



# Expanding Our Compassionate Touch

## Kitty Askins Hospice Center Memo

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**3HC**

From the desk of Jean Whitfield,  
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### **Our community provided Thanksgiving & Christmas dinners for patients and family**

**members.** Many local community members, businesses, and clubs joined together to ensure patients and their families enjoyed warm and healthy holiday meals. For example, Seymour Johnson Air Force Base's 4<sup>th</sup> Medical Group delivered Christmas Eve dinners for the entire hospice center. This included meats, side dishes, and delicious desserts. Many individuals made monetary contributions towards these special meals. Mickey's Pastries continued its annual tradition of providing tasty treats – cookies, cakes, and pastries – for the center.

**A Thanksgiving dinner to remember.** A patient at Kitty Askins had one request – to enjoy a holiday meal with her family. The Kitty Askins staff jumped into action to make this happen. They cleared one of the dayrooms, set-up tables and chairs, and created a dining area so that the entire family could share a meal in the same room. Almost thirty family members were able to attend and shared in the last Thanksgiving meal with their mother.

**What can be more fun than a February Mardi Gras Gala!** On Saturday, February 21<sup>st</sup>, 3HC is hosting its annual Mardi Gras Gala at Walnut Creek Country Club in Goldsboro. The evening consists of a Reverse Drawing with a Grand Prize of \$5,000, a Silent Auction, and a Shag Party with DJ Robbie Leggett. Tickets are \$100/couple and include all events plus a New Orleans dinner buffet! Doors open for bidding on the Silent Auction at 5:30. For tickets, please call April Brantham at 735-1387, ext. 1072.

**Who will be the King and Queen?** One additional noteworthy element taking place during the Mardi Gras Gala will be the crowning of the new King and Queen, dethroning last year's King Sean and Queen Jill Nielson. Five local couples have volunteered to run for King and Queen by collecting votes (\$1 per vote) from their family, friends, neighbors, co-workers... anyone is fair game! The names of the winning couple will be announced during the Mardi Gras Gala followed by the crowning of the King and Queen. Our couples this year are: Ben & Adrienne Strickland, Steve & Beverly Keen, Ed & Monica Hoepfer, Steve & Angie Thorne, and Ashton & Shirley Griffin – if you can't choose, vote for all of them!

**The new Reba and Milford Quinn Hospice Facility is now open.** Because we believe everyone deserves compassionate care, our congratulations go to Carolina East Home Care & Hospice on the opening of its new inpatient hospice facility, The Reba and Milford Quinn Hospice Facility. The 6-bed facility, located in Kenansville, is open to patients from Duplin and surrounding counties thus making inpatient care available to more people in need.

**Did you know that Kitty Askins was a nurse?** Kitty Askins was 3HC's very first nurse who promoted hospice care in Wayne County. Sadly, Kitty died of cancer at the age of 34 surrounded by family and friends. When the hospice center was built in 1995, all involved thought it a fitting tribute to Kitty to name the center after her.

**Hospice Facts:** In 2007, the National Hospice and Palliative Care Organization (NHPCO) estimates that approximately 38.8% of all deaths in the United States were under the care of a hospice program. The average length of service was 20 days. Finally, the top four chronic illnesses served by hospice include: cancer (41%), heart disease (11.8%), dementia (10.1%), and lung disease (7.9%).

**The Kitty Askins Expansion Fund efforts continue!** The momentum to expand Kitty Askins Hospice Center continues to grow. In November, a Campaign Leadership Committee was formed to help get the word out about the need for the expansion. Proposals have been written and submitted to foundations, businesses, and individuals seeking grant opportunities. Individuals are being invited to sharing a role in the campaign's success. So far. . . (drum roll, please) ... over \$1.2 million has been raised in support of our \$4 million campaign to expand Kitty Askins. The care, concern and commitment of people close to the mission will help make sure a bed is available to all people in need of inpatient hospice care. Making sure we all have dignity and compassion never felt so good!

**Thank you once again for being you, and for allowing  
us to share 3HC's great story with you!  
Remember. . . Compassion – pass it on and watch it grow!**

*Jean*



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