

SOUTHERN OREGON

FRIENDS *of* HOSPICE



March 31, 2019



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Significant Milestones...10-100-10

Celia's House is Open Ten Months This March, Cares For Our Hundredth Hospice Resident and Celebrates Ten Years as a Nonprofit!

Ten years ago, dedicated and determined founders of Southern Oregon Friends of Hospice set out to create a nonprofit organization that could raise money for hospice, educate about its importance and someday create a collaborative residence for hospice patients who could not be cared for at home in Southern Oregon.

After ten months of operation, Celia's House in Holmes Park reflects on the over 100 hospice residents and their loved ones who have spent their last days together in our gracious home. Many simple moments of loving words expressed and kind gestures between residents, families, staff and volunteers have taken place. Each person's last days are etched in their loved ones' memories. The memories are most often of love, dignity and peacefulness in a beautiful place surrounded by nature.

In this March, 2019 newsletter we focus on our history,



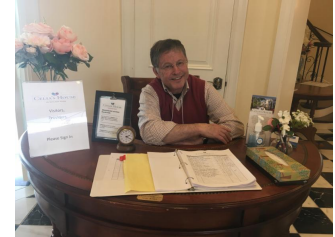
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our present, the efforts of extraordinary volunteers and the comfort that favorite foods can bring. The ***Volunteer Spotlight*** celebrates devoted volunteer David Markewitz. Karen Amarotico, writes in ***With Love from Celia's Kitchen*** featuring her shortbread cookie recipe. Also learn about "Windows in Time" featuring the History of Holmes House, a series co-sponsored by Southern Oregon Historical Society and Jackson County Libraries.

Volunteer Spotlight: The One of a Kind, David Markewitz!

By Sue Carroll, Volunteer Coordinator



The question, when it comes to David Markewitz, is what does this man NOT do for Southern Oregon Friends of Hospice?! In the almost 10 years that he has been involved with SOFH, no act of service has been too big or too small for David. While he doesn't shy away from a serious conversation at a Board meeting, he's also been known to don a funny hat to sell raffle tickets at fund raising events. As a front desk greeter at Celia's House, he welcomes everyone who walks through the front door on Tuesdays with a friendly smile and kind words. Thanks to David, the Monday morning reset team at the Hospice Unique Boutique has fresh coffee to fuel their energy and creativity. He was a gregarious cashier volunteer at the front counter of the 'HUB' for many years too. No doubt part of the success of the HUB is due to his cheerful upbeat customer service! He's the first to say 'yes' when the request goes out to staff an outreach table at community events.

He advocates for Celia's House wherever he goes, including on his many airplane flights where he meets the most interesting people, including a US Senator! His passion and enthusiasm for our mission is contagious. And the icing on the cake, almost literally, is that he now shops for Karen, our kitchen manager, at Costco once a week so that she can put more time and TLC into the meals she prepares for residents. (It's no easy job feeding 12 residents with different dietary needs, and doing so with love.) David is certainly a special guy, one of the over 200 special people who are drawn to give their time and hearts to Southern Oregon Friends of Hospice.

"With Love from Celia's Kitchen"

By Karen Amarotico

One of the things we do at Celia's House is to try and find out what our residents favorite foods are, and if at all possible, we make sure that they get to enjoy those foods. Some of the items that our guests have requested include strawberry shakes, Rice Krispie treats, roast pork, and peanut butter M&M's.

Recently, a soon-to-arrive resident's wife toured the house and she and I were introduced. When I asked what her husband's favorite food was, without hesitation she replied, "Lemon Meringue Pie." Then she added, "But he is no longer eating." I told her that I would try and make the pie and suggested that her husband might get a whiff of its' aroma and we left it at that.

The next day her husband arrived, and shortly after lunch I began making his pie. It took a while, and when it was finished, I left it on the counter to rest. A few minutes later we learned that the man had just passed away.

Immediately I felt sadness that he'd not even seen his pie, but soon I went to his room to console his wife. At the end of the day, the pie was sent home to share with family and friends. It was not what I'd hoped for, however, I was comforted knowing that his family would be eating lemon pie and thinking of him.



Shortbread Cookies

2 cups flour
1 cup butter
1/2 cup sugar

Mix butter and sugar until creamy and smooth. Gently fold the flour into the butter/sugar mixture. Do not over mix.

The Historic Holmes House: From Harry and David to the Present

Wednesday, April 3, 2019 -
12:00pm to 1:00pm

Location: Medford Library, 205 S. Central Ave., Medford
Also in Ashland Library on April 10



An iconic Medford home originally built in 1939 for Harry

Holmes of Harry & David recently was re-created and renovated into a 12-bed hospice residential care facility. Susan Hearn will present the history of this house with "The Historic Holmes House: From Harry and David to the Present" on Wednesday, April 3 at the Medford Library, 205 South Central Avenue, and Wednesday, April 10 at the Ashland Library, 410 Siskiyou Boulevard from 12 noon-1:00 p.m. at both locations. [Click here to read more](#)

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541-500-8911, susan.hearn@sfriendssofhospice.org

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sfriendsofhospice.org | Celia's House in Holmes Park, 217 S. Modoc Ave., Medford, 97504 | 541-500-8911
hospiceuniqueboutique.org | Hospice Unique Boutique, 1618 Ashland St., Ashland, 97520 | 541-488-7805

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Southern Oregon Friends of Hospice, 1618 Ashland Street, Ashland, OR 97520

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