

❖ Virgie Hegg Hospice Partners, Inc. ❖

Membership Newsletter

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Spring Issue 2007

Membership drive 2007

Each year Virgie Hegg Hospice Partners, Inc. holds a membership drive as part of its second largest fundraiser of the year. Becoming a member is easy. Simply fill out the membership application in this newsletter and mail it to PO Box 244, Cook MN 55723, along with your tax deductible gift of \$15 for single membership, \$25 for family or a one time donation of \$100 entitles you to lifetime membership.

What does being a member of Virgie Hegg Hospice Partners, Inc. mean? By becoming a member you will receive copies of the membership newsletter published twice yearly, and are invited to the annual membership meeting usually held the first Monday in June. The monetary donation will support the goals of Virgie Hegg Hospice Partners, Inc.

What are the goals of Virgie Hegg Hospice Partners, Inc. one might ask? The first goal is to offer financial assistance to families in the SMDC Hospice program for items that are not covered under traditional insurances. Virgie Hegg Hospice Partners, Inc. also strives to raise awareness of the availability of hospice in our area and encourage the use of a hospice program when needed. VHHP also offers support to SMDC staff by providing funding to attend hospice related conferences or seminars so that they may keep up to date with latest information in hospice care. VHHP also works to promote health care careers to area youth by offering three scholarships annually to local youth.

Virgie Hegg Hospice Partners, Inc. would like to take this opportunity to thank all of our past supporters. Your charity throughout the years has been deeply appreciated not only by the board members, but most importantly by those families that have been touched by your overwhelming generosity.

Spring is a time for renewal and we encourage those of you who are past members to renew your membership in Virgie Hegg Hospice Partners, Inc. and encourage new members to fill out the membership form and send in your donation.

Donation Updates

Although Medicare, Medicaid and private insurance do cover hospice care, there are many necessities that are not covered under these plans. Virgie Hegg Hospice Partners, Inc. is willing to make donations to hospice patients for items such as incontinence supplies and nutritional supplements. These items are generally not covered under traditional insurances but are necessary for patients to remain at home. VHHP has covered the expense of these supplies for numerous patients in our area.

Another item that has proven to be vital for families is a Lifeline alert. This very important service allows a patient to stay in the home and gives the families peace of mind that if needed, the patient can get medical emergency services with the touch of a button.

Several patients in our area have been able to receive massage therapy to aid in the relief of pain and stress. The patients that have received these services have been extremely grateful.

Even simple gifts to families such as gift cards for gas and groceries or to a store to purchase items they need are so deeply appreciated. One family wrote to say that they felt the gift card was so kind and thoughtful they will never forget the kindness they felt.

(Donation update continued on page 2)

•**Donation Updates** continued from page 1

The SMDC staff and volunteers work very closely with the families of hospice patients. When they see a need for something they will contact VHHP. On one occasion, a daughter was unable to attend her mother's funeral. SMDC made a request to help defer the cost of airfare in this particular instance. VHHP board members voted to help with this expense in order for the whole family to begin the healing process.

Virgie Hegg Hospice Partners, Inc. continues to support the staff of SMDC. Recently, a teleconference was held offering continuing education credits dealing specifically with hospice issues. VHHP was able to make a contribution so that SMDC staff was able to participate.

Virgie Hegg Hospice Partners, Inc. also encourages area youth to pursue careers in the health care field by offering three scholarships each year. One \$500 scholarship is awarded to a graduating senior from both the Cook and Orr High Schools and one is offered to a current college student wishing to pursue a career in the medical field.

2006 Scholarship Winners

Philip Mlaker was the recipient of the 2006 scholarship from the Cook High School. Currently Philip is pursuing his studies to become a Pharmacist at the University of Minnesota Duluth. Philip became interested in a career in pharmacy while working part time after school at the Cook Hospital pharmacy as a pharmacy technician. He graduated at the top of his class from the



Cook High School and is continuing to excel at UMD. He maintained a 3.762 GPA this past fall while taking classes in chemistry, calculus and psychology.



Ashley Franks was the 2006 recipient of the VHHP scholarship from the Orr High School. Ashley is also attending the University of Minnesota Duluth, where she has taken classes in chemistry, public speaking, economics and algebra and continues to hold a GPA of 3.688.

The first recipient of the \$500 scholarship for a current college student was Lacey Sarazine. Lacey is attending the College of St. Scholastica in Duluth and is pursuing a career in nursing.

Congratulations to these area youth and good luck in your futures.

Girl Scouts and Hospice

In 2004 Amy Palmer for her Gold Award Girl Scout project organized and planned a Community Concert to benefit the Cook Food Shelf and to make comfort baskets for hospice patients.



Amy decided to use the benefits of the concert for hospice patients because of the positive experience she and her family had while they were caring for her Uncle Greg,

who was a hospice patient. She felt so touched by the hospice experience, she wanted to give something back. She also chose to have the admission of the concert be a food shelf item. By doing this, her community concert could benefit two worthwhile causes.

The first concert was a huge success. Now it has become an annual event. Each year the

participation in the event has grown. Amy and her mother Tammy have headed this event each year. There is a great deal of planning and behind the scenes work to make sure the concert runs smoothly.

During the intermission of the concert donations are taken so Amy can raise money to buy supplies to make comfort baskets for hospice patients. These baskets contain a variety of items such as lotions, shampoo, cribbage boards, puzzle books, chapstick, back scratchers, cotton swabs. The baskets are approximately a \$30 value.

The baskets are given to SMDC East Range Hospice Team to distribute to hospice patients. The staff at SMDC is very grateful they are able to distribute these baskets and see the joy it brings families at such a difficult time in their lives. Amy and Tammy have often received thank you cards from the patients and their families expressing their gratitude for such a generous gift.

Christina Pierce of the Embarrass area is another outstanding individual. For her Gold Award Girl Scout project she was inspired by her love of quilting. She organized donations and local volunteers and taught them how to quilt. Volunteers gathered at the school and she taught how to cut the fabric and assemble the quilts. These quilts were then donated to the SMDC East Range Hospice and Palliative Team.

Virgie Hegg Hospice Partners, Inc. would like to thank these two young ladies for incorporating hospice into their Gold Award projects.

2007 Annual Membership Meeting

Virgie Hegg Hospice Partners, Inc. will hold their Annual Membership Meeting in June at the lake home of Verdella Musech. All members, including those who have recently joined are invited to attend this meeting. This

is a very important meeting. New board members are elected, the officers are elected, and committees are formed. We reflect on the past year's successes and where there is room for improvement. We look forward into the coming year in anticipation of what we can continue to do and what more we can do to fulfill our goals. The meeting is accompanied by a pot luck dinner. If you would like to attend this meeting, contact a board member for more details.

Contact Information

Virgie Hegg Hospice Partners, Inc.

PO Box 244

Cook, MN 55723

Program Director

Theresa Redmond

vhpdirector@yahoo.com

218-666-5971

Board of Directors

Chairperson

Marge Herr

666-5464

marge_herr@yahoo.com

Vice-Chairperson

Karen McDermott

Secretary

Wendy Appleby

Treasurer

Marlene Lundquist

Members at Large

Char Jacobson

Jim Ganahl

Margaret Edblom

Marge Hyppa

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Barb Wilson

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Honorary Board

Erling Hegg

Kathy Leding

Virgie Hegg Hospice Partners, Inc.
P.O. Box 244
Cook, MN 55723

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To:



Please clip here & mail in to VHHP Membership, PO Box 244, Cook, MN 55723

Virgie Hegg Hospice Partners, Inc.

2007 MEMBERSHIP FORM

Members receive a personal copy of the Newsletter, the Annual Report, invitation to the Annual Meeting Dinner in June, and our appreciation for their support. All donations are income tax-deductible.

Categories: RENEWAL Individual \$15/year Family \$25/yr
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