



# HOUSTON HOSPICE

*Life Matters*

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## Fourteenth Annual Spirit Award Dinner Honors Doug Pitcock

**D**oug Pitcock will receive the Laura Lee Blanton Community Spirit Award at the Fourteenth Annual Houston Hospice Spirit Award Dinner on October 30, 2012. The recipients of this award are grounded in personal and civic virtues. This includes demonstrating strong leadership, committing to charitable causes, donating financial support and volunteering with organizations critical to our society.



*Honoree Doug Pitcock*

Doug Pitcock is President, Chairman and CEO of Williams Brothers Construction Co., Inc. Doug started Williams Brother Construction Co., Inc. with Claude K. and John K. Williams in 1955. Over the next 57 years, he has grown his company into consistently one of the largest federal-aid highway construction companies in the United States. Williams Brothers has responded to disasters, such as at the Queen Isabella Causeway, the main

artery into South Padre Island, as well as receiving numerous awards for projects around the state.

Doug has been a prominent spokesman for highway construction interests in Washington DC and in Austin, Texas. He earned this reputation through selfless service and devotion to the industry. This characteristic carries over into his personal community service and participation.

Unheralded, Doug provides the same leadership to many of Houston's most challenging social needs. He actively supports and fosters collaborative relationships between service agencies such as the Star of Hope, SEARCH and the Salvation Army as well as Houston Hospice. Doug and his late wife, Puddin', have been strong community supporters for 30 years. Doug continues the self-effacing altruism today with great compassion.

Rose Cullen, co-chairman with husband Harry Cullen, of the Houston Hospice Spirit Award Dinner, said "We have wanted to recognize the Pitcocks for years. Their support of programs across our community has been legendary. Houston Hospice is honored that Doug has agreed to receive the Laura Lee Blanton Community Spirit Award."

The Laura Lee Blanton Community Spirit Award was created in 1999. Houston Hospice named the Community



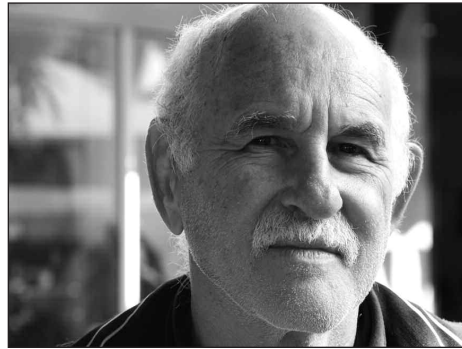
*Event Chairmen Rose and Harry Cullen*

Spirit Award in honor and memory of Laura Lee Blanton who dedicated herself to making a difference in the community. The recipient(s) of this award support a wide range of community efforts through their energy, enthusiasm, time and resources. Past recipients are Jack S. Blanton, Janet and Ernie Cockrell, Dr. John P. McGovern, The Honorable and Mrs. James A. Baker, III, Dr. Richard E. Wainerdi, Mary and Tony Gracely, Connie Baird Linbeck, Harriet and Joe Foster, Jes and John Hagale, Margaret R. Caddy, Sarita and Bob Hixon and Maureen and Jim Hackett. The Spirit Award Dinner is chaired by Rose and Harry Cullen and will take place October 30, 2012 at the River Oaks Country Club. For more information about table purchases, contact Cynthia Nordt at 713-677-7123 or [cnordt@houstonhospice.org](mailto:cnordt@houstonhospice.org).

# Newsletter

# Our First Capital Campaign

## *Wherever you need us to be*



**T**hese are exciting and challenging times for Houston Hospice. We have grown, and the demand for what we offer is outpacing our current capacity to serve. Our inpatient and homecare patients have increased from an average of 222 per day in 2011 to currently 285.

We now have WAITING LISTS!! Waiting lists can be very traumatic to both the patients and their families. For Houston Hospice to meet these increasing demands we need your help.

Please join us in the Houston Hospice Capital Campaign to raise \$5 million. The money raised will be used for the build out of the third floor of the Margaret Cullen Marshall Patient Care Center at our Holcombe facility. This will provide us with the ability to care for 33 patients in this facility versus the current 21. The funds will also allow us to establish inpatient units in existing facilities in Richmond/Rosenberg, and to increase our homecare in this area.

We already have raised \$479,000 towards our goal. This is a very good start to our Campaign! To make this Campaign a success we need your help to insure that no patient will be turned away from quality end-of-life care.

We will always be thankful to the generous supporters of Houston Hospice. You have demonstrated your passion about the care we provide through your testimonials and contributions. We hope you will continue your support by making a contribution to our Capital Campaign. Your donation will enable Houston Hospice to continue to provide the highest level of hospice care and make our services more widely available to patients and their families.

An American perception of death and dying with dignity is changing. It is an honor to be a part of influencing this societal change. Thank you for your consideration of this appeal.

– Michele J. Sabino, EdD, Chair of the Capital Campaign Leadership Committee, Houston Hospice Board Member

– Nancy Ruez, Vice Chair of the Capital Campaign Leadership Committee

For additional information contact Cynthia Nordt at 713-677-7123 or [cnordt@houstonhospice.org](mailto:cnordt@houstonhospice.org).

## Volunteerism Pays

**F**or every 25 hours of volunteer service to one organization, Walmart will make a donation to that organization. In the early years, it was 15 hours and the donation was \$100.00. Now it is 25 hours for \$250.00.

Doris Wilson has been doing that for Houston Hospice since 1994. The first check received from Walmart was dated August 22, 1994. It was for \$200.00. The last check we received from Walmart was dated April 18, 2012. It was for \$250.00. Doris keeps up with her time and submits the proper paperwork to Walmart. They send us a notice and ask for verification. Shortly after, we receive a check from them.

Over the past 18 years, Doris' volunteer work at the Houston



*El Campo Volunteer Doris Wilson*

Hospice – El Campo office has earned us donations of over \$8,000. Doris became a volunteer for Houston Hospice – El Campo in September of 1990. She began working with the memorial donations shortly after becoming a volunteer.

Walmart encourages its associates to become active in the communities. They believe in giving back to the communities in which they operate. They feel that because of their associates' capacity to care, they are making our communities better places to live. Volunteering is a rewarding experience familiar to many of their associates. To recognize and honor the associates

that give of their time and talents to worthwhile causes, the V.A.P. – Volunteerism Always Pays – Program was developed.

# Expanding Inpatient Service in the North at Grace Care Center of Cypress

**H**ouston Hospice has beds dedicated to hospice care in the health care and rehabilitation center, Grace Care Center of Cypress, located at 9602 Huffmeister Road. Houston Hospice employees staff the service in this facility 24 hours a day, seven days a week providing hospice care to patients and their families in the community.

With Houston Hospice locating in Grace Care Center an additional level of care is provided at the Center. This not only allows Houston Hospice to care for the more critically ill patients, but patients cared for in their own homes or other facilities can take comfort knowing that, should the need arise for inpatient care, Houston Hospice is close by in the community.

Hospice is a service. Houston Hospice is the oldest, largest, independent hospice and is a 501 (c) (3) organization that is community-based, community-supported and not



*Julie Manis, RN, Houston Hospice*

for profit. Hospice care is most often provided in the patient's home or other locations of their choice. It is a mobile service that is tailored specifically to the needs and desires of each individual patient and patient's family.

In the Houston Hospice located in the Grace Care Center of Cypress, along with our nurses, the interdisciplinary team is made up of physicians, social workers, chaplains, hospice aides and volunteers. We provide medical supplies, equipment and medication. Bereavement services are provided for up to 13 months after the loss of a loved one and are made available to everyone in the community, regardless of whether or not the loved one was served through hospice care.

The ribbon-cutting and open house was held May 15, and the following day a patient and her family were cared for by the Houston Hospice staff at the Grace Care Center of Cypress.



## Outstanding Review from CHAP

**H**ouston Hospice has received accreditation from the Community Health Accreditation Program (CHAP). CHAP is an independent, nonprofit accrediting body that is community-based for health care organizations. To be accredited by CHAP is to achieve one of the highest standards of hospice care.

Every three years, Houston Hospice voluntarily seeks accreditation from CHAP in order to prove it is the gold star in hospice care. Since CHAP has such high standards, not all hospices are accredited by them. This is why it is such a huge honor to be CHAP approved and why Houston Hospice seeks re-accreditation every three years.



The Houston Hospice Director of Program Integrity, Sharon Schofield, prepared for CHAP's visit. Schofield is very proud of Houston Hospice.

"The CHAP accreditation survey reviews every aspect of the organization from patient visits to business practices to overall quality. Receiving no deficiencies on our accreditation survey demonstrates that Houston Hospice is accomplishing its mission of providing uncompromising, compassionate end-of-life care to patients and families in our community. We are beyond thrilled that CHAP's survey confirms what we know to be true—that Houston Hospice provides the best hospice care," said Schofield.

This year, Houston Hospice had an outstanding review from CHAP with several positive comments from the surveyors. In addition, CHAP interviewed several patients and their family members who gave Houston Hospice rave reviews. Houston Hospice is proud that their mission to provide comfort and care to patients and their family members is being fulfilled and remains strong.

Houston Hospice will continue to strive in providing the best hospice care in the Houston community. By voluntarily applying for CHAP accreditation, we are proving that we are number one in hospice care. Houston Hospice looks forward to growing and serving more patients and helping more families.

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**Houston Hospice is a member of the Texas Medical Center**

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### Mission Statement

*Houston Hospice provides uncompromising, compassionate end-of-life care to patients and families in our community.*

*Through the efforts of specially trained and highly skilled interdisciplinary teams of health care professionals and volunteers, Houston Hospice patients and their families are guided through the process of illness, by receiving clinical care, psychosocial support, spiritual guidance and volunteer assistance.*

## New Board Members Sarita Hixon and Linda Toyota Join Houston Hospice Board



Sarita Hixon

Sarita Hixon and Linda Toyota have joined the Houston Hospice Board of Directors. Hixon and Toyota each bring strong qualities to Houston Hospice in nonprofit fundraising and in law.

Hixon's main focus has been law and has a law degree from Southern Methodist University. Currently, she is the Kenedy County Commissioner Precinct 3 and the Co-Manager of the Armstrong Ranch.

Toyota has worked over 20 years in the nonprofit community. She was recently, named President of the Houston Asian Chamber of Commerce. Toyota has a Master's Degree in Education from the University of Houston.

Houston Hospice is honored to have two strong leaders in the Houston community join the board. We know that our future is bright with Hixon and Toyota and we look forward to the contributions they will bring.



Linda Toyota

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