purpose while teaching our young CNAs, or how our residents become support for one another, or how the incredible lives of holocaust survivors, World War II veterans, and people of all faiths and backgrounds find a peaceful ending in this loving environment.

## **Resident Support Volunteer Class II**



Congratulations to our newly-trained group of 22 Resident Support Volunteers (pictured above)! They completed 30 of their 40 hours of intensive training on death, dying, grief, loss and compassionate companionship people at the end of life and their loved ones. They begin their service with courageous hearts, each bringing their own unique gifts.

They are joining our first group of 23 volunteers who completed our training last spring. We are so fortunate to have 45 dedicated resident support volunteers who embrace our culture of kindness and mindful presence at the bedside. Each volunteer commits to at least one 4-hour shift per week. Some volunteer for more. We simply could not provide the high quality of care that we do without them.

Inspired by his experience at the Holmes Park House and as volunteer training participant, one of our new volunteers, Jack Seybold, wrote the following poem:

ICU blind deaf hear and now  
left to right your story death  
near death deprived of prized  
and chosen all leaving like fall  
upended down hearted slow  
speeding to approach the  
departure left behind beginning  
to end grasping letting go

The next Resident Support Volunteer training will be held in spring 2019, dates TBA.

A *Gilded*  
GATHERING

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 29,  
5:00-7:30PM

*Annual Candlelight Event*

- \* FESTIVE FARE
- \* DELICIOUS DRINKS
- \* HOLIDAY MUSIC & ENTERTAINMENT

FABULOUS CLOTHING,  
HOLIDAY GIFTS, JEWELRY,  
ART, ANTIQUES & MORE

**The HUB**  
HOSPICE UNIQUE BOUTIQUE  
Upscale Resale

Supports Southern Oregon Friends of Hospice and the Holmes Park House  
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