



A Special Kind of Caring

# Hospice Hotline

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Hospice at its best

Winter 1998

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**HAPPY NEW YEAR!**



## It's official! License is granted— First patients admitted to new program

It was a new beginning for Hospice of the Valleys on November 5 as Executive Director George Brunjes literally danced for joy as he announced the long-awaited licensure. He was joined by Director of Patient Services June Darling with a jubilant "Yes! Yes! Yes!"

A short, anxiety-filled, period later the first patient was admitted. Newly hired Nurse Coordinator Joy Spurlock was on her way, along with long-time patient care volunteer Donna Hall. It wasn't long before the phones started ringing again and the second patient came on board for his hospice journey.

How will this new license impact Hospice of the Valleys? First of all, it will not affect its not-for-profit status. Any money that remains at the end of the calendar year will continue to be used to improve and provide more services to the community. For example, during the past few months several new bereavement groups have been added, which are offered free of charge to all community residents.

Secondly, Hospice of the Valleys is no longer affiliated with Ramona VNA and Hospice. It now provides the full range of hospice services as an independent program. Nurses, social worker and a medical director have been hired to complement existing volunteer, pastoral care and bereavement programs. With additional contractual arrangements for inpatient beds, medical equipment, pharmacy services and other required services, it will once again have direct control over the entire hospice program.

Volunteers always remain a vital part of any hospice program. It was through the work of volunteers from which the hospice movement in the United States grew. More than ever, Hospice of the Valleys will need the help of those who would like to work with patients and their families, assist in the office, support the bereavement program and help in the Thrift Shop.



(Front) Kandy Marsh, Esther Vaughn and Christine Losey (Top) Lenn Sparks, Ruth Sparks and Donna Cumming share memories of the early days of "Hospice of Sun City." Cumming has served non-stop as a volunteer and board president since its founding. (Story on Page 4)