



HOUSTON HOSPICE

Life Matters

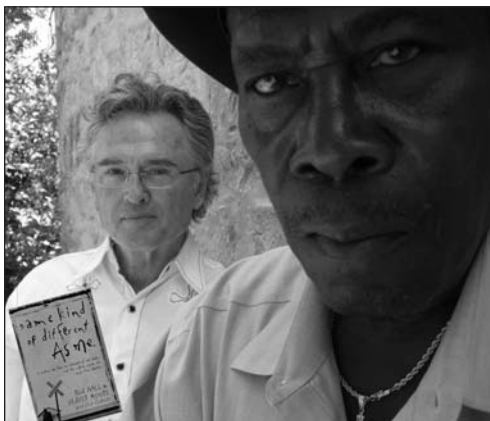
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The 2012 Butterfly Luncheon is Almost Here

On April 10th, Houston Hospice will hold its annual Butterfly Luncheon at the Hilton Houston Post Oak Hotel from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. This year we are featuring special guest author Ron Hall who co-wrote the true novel, *same kind of different As me* with friend Denver Moore.

Ron Hall is a New York Times Best Selling author who grew up near Blooming Grove, Texas. He is a man with many talents in various subjects including music, art, writing and business. Ron has held many occupations including a Private in the United States Army and a Campbell Soup sales representative. In 1971, Ron bought his first original painting in Houston and sold it 89 days later for a \$2,000 profit. He quickly realized that being an art dealer was his calling.

After 25 years of hard work, Ron and his wife Deborah moved to their ranch Rocky Top outside of Fort Worth on the Brazos River. Deborah, who was a volunteer at the homeless shelter in Fort Worth, persuaded Ron to volunteer as well. Ron then met Denver Moore, a homeless man from Louisiana. The two began to form an unlikely friendship and found comfort in one another after Ron's wife, "Miss Debbie," died from cancer.



Ron Hall and Denver Moore

same kind of different As me is a thoughtful novel when it comes to dealing with the emotions that take place after losing someone close to you. The novel is written by both Ron and Denver and shares with the reader two different perspectives and opinions from two very different people. The journey and path that Ron and Denver each take prove to the reader that no matter what our background and history may be, we are all still people who experience the same emotions with loss.

We invite you to join us at this event and to hear Ron speak about life, loss and love at our 2012 Butterfly Luncheon. Ticket information can be found on our website at www.houstonhospice.org

Our Chairmen of the 2012 Butterfly Luncheon are Ann and Stuart James who have both gone above and beyond with

their commitment and loyalty to Houston Hospice. Former First Lady Barbara Bush is the Honorary Chairman of the Butterfly Luncheon.

The event will include lunch, a raffle and a chance to meet Ron Hall. Copies of his book, *same kind of different As me* will be available for purchase as well as sterling silver butterfly jewelry from JD Designs

Jewelry. Raffle tickets will be available to purchase at the event for \$20 each. This includes the tradition of the quilt stitched by Houston Hospice volunteers being a part of the raffle. You can buy quilt raffle tickets in advance at www.houstonhospice.org for \$10 each. This year's quilt is called "Baskets and Blossoms," and features various flowers from the Houston Hospice note card collection.

The Butterfly Luncheon is Houston Hospice's primary fundraiser for the Butterfly Program which serves terminally ill children 18 and younger. The funds raised from the Butterfly Luncheon benefit all operations of Houston Hospice. For more information about the event you can contact Cynthia Nordt at 713-677-7123 or at cnordt@houstonhospice.org.

Newsletter

Houston Hospice Team Feature – El Campo

Currently, Houston Hospice has four branches: North, West, Texas Medical Center and El Campo. Even though these branches are what make up Houston Hospice, they each have different challenges and tasks they face.

The El Campo branch is different from the other three branches because it covers a 50 mile radius of small, rural towns. The registered nurses from El Campo cover almost 100 miles a day. Lisa Machen, the Patient Care Manager of the El Campo branch, explains that on the weekends, the staff travels even further.

“On the weekends each staff member often travels greater than 200 miles and often through 3-5 counties to care for our patients and families,” says Lisa.

The El Campo branch has 21 staff members including a volunteer coordinator, an on call registered nurse, a marketer and the PRN staff. The staff makes a positive impact on the rural community by providing compassionate end-of-life care to their patients and families no matter how far the distance. In addition, the staff offers community bereavement in the counties they serve.



El Campo Campus

“We offer grief support twice a month at the El Campo office and Life After Loss Bereavement Groups three times a year in Matagorda County,” says Lisa.

Bereavement support is not the only way the El Campo branch supports the community. Each year there are two fundraisers to help support their branch. The annual Heating It Up for Hospice is a BBQ cook-off and dance that takes place in March. The Celebration of Life fundraiser

takes place annually around the

Christmas season. The branch sells ornaments dedicated to a lost loved one.

“Hospice Support, Inc. Board members hold a luncheon in El Campo, Wharton and Bay City to honor these individuals with a tree lighting and lunch,” says Lisa.

The El Campo branch was absorbed by Houston Hospice in 2000. Some staff members have over 15 years of experience in hospice care, while others have at least 5-10 years. With a monthly average of about 50 patients, the El Campo branch really goes the extra mile to make sure their patients are cared for. Houston Hospice is proud to have this hard working branch to carry the Houston Hospice name.

Houston Hospice Plans to Renovate Third Floor at TMC

Houston Hospice has decided to explore the possibilities of renovating the third floor at the Margaret Cullen Marshall Hospice Care Center located at the Texas Medical Center. Currently, two floors with 21 rooms are dedicated to serve patients. With the renovation of the third floor, 13 rooms would be added in order to accommodate our growth.

With a steady incline of patient admissions at the TMC location, Houston Hospice has acknowledged the need to expand. One of the challenges Houston Hospice sometimes faces is a waiting list of patients to enter our inpatient care unit. Having an extra 13 rooms would reduce the waiting list and more patients would be served.

The third floor has approximately 9,000 square feet that is currently being used for storage. After the items in storage are cleared, the renovation project would take about six months to complete. Renovation would include adding 13 spacious patient rooms, a third floor family room, a nurse's station and a physician's office.

When Houston Hospice decides to execute this plan history

will be made. The growth Houston Hospice has encountered over the past few years has been historical and is not slowing down any time soon. Being able to serve more patients and their families comfortably is a long term goal Houston Hospice strives to achieve. Expanding the inpatient facilities would be the first step on the long road to improve services and conquer goals.



Houston Hospice Says Farewell To Dr. Susan Krauter and Welcomes Dr. Nancy Glass

Dr. Susan Krauter has left Houston Hospice, and has relocated to Florida. Since 1999, Dr. Krauter has been a Houston Hospice physician and the designated physician for the pediatrics program called the Butterfly Program. The Butterfly Program provides special services for children with life-limiting conditions aged 18 and younger.



Dr. Susan Krauter



Dr. Nancy Glass

Dr. Krauter has had many accomplishments in the medical field with over 26 years of experience. She received her doctorate at the University of Miami, where she later taught for over 10 years. She advanced to the status of Fellow of the American Academy of Hospice and Palliative Medicine in 2009.

Dr. Glass is the new physician for the Butterfly Program. She is a perfect choice for this position, since she is also an

anesthesiologist and physician at the Pediatric Pain Service Department at Texas Children's Hospital. She started her career as a pediatric intensivist, caring for very ill children and their families at Memorial Hermann. Dr. Glass also participates in the palliative care initiative at Texas Children's Hospital, bridging the continuum of care from pain to palliative care to hospice. She received her Doctor

of Medicine from Baylor College of Medicine and an MBA from Rice University. She has inspired many other physicians and has led teams in Peru and Guatemala to better the lives of local children. Although Dr. Krauter will be missed, Houston Hospice looks forward to working with Dr. Glass. Having a dedicated, passionate staff enables Houston Hospice to provide their patients and patients' families with the best possible care.

Welcome New Legacy Club Members

Houston Hospice would like to thank the new members of our Legacy Club. The Legacy Club is Houston Hospice's own membership program for people who want to become involved with the organization. Here are our first members: Anne Baillio- Founding Member
Carol Robles- Founding Member

Mary Mechler- Civic Circle

Thank you for supporting The Legacy Club and Houston Hospice. You can find more information about The Legacy Club at www.houstonhospice.org or call Hillary Till at 713-677-7130.

Houston Hospice Says Farewell to Three Board Members

On March 28th, Houston Hospice will say farewell to three of our outstanding board members. After serving their limit of consecutive terms Chairman Dr. Thomas Burke, Jo Ann Swinney McLaughlin and Bob Thomas are saying goodbye to Houston Hospice. Their dedication and hard work have been greatly appreciated and will be missed. Individually, these three have brought their own unique talents and skills that have helped Houston Hospice grow and succeed.

Dr. Thomas Burke became our Chairman of the Board in 2010. He has been a member of the board at Houston Hospice since 2002 and also served on the board of The Hospice at the Texas Medical Center. Dr. Burke made numerous accomplishments at Houston Hospice such as acquiring proper accreditations, increasing safety measures, forming alliances with other hospices and care centers and creating hazardous mitigation plans.

Jo Ann Swinney McLaughlin has been a Houston Hospice board member since 2002 when Houston Hospice and The Hospice of the Texas Medical Center combined. Jo Ann is one of the driving forces for the public relations success Houston Hospice has had. She is a founding member of the partnership with St. Christopher's Episcopal Church / Houston Hospice Thrift Shop.

Bob Thomas has served on the Houston Hospice Board since 2002 and previously served on the board before the combination of Houston Hospice and The Hospice at the Texas Medical Center. Bob successfully co-chaired two major fundraising campaigns: 50 Years of Caring and The Next 25 Years. Bob has been a passionate and dedicated member of the Board of Directors.

Each of these board members has been with Houston Hospice for many years. Their own personalities and contributions have helped Houston Hospice grow and succeed. Houston Hospice thanks Dr. Thomas Burke, Jo Ann Swinney McLaughlin and Bob Thomas for their years of dedication and hard work at Houston Hospice. They will all be missed, but we wish them success in their future endeavors. We know wherever these three are, success will follow.

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The newsletter is published by Houston Hospice, a nonprofit organization providing comprehensive end-of-life services and education to the greater Houston area and surrounding communities.

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.

Buy a Ticket to Win



Each year, Houston Hospice has a group of volunteers sew a beautiful quilt to be raffled. This beautiful, one of a kind quilt raffled off benefits the operations of Houston Hospice. These ladies spend many hours hand stitching squares that piece together to become a treasured work of art. The quilt always turns out beautiful and unique.

The quilt has a different theme each year. This year the theme is, "Baskets and Blossoms," and features flowers from the Houston Hospice note card collection. Each square is a different flower which makes the quilt very colorful.

The quilt raffle tickets are on sale now and can be purchased for \$10 each at www.houstonhospice.org. You can also call Hillary Till, Development Assistant, at 713-677-7130. The raffle will take place at the annual Butterfly Luncheon on April 10th. You do not have to be present to win and you will be notified by phone or e-mail if you are a winner.

If you would like to opt out of receiving the Newsletter please notify us by e-mail to sshrum@houstonhospice.org.

Houston Hospice would like to correct donor's name from the last issue from Ms. Ann C. Fisher to Beth Fisher. Our sincere apologies for the mistake.