

# Companion

Summer 2008

*Hospice of the Rapidan* is a not for profit community based organization providing medical care and social, emotional, spiritual and grief support for people with a limited life expectancy and their caregivers

Serving Fauquier, Culpeper, Orange, Madison and Rappahannock counties

Virginia Licensed, Medicare & Medicaid Certified

Founded 1983

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## Hospice Can Do So Much More When It Starts Early

“I think it's time to consider hospice.” For many people these words sound like giving up. They raise the fear that “my loved one will die tomorrow.”

The reality is that rather than being a harbinger of death, hospice is a unique opportunity to make the most of the time patients and families have left, especially when it is accessed early enough. Simply put, earlier hospice referrals translate into better quality of life for the patient and his or her family and loved ones.

Unfortunately, even as physicians and the public have become much better informed about hospice over the last few years one third of all hospice patients start receiving hospice care within the last 7 days of a patient's life, and in many cases only on the last day. For these patients there is little hospice can do other than to return the patient to the comfort of home and get their pain under control before they pass away.

However when patients start hospice care earlier, especially when their prognosis is 4 to 6 months, *Hospice of the Rapidan* can make much more of a difference for everyone involved. These patients can realize the full benefit of hospice, typically spending quality time at home with loved ones, pain free and in comfort, with the support they and their families need to have



Taking time to discuss hospice care early helps everyone involved.

the best possible quality of life. In addition to meeting patients' medical needs, *Hospice of the Rapidan* helps caregivers learn how to best care for their loved one and balance the conflicting demands that can often strain relationships just when they are most important. The hospice team attends to patients' social, emotional and spiritual needs as well in a way that simply is not possible when care lasts only a few days. Equally important, hospice can help facilitate communication so families can say the important things to each other while they still have time and to be together when it is most important.

*continued on pg 7*

**July**

**Rappahannock Fourth of July Celebration**  
**Fri, 4th, 1:00-9:00 pm**  
 Thornton Hills  
 Stop by and visit our booth

**August**

**Taste of the Mountains Street Festival**  
**Sat, 30th, 9:00 am-4:00 pm**  
 Historic Main Street, Madison  
 Stop by and visit our booth

**September**

**Redskins Raffle Ticket Drawing**  
**Wed, 3rd, 12:00 noon**  
*Hospice of the Rapidan's*  
 Community Room  
 1200 Sunset Lane, Culpeper

**Volunteer Training Classes**  
 Beginning Week of the 15th  
 Bethel United Methodist Church  
 6903 Blantyre Road, Warrenton

**Grief Support Group**  
 Six consecutive Tuesdays  
 beginning Sept 23rd  
 2:00-3:30 pm  
 Warrenton Visitors Center  
 33 North Calhoun Street

**Service of Remembrance**  
**Sun. 28th, 3:00 pm**  
 Culpeper United Methodist Church  
 1233 Oak Lawn Drive, Culpeper

**October**

*A Passion for Caring*  
*Hospice of the Rapidan's*  
**25th Anniversary Gala**  
**Sat, 11th, 6:00 pm-Midnight**  
 Inn at Kelly's Ford, Remington

*Companion* is published  
 four times a year by:

**Hospice of the Rapidan**  
 P.O. Box 1715  
 Culpeper, VA 22701  
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**Letter From the Executive Director**



**Kathy Clements**

It is an unfortunate fact that our patients and their families face great difficulty whenever we are called in to help. Despite the sadness and fear they face, our work does so much to enhance their

comfort, dignity and grace that it is highly rewarding. It says a lot that there isn't one member of our staff who doesn't smile when he or she thinks of the work we do every day. So I can't help thinking of the many blessings we have because of your support of our mission to provide the best possible end-of-life care.

Your support takes many forms, all of which are instrumental in our success. Volunteers who work with our patients and their families make an extraordinary commitment, going through many hours of training and then being available to families who are under great stress. Other volunteers, who help with *Hospice of the Rapidan* events or who assist in our office, make it possible for us to apply our resources more effectively for our patients.

Donors who support our work with contributions enable us to live up to our commitments to always provide the best

possible care even when the costs exceed what Medicare and insurance reimburses us for and to never turn away any patient because he or she cannot afford our care. The support of area businesses strengthens our community and helps ensure that more people understand the availability and benefits of hospice care for when they need it.

In October we will host our Silver Anniversary Gala, *A Passion for Caring*, which will be the best opportunity we have ever offered for all of these different contributors to join together with our staff and the families we have served to recognize what we have accomplished together and to chart a course for the future. I urge each of you to participate in this joyous event. Becoming a sponsor of the Gala is also an excellent way for area businesses to highlight their commitment to the community that supports them and to make a lasting difference in the quality of life for all in our area.

This generosity of spirit is heartwarming and humbling. Not a day goes by without my noticing something we have done for a patient or a family that would not be possible without your help. It is truly a blessing to be a part of such a supportive and generous community.

**Kathy Clements, RN, BSN**

**MANAGEMENT TEAM**

**Executive Director**  
 Kathy Clements, RN, BSN

**Medical Director**  
 Eve Bargmann, MD, Diplomate of the American Board of Hospice & Palliative Medicine

**Director of Nursing & Patient Services**  
 Essie Rossi, RN, CHPN

**Director of Development**  
 Rose Cornelious

**Community Relations Director**  
 Nancy Walbridge

**Volunteer Coordinator**  
 Ruth Pavlik

**Grief Care Coordinator**  
 Craig Wilt

**Human Resources Director**  
 Ann Frazier

**Companion Editor**  
 Nancy Walbridge

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## Welcome to Rose Cornelious, Our New Director of Development

*Hospice of the Rapidan* is pleased to welcome Rose Cornelious, who joined our senior management team as Director of Development in April. She will lead our fund raising and development efforts, including individual, corporate and foundation giving, campaign management, planned gifts, grants, capital planning and events.

Rose brings extensive business, public service and ministry experience to her position, as well as a distinguished career in fundraising. She has valuable experience working to accomplish things locally as an urban planner in Fulton County, GA, on a broader scale as mission facilitator for a Christian denomination covering over 200 churches in 18 states, and is experienced working closely with officials in local, county and state government. She has also traveled extensively overseas promoting the support of projects in underdeveloped countries.

“As an ordained minister, I think I connect with the mission of *Hospice of the Rapidan* in a special way. I’ve attended to people who are dying and have ministered to their loved ones. I know the devastation that can be felt by people who are unprepared for what’s to come; people who did not have the benefit of the compassionate medical end-of-life care, spiritual and grief support that *Hospice of the Rapidan* provides. I am delighted to join an organization that is so highly regarded and look forward to helping *Hospice of the Rapidan* plan for and achieve its plans for the future.”

Please join us in welcoming Rose. She is a resource for our entire community so do not hesitate to give her a call or drop in to say hello.

## Meet Our Hispanic Outreach Coordinator



**Botoa Villatoro, visiting with one of our patients, Celeste Figueroa.**

Eight months ago I joined *Hospice of the Rapidan* as a Hispanic Outreach Coordinator. While my principal role is to inform the Latino community of the care we provide and ensure it is accessible, what I have found most rewarding is the time I spend with patients providing the kind of comfort that comes from quietly answering questions, providing reassurance and assuaging fears in their native language. I also translate our materials into Spanish, inform the Latino community in all five counties we serve about hospice care, work with community leaders to overcome cultural barriers that might prevent some patients from taking advantage of the care we offer, and provide interpretation for our staff and volunteers.

I feel the gratitude of our patients and their loved ones in every patient visit. Ms. Violeta, one of our Spanish speaking patients, sums up the feeling of many when she says “I feel like I am receiving a gift from God by being surrounded by so many angels caring for me”. This is how our patients see us, like a special gift.

I have worked with government agencies and community-based organizations for many years. However, nothing has been as satisfying as helping hospice patients and their loved ones. In my experience the quality of care *Hospice of the Rapidan* offers to our patients is very special. We truly have a team of dedicated, committed, and caring personnel and volunteers.

Our April volunteer training program included a Spanish speaking volunteer who is already visiting patients. Spanish speaking staff and volunteers allow us to provide better services to our Latino patients who experience a language barrier. As an immigrant I recall the difficulty of trying to navigate a system when language is a problem. Now, as a U.S. citizen, I am delighted to help others overcome this challenge, especially hospice patients and their families whose needs are so great. At *Hospice of the Rapidan*, we are committed to assisting those who have problems communicating in English. We also welcome inquiries from Spanish speaking people interested in volunteering.

We extend our sincere gratitude to the organizations that make *Hospice of the Rapidan's* Hispanic Outreach Program possible through their kind donations and the organizations that help us distribute our Spanish material.

Botoa Villatoro, Hispanic Outreach Coordinator

PS: *Hospice of the Rapidan* takes great care to safeguard the privacy of our patients. Ms. Violeta and Ms. Figueroa gave their permission to use their names in this article.

## Staying Connected

During a serious illness, with or without hospitalization, it can be challenging for patients, caregivers, family and loved ones to easily provide information and updates, receive vital love and support, and stay connected during a critical and often isolating situation. **CaringBridge.org** is a not for profit website that enables patients, families and loved ones to easily create free, personalized web pages that connect loved ones during critical illnesses and treatment.

These web pages help ease the burden of keeping family and friends informed about important matters and both patients and caregivers draw strength from loved ones' messages of support. Every free, personalized website includes a patient care journal, a guestbook for messages of love, a photo gallery, and easy to use instructions. Not only does the site greatly reduce the flurry of well meaning calls and the corresponding responsibility of returning them, it is also a source of comfort to patients who can return at any time to read or reread messages that touch their hearts, even when their mobility is limited. The pages are personal, private, and available 24/7.

Creating web pages for a patient is easy, usually taking less than five minutes even for the technologically challenged. It can also be a creative outlet as each page can be personalized with its own theme, photos, and individual messages. Patients and caregivers can post details of their situations and invite others to join in. Within days,

or even hours, the reach of the Web takes over. That connection is important to anyone struggling with a serious, long term illness. Isolation and depression are common as patients lose mobility and other capabilities. Patients and caregivers find it therapeutic to share when they have a particularly rough day or the celebration of a very good day. Prayers and messages of love can help both patients and caregivers find strength when they need it most. It is also a unique opportunity for patients to help other patients by sharing their experiences, which can create a sense of accomplishment for patients at a time when they are becoming more dependent on others for their own care.

The website was started by Sona Mehring in Minnesota after helping friends cope with the birth of a premature baby in 1997. She says "I really think of it as connecting the human spirit." Over the last 10 years over 100,000 families have created personalized web pages which have generated over 15 million messages of love and encouragement. For hospice patients it has also evolved into a medium for family and friends to share messages of grief and create their own memorials after a patient's death. CaringBridge is not the only website doing this. CarePages.com provides a similar service.

Visit these sites yourself to find out more about this interesting resource.

## Letter from the Community Relations Director



**Nancy Walbridge**

Long ago I read that "Grief is love looking backwards." I no longer remember the source, but the phrase has stayed with me over the years.

I am writing this letter two days after Mother's Day. My mother died 10 years ago under hospice care. This year I experienced more Mother's Day memories, reflection and grief than usual. Perhaps this is because my daughter became a mother during the last year. I remember as if it was yesterday when Rebekah was little, I was the age she is now, and my mom was the grandmother. Where did the time go?

My mother was under hospice care for only a few days before she died. As a result I feel I did not have the chance to talk about the important things while we had the chance, which adds to my sense of loss. One of my key roles here is reminding our referrer community; physicians, nurses, hospitals, nursing homes, etc., of the importance of making timely

referrals. We can do so much more for patients, caregivers and other family members when care starts earlier and the lost opportunities are so great when care starts too late.

Hospice provides peace, dignity and compassion for families, not just patients. On birthdays, anniversaries, and particularly days like Mother's Day and Father's Day (which will be a recent memory as you read this), when the memories run thick and joy can be just a little tinged with grief, the benefits of hospice can still be felt even years after a loved one's passing. Cherished memories of a smile, a laugh, or an all important "I love you" from a loved one comfortably at home and at peace last a lifetime. While people seem to know more today about the benefits of hospice for patients than they used to, it often seems they do not yet realize what hospice does for the rest of the family. At *Hospice of the Rapidan*, we care for families as much as we do for patients, and that is just the way it should be.

Nancy Walbridge  
Community Relations Director

## A Hospice Story



Volunteer Bonnie Vermillion

Like many others, I volunteer for *Hospice of the Rapidan* for very personal reasons. I come from a close family. On one of our annual family vacations, my sister, then in her early 40s, was diagnosed with cancer. I remember how she struggled to find the best way to explain this to her grade school students. My brother-in-law owned his own small business, their children were grown and my parents were in their late 70s. We all took turns caring for Bobbie, but it was often too much for us. Hospice was called in, which

enabled Bobbie to remain home for as long as possible. The Northern Virginia Nurses were great when they visited and they were always available by phone. When things became critical Bobbie was admitted to the hospice facility in Arlington, a homelike setting that allowed visitors 24 hours a day while providing caregivers and pain medication around the clock. I remember distinctly her school choir and a large group from her church coming in to sing Christmas carols. Without this option for 24 hour care, my brother-in-law would probably have lost his business, my nephew would probably have had to drop out of college, and my parents would have become totally exhausted.

About ten years later my Mother became ill with Cancer. My Father did his best but the burden was too much for a man in his 80s. They chose hospice, which enabled Mom to stay at home except for critical times when she would go to the hospice facility to stabilize. During those stays, Dad sat by her side most of the time, but he knew that she would be well cared for if he fell asleep or ran errands. Mom died peacefully and Dad had enough strength left to continue living another 10 years.

Since then I too have been diagnosed with Cancer, although mine was successfully treated. This experience and the tremendous difference hospice made for my sister and mother drove me to volunteer with *Hospice of the Rapidan*. As a volunteer I try to give relief to caregivers and comfort to patients as best as I can. This may mean staying with a patient while her caregiver shops or takes a needed break. It may mean doing some house cleaning or picking up medicine at the pharmacy. Sometimes we just sit and chat. Whatever I do any particular day, I know first hand what it means to the patient and family, and that makes all the difference in the world.

## Hospice Q&A

***Do I lose the care of my longtime doctor, who knows me so well, when I enroll in hospice?***

No. *Hospice of the Rapidan* works closely with each patient's physician. While the primary care responsibility shifts to *Hospice of the Rapidan's* interdisciplinary team, which includes Dr. Eve Bargmann, our Medical Director, your own doctor remains involved in your care. He or she is regularly consulted about your care, receives regular updates on your health, and is consulted about your medications, treatment and needs.

Your physician is an expert at treating and curing your disease. *Hospice of the Rapidan's* team has special training in the treatment of your symptoms and pain, keeping you comfortable and pain free, and attending to your psychological, social and spiritual needs as well as your physical ones. Our Medical Director, nurses and other staff have specialized training and experience in the treatment of patients with end-stage disease that is more extensive than most other physicians.

If you would prefer not to receive future issues of *Companion*, please call Elaine at 540.825.4840 or e-mail her at [info@hotr.org](mailto:info@hotr.org).

## Tributes To Loved Ones—A Way to Give Back

This October we will be hosting our 25th anniversary gala, ***A Passion for Caring***. This event will have special meaning to us and the many, many families we have helped care for over the past quarter century, many of whom we expect to attend. The compassionate and dignified end-of-life care we have provided over the years would not have been possible without the generosity of the communities we serve and we know our patients and their families are very grateful.

The journal for our ***A Passion For Caring*** Gala will include a wonderful opportunity for members of the communities we serve to support our programs and remember or honor a loved one at the same time. A Tribute Ad in the journal is a half page dedicated to your loved one with a picture or artwork and a personalized

message from you. The ads will be presented together as the highlight of the journal to chronicle how many families have benefited from community support for *Hospice of the Rapidan*.

The proceeds from your Tribute Ad make a meaningful difference in the lives of patients and families every day. Take a look at Our Director of Development's letter in this issue of *Companion* to learn how much your support means.

Placing a Tribute Ad is easy. Just fill out the enclosed reply card or contact Nancy Walbridge at 540.825.4840 or [nwalbridge@hotr.org](mailto:nwalbridge@hotr.org). We will review your ad with you to make sure everything is just right—something we strive for with patients and families every day.

# Clinical Corner

## A Column for Health Care Professionals

### Hospice and Nursing Home Care

By Julia E. Connelly, MD, FACP, CMD



**Julia E. Connelly, MD, FACP, CMD**  
**Professor of Medicine**  
**University of Virginia**  
**School of Medicine**  
**Center for Bioethics and Humanities and**  
**Medical Director**  
**Orange County**  
**Nursing Home**

For almost twenty years I have been the Medical Director of a nursing home in central Virginia. During that time the hospice movement has come into its own and is now a full participant in providing health care for dying patients. Nursing homes provide care to individuals

with a variety of problems: dementia, neurological diseases such as Parkinson's disease and strokes, other debilitating illnesses such as congestive heart failure, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, and some individuals who simply do not have the capacity to live alone. The nursing home is HOME to these individuals, and many of them flourish in the setting for years with visits from others and activities not available in the community. The focus of the nursing home, however, is really on living—helping individuals participate in their lives, establishing personal dignity, and experiencing meaningful moments whenever possible.

Most people who live in a nursing home will die there or in the hospital which raises the question of the appropriate role of hospice care in a nursing home. One study (Miller, *Journal of Palliative Care*, 2002) reports nursing homes where hospice is available have superior outcomes for residents enrolled in hospice care. Another study (Gozalo, *Health Services Research*, 2006) of 183,742

nursing home residents in 5 states reported nursing home residents enrolled in hospice care had about half the chance of being hospitalized in their last 30 days of life compared with residents who did not have hospice care. Terminally ill individuals often do not benefit from hospitalization as treatment of the underlying disease is no longer possible and transition to the hospital may negatively impact their remaining quality of life.

The involvement of hospice in the nursing home indicates that the resident, family, the nursing home staff, and the physician have recognized the need to change the goal of the medical care—from treatment of disease to making the person comfortable. The involvement of hospice facilitates this plan of care. Another study (Miller, *Journal of American Geriatrics Society*, 2002) addressed whether hospice care in nursing homes improve the management of pain at the end of life. This is important due to quality of care concerns and because pain is frequently reported among the nursing home residents in general. This study concluded that controlling for clinical confounding variables, hospice residents were twice as likely to receive regularly scheduled daily pain medications. The study also concluded that residents in hospice care were less likely to be prescribed analgesics not recommended by American Medical Directors Association, e.g, codeine, propoxyphene, meperidine.

In my experience, hospice care in the nursing facility adds additional care and provides the physician with further assurance that the resident is cared for well. Not only is there another person who attends to the resident, but the hospice nurses also offer expertise in pain management

and symptom control, as well as behavioral, psychological, and spiritual care. They offer services not only to the resident, but also to the family, nursing facility staff, and the resident's physician. Hospice involvement for the family can be highly beneficial, especially when there is discord, denial, or prior unresolved or recent grief. The hospice team can assist individual family members during the dying process and afterwards. This can be a tremendous value for the nursing facility. For physicians to recognize that effective and competent hospice care requires special interest and training is important. Hospice can significantly enhance care when the physician is not expert in this area or lacks the time to make the necessary, frequent visits.

There are potential barriers in the areas of communication, inter-professional respect, teamwork, and the goals of care. The nursing facility staff often has had a long relationship with the resident, who they care for 24/7. The hospice staff must respect this relationship, enter into it as a team member, and be willing to communicate with all involved. The administration of some nursing facilities may be reluctant to invite hospice to participate, believing they are capable of providing terminal care without additional help. This may be true, but why not take advantage of the availability of this resource? The Medicare hospice benefit is available to every resident in intermediate nursing care and can be requested by the physician, family or nursing home staff. If hospice is not being used in a particular facility, the physician, family members, or staff might inquire into the reasons so as to open the possibility of discussion and invitation of the hospice team.

## National Healthcare Decisions Day



**Pictured from left to right, Randolph Minter, Director, Moser Funeral Home; Patricia A. Woodward, Attorney; Thomas Tucker, Financial Advisor, Edward Jones Investments; and Robin Johnson, Medical Social Worker with Hospice of the Rapidan.**

On April 16th, the day after tax day, *Hospice of the Rapidan* joined with area financial, legal and funeral professionals to present a pair of free seminars in recognition of National Healthcare Decisions Day. The goal was to help educate our community members about planning ahead for decisions related to healthcare and medical decision making when patients are unable to speak for themselves, and to encourage the use of advance directives to communicate these important decisions.

Following Benjamin Franklin's adage that "nothing is certain but death and taxes," the Virginia State Bar started an initiative in 2006 to make the day after tax returns are due a day for people to increase their awareness of this

important issue and to make it easier for people to learn more about it. In 2007 Governor Kaine proclaimed the day "Virginia Advance Directives Day" and this year, following Virginia's lead, the effort has expanded nationally and has been renamed National Healthcare Decisions Day.

Seminars were held in Lake of the Woods in Orange County and Warrenton in Fauquier County. We are grateful to our co-sponsors and presenters, including Frederick J. Getty, Esq. with Getty & Associates; Ernie Johnson, Director of Johnson Funeral Home; and Richard T. Harrington of Raymond James Financial Services, who presented the seminar in Orange, along with Patricia A. Woodward, Esq.: Thomas Tucker, Financial Advisor with Edward Jones Investments; and Randy Minter, Director of Moser Funeral Home, who presented the Fauquier seminar.

Information about advance planning for important healthcare decisions in the event you cannot speak for yourself and communicating these decisions in a way that will be honored by doctors, hospitals and your family is available on our website at [www.hotr.org/directives.htm](http://www.hotr.org/directives.htm). This page also includes links to some outstanding resources prepared by the Virginia State Bar, including free, easy to complete advance directives forms that meet the requirements of Virginia law. We are also available to answer questions from community members. Just call us at 540.825.4840.

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## Starting Hospice Care Earlier

*continued from pg 1*

Physicians also benefit from earlier referrals, by having skilled hospice professionals help them in the care of their patients when the demands for their time can be great. Physicians can choose to continue to manage and follow patients while they are under hospice care, and hospice physicians are also available to consult when necessary.

The most frequent comment we hear from our patients' families after care has ended (other than "thank you!") is "I wish we had called you sooner." For answers about whether now is the right time to consider hospice or to refer a patient, families and physicians are welcome to call our Medical Director, Dr. Eve Bargmann at 540-825-4840.



### **VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!**

Contact us at [www.hotr.org](http://www.hotr.org)  
or call 540.825.4840

## Calling all Redskin fans!

Having a hard time getting Redskins tickets? Here is your chance to win four premium seats 9 rows behind the Redskins bench on the 40 yard line for the Redskins home game of your choice and support exceptional end-of-life care at the same time!

This is the tenth year in a row that dear friends of *Hospice of the Rapidan* Nancy Garrett, Anne Mattingly and Claire Saint Jacques have generously donated two sets of these tickets to help support our programs. A beloved friend of theirs, Jessie Barton, received hospice care years ago and this is their way of recognizing the difference it made to her and her family.

Raffle tickets are \$25 for three or \$10 each. They may be purchased by mailing in the form enclosed with this issue of *Companion*, by phone at 540.825.4840, online at



hotr.org, at our office, at many area stores, or from many of our staff and volunteers who will carry ticket books with them this summer. Winners will be drawn on Wednesday September 3, at *Hospice of the Rapidan's* offices. Winners need not be present to win. The first winner drawn may choose from any home game of the 2008-2009 season, and the second winner drawn may select from the remaining games.

Proceeds help support the many vital services that are not covered by Medicare or insurance, including *Hospice of the Rapidan's* program of grief care for surviving family and loved ones and our commitment to provide high quality hospice care to all who need it in Culpeper, Fauquier, Madison, Orange and Rappahannock Counties regardless of their ability to pay.

Good Luck!

## Letter From Rose Cornelious—Director of Development



**Rose Cornelious,  
Director of Development**

It is an honor to serve *Hospice of the Rapidan* as Director of Development. I consider it a privilege to lead the fund raising program for a proven organization that has earned an outstanding reputation for service to our community for 25 years. Over that time we have evolved from a few volunteers into the largest hospice serving all our five counties, caring for hundreds of terminally ill patients and their families every year.

Your financial support provides more direct patient benefits than most people realize. First, your contributions make it possible for *Hospice of the Rapidan* to serve the hospice needs of everyone in Culpeper, Fauquier, Orange, Madison and Rappahannock Counties regardless of their ability to pay. We have also always been committed to providing the best possible end-of-life care, even when the costs exceed those for which we are reimbursed by Medicare and insurance. These core components of our mission would not be possible without your continuing support. Contributions also enable us to provide comprehensive grief support services, none of the costs of which are covered by Medicare or other insurance programs. Serving the needs of surviving family members is central to our concept of comprehensive hospice care. Contributions also enable us to be a regional leader in education and information about end of life issues for both the public and medical community.

Few organizations offer donors the opportunity to have their gifts mean so much to those in need as does *Hospice of the*

*Rapidan*. I welcome the opportunity to discuss how your support of *Hospice of the Rapidan* can help ensure that that people in our area continue to receive the best, most compassionate and dignified hospice care available.

On Saturday evening, October 11th, we will celebrate our 25th anniversary with *A Passion for Caring*, a gala evening of dining, dancing and live and silent auctions at the beautiful Inn at Kelly's Ford in Remington. We will honor five outstanding individuals who have demonstrated *A Passion for Caring* throughout our five county region: John J. "Butch" Davis, (Culpeper); Karen Henderson (Fauquier); Delegate Ed Scott (Madison); Clarissa Leggett (Rappahannock) and Dr. Randolph V. Merrick (Orange). Proceeds from this gala will help us continue our proud tradition of providing the best possible end-of-life care to everyone who needs it without regard to financial constraints. To purchase tickets, become a sponsor, or donate an auction item please call me directly at 540-825-4840 before August 20th.

Till next time,  
Rose M. Cornelious  
Director of Development

PS—There are a number of hospice providers who solicit support from area residents. It is easy to become confused because the names tend to sound alike. While other hospices are also highly regarded and provide excellent care, only *Hospice of the Rapidan* is dedicated to providing the best possible end-of-life care to every resident of Culpeper, Fauquier, Madison, Orange and Rappahannock Counties.