

## UHF Sponsors the Hospice Foundation of America's National Grief Teleconference

The United Hospice Foundation will be sponsoring the Hospice Foundation of America's Ninth Annual National Living With Grief Video Teleconference on Wednesday, April 24, 2002 from 1:30 p.m.— 4:00 p.m. in four northeast Georgia cities.

Annually, the Hospice Foundation of America produces the National Living With Grief Teleconference. This live-via-satellite televised broadcast is simultaneously downlinked to satellite dishes all over the country. This year's theme is *Living With Grief: Loss in Later Life*. The teleconference will examine the needs and barriers faced by our aging population and explore ways that professionals can more effectively assist those coping with the range of losses found in later life. The information in this program will be of use to a variety of professionals that deal with aging and loss issues— hospice workers, nurses, physicians, nursing home administrators, health care aides, clergy, funeral directors, counselors and social workers. While geared for professionals, family caregivers and other laypeople will also find a great deal of helpful information.

Cokie Roberts of ABC News will moderate the teleconference. The panel will include George Blackwell, DMin, Pastor of the Good Neighbor Baptist Church in Newark, NJ; Kenneth J. Doka, PhD, Lutheran Minister and Professor of Gerontology at the College of New Rochelle; Robert Butler, MD, CEO, International Longevity Center; Patricia Kelley, CRNH, Clinical Director, Montgomery Hospice; Miriam Moss, MA, of the Philadelphia Geriatric Center; Phyllis Rolfe Silverman, PhD, MSS, Associate in Social Welfare at Massachusetts General Hospital and Harvard Medical School; and J.R. Williams, MD, President, Foundation for End of Life Care.

The teleconference will be followed locally by a short discussion program, led by a qualified grief & bereavement facilitator.

The public is encouraged to attend the teleconference at any one of these locations:

- Athens Technical College —Elberton Campus  
Adult Learning Center, Room 307, 1370 Athens Hwy, Elberton, GA
- Pioneer RESA  
Computer training lab, 1342 Highway 254, Cleveland, GA
- North Georgia Technical College—Clarkesville Campus  
Clegg Center Auditorium, Hwy 197 N, Clarkesville, GA
- Gwinnett Technical College  
Building 100, Room H1.6—Quality Center, 5150 Sugarloaf Parkway, Lawrenceville, GA

**For more information, or to RSVP, please call the United Hospice Foundation at (800) 443-4788.**

## Our Mission

The United Hospice Foundation will work with communities to prepare and promote activities that raise public awareness and understanding of end-of-life issues. ♦ We will advance the hospice philosophy so more people living with life-limiting illness and their families can find comfort care. ♦ We will make grief and bereavement support available for those suffering from loss. ♦ We will provide the information and resources necessary to stimulate end-of-life discussions among family members to assist them in the development of advance directives. ♦ And, we will work with healthcare providers to develop ways to ensure patients' end-of-life wishes are realized. ♦ We will be guided by the highest level of ethical and moral values as we develop, manage and grant support for this cause.



## HCECG Annual Conference

*First Do No Harm* is one of the most frequently quoted tenets in the medical ethics literature. Surely, health care professionals keep this duty foremost and fundamental to the goal of benefiting the patient and the community. Yet in this era of health care, it is not always clear when benefit is achieved, when "costs" or burdens to the patient are justified, when burdens or lack of benefit becomes a harm, and when harm that occurs in the course of care crosses a line and becomes a wrong. In situations in which the course of treatment or its consequences is burdensome, undesirable, unanticipated, or disappointing, has "harm" actually occurred? How do we balance obligations to individuals versus to communities? What ought our response be when harm is produced by the very system that cares?

In an attempt to address some of these issues Health Care Ethics Consortium of Georgia will be hosting its annual conference, "Causing Harm in the Name of Doing Good," on April 23–24, 2002 at Simpsonwood Conference and Retreat Center in Norcross. Starting with a presentation on the meaning of causing harm, this conference will feature several aspects of today's healthcare environment where harm occurs and how we may begin to address these situations. The second day of the conference will focus on quality of life and end of life care through the description of programs and resources that address end of life care and the ethical decisions that patients, families and health care professionals face.

For more information or to access registration information, visit [www.hcecg.org](http://www.hcecg.org) or call Kim Gardner at 404-727-1476.



## Tidbits...

- ♦ In January 2002 the United Hospice Foundation unveiled its new identity. Look for the new mauve and green butterfly in your community to identify Foundation projects.
- ♦ The United Hospice Foundation is always looking for volunteers to help with office work and community projects. If you would like to donate some of your time, please call Maureen McCarthy at 800-443-4788.
- ♦ The United Hospice Foundation is placing change collection boxes in businesses and healthcare facilities throughout the state. The hope is that visitors will drop their spare change into the box to support the work of the Foundation. Every little bit adds up! If your business would like to participate in this program by displaying a change collector in your lobby, please call the Foundation at 800-443-4788 for more information.
- ♦ Don't forget to sign up for the Foundation's Golf Tournament on Thursday, May 23 at Brasstown Valley Resort. Look in this newsletter for more information or call 800-443-4788.



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## A Promise

"We made an agreement," remembered Brooke Blake of a discussion he had with his late wife, Ann. "I promised her she wouldn't die alone."

I could tell he loved her more than anything in the world because there was a spark in his eye when he talked about her. Brooke is a man, probably in his 60s, with an award-winning smile, a zest for life, and the capability to stay positive even when bad things happen. I only spent an hour of time with him, but he made me feel comfortable immediately. And he seemed comfortable with his recent past, as he talked about his wife and the ordeal she went through for the last two years of her life.

Ann Blake had spent her life as a caregiver. She dropped out of high school to take care of her mother who had fallen ill. She raised five children, two boys and three girls, and was a proud grandma of ten, including Jake, who was born just three months before she died. Ann had also run an in-home day care center. Over the years, more than 75 moms trusted Ann to take care of their infants as they headed back to work. Ann knew exactly how to calm and assure the moms that everything would be all right.

And everything was all right. For more than forty years, Ann and her high school sweetheart shared their lives together. Brooke, being an old FBI man, would bring her to parties with his colleagues and their wives. She always knew how to handle herself and would weave stories about her life as a "pediatric nurse", as her FBI friends told tales of their great adventures.

Ann loved to cook. She made the best Sauerbraten. And gosh darn it, the whole family wishes they would have had her write down her recipe for their favorite breakfast—creamed chipped beef over biscuits.

In October 1999, Brooke and Ann moved out of their Dunwoody home, which they had spent 30 years of their life in. They moved to Lake Lanier, where Ann was living her dream. She loved the water and the peacefulness it brought. But only two short months after the move, Ann found a lump in her breast and her fight for life began.

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Ann and Brooke Blake



## A Promise continued from front page

Ann was diagnosed with breast cancer. And for two years she endured chemotherapy, radiation treatments, and a mastectomy. For a while, the cancer did go into remission, but the break was short lived. The cancer had spread to her bones. "Through this whole ordeal, Ann had a very positive attitude," said Brooke. "She lived on hope and was confident that she would be well."

But as the medical treatments began to wear her down, Ann decided to give up her chemotherapy. Her doctor then discussed hospice care with her as an alternative. Ann learned that hospice care seeks to enable patients to carry on an alert, pain-free life and to manage other symptoms so that their last days may be spent with dignity and quality at home or in a home-like setting. Ann still had a lot to do, like seeing her grandchild, Jake, be born, so she decided to try it.

Ann entered the United Hospice program in Gainesville in November 2001. At first, she had in-home care. Brooke and her family helped her at home with the support of nurses, aides, social workers and others from United Hospice. "Ann had total confidence in the care she was receiving," said Brooke.

As the cancer progressed, Ann had to be admitted to Peachtree Christian Hospice, United Hospice's inpatient unit. Brooke decorated Ann's room with pictures and flowers to make it seem more like home. And the staff worked with the family to inform them about what they could expect during Ann's final days. They also coached Brooke on the arrangements he could make ahead of time to alleviate some of the stress when Ann passed. "They provided us with a total approach to dying," said Brooke. "And that made Ann feel at peace. It was comforting to her that she knew how she was going to die—with dignity and on her own terms."

On Friday, December 21, 2001, Ann did just that. Brooke was sitting beside her, holding her hand, keeping his promise as she took her last breath and was gone.

*Since this article was written, Brooke lost his oldest son as well. And as seen before, he continues to find the positive in tragedy. Our hearts and prayers at the Foundation go out to Brooke and his family.*

*Written by Maureen McCarthy*



*Ann & Brooke Blake with their grandchildren*

## UHF Hosts Golf Outing at Brasstown Valley

Enjoy a beautiful day in the mountains playing golf, winning prizes, and supporting a good cause. The United Hospice Foundation invites you to support its mission by sponsoring golfers to participate in the first-ever United Hospice Foundation Golf Outing at Brasstown Valley Resort in Young Harris, Georgia.

**THURSDAY, MAY 23, 2002  
BRASSTOWN VALLEY RESORT**

Registration Opens . . . . 10:30 am  
Box Lunch Served . . . . 11:30 am  
Tee Off (Shotgun Start) . . . . Noon

### PRIZES

10,000 Hole-in-One Prize  
Prizes for first-place team in each flight  
Longest Drive — Men & Women  
Closest To The Pin — Men & Women  
Every golfer receives a "goodie bag" and box lunch.

### SPONSORSHIPS

Individual Golfer . . . . . \$125  
Foursome . . . . . \$500  
Longest Drive (Women's & Men's)  
Sponsors . . . . . \$125 each  
Closest to the Pin (Women's & Men's)  
Sponsors . . . . . \$125 each  
Hole Sponsor . . . . . \$500  
Hole-in-One Sponsor . . . . . \$750  
Hole Sponsor & 4 Golfers . . . . . \$1,000

Please call the United Hospice Foundation (800-443-4788) for more information or to sign up. Help us make this event a success!



## Imagine... For A Moment... The Unimaginable

There was an accident... your loved one made it through, but she's in a coma with little chance of recovery. The doctors tell you she may live a long time, maybe years, if she is fed through a tube. Without it, she'll die in a matter of days. And you're the one who has to decide.

What would you do? Would you know if your loved one would want that kind of medical care? ... Or not?

Many Georgians face agonizing decisions like these every day; sooner or later, it could happen to you. That's why it's important to talk about your wishes with the people who will have to make health care decisions for you when you no longer can.

In talking with people across the country, a respected nonprofit group called Georgia Health Decisions learned that Americans share a greater fear of how they will die than of death itself. Medical technology has given us the ability to extend... even prolong... life, yet it has left us at odds with a system that doesn't support our ideal concept of dying, nor are the tools we have in place, such as living wills, adequate for us to manage the dying experience. Now, through a program called CRITICAL Conditions<sup>SM</sup>, citizens in your area can get informative, easy-to-use information to help you and your loved ones make more informed decisions about health care at the end of life.

The United Hospice Foundation has been working in Franklin, Habersham, Rabun, and Stephens Counties for the last three months, getting backing and support for CRITICAL Conditions<sup>SM</sup>. The program makes the CRITICAL Conditions<sup>SM</sup> Planning Guide available, a discussion tool that uses real-life scenarios to help people talk about their health care choices with family members and record their wishes using a new type of living will document called a "Directive For Final Health Care." The program also provides workshops that explain the topic in more detail and help you understand how to use the Planning Guide to your best advantage, and trained Community Counselors who can help you and your family talk about the issues and make better-informed decisions.

Representatives from healthcare, government, business and industry have formed a task force, are receiving training, and are planning ways in which to spread the word throughout your community about CRITICAL Conditions<sup>SM</sup>. If you or your organization would like to take part in the program, please contact the United Hospice Foundation at (800) 443-4788.

*Thank you to the following people who have taken an active role in this CRITICAL Conditions<sup>SM</sup> Task Force:*

- Tracy Adams, Hand In Hand Home Health
- Diana Dahlymple, Toccoa Clinic
- Harry McDonald, MD
- Cynthia Brown, Toccoa-Stephens County Chamber of Commerce
- Dee DeFoor, Stephens County Hospital
- Marie Morse, City of Toccoa
- Lisa Graham, Amedisys Home Health
- Bobbi Rees, Stephens County Hospital
- Tisha Brotherton, Hand In Hand Home Health
- Jan Hill, United Hospice
- Louise Scott, Stephens County Schools
- Karen Caudell, UHS-Pruitt Corporation
- Hayley Knight, Senior Center
- Sharon Thomason, Medi-Home Care
- Carole Lake, Coats North American
- Richard Vaughn, GA Farm Bureau Insurance Company
- Sheila Canupp, Housing Authority
- Tabor McCoy, The Legacy Link

## Kennesaw State University Students Benefit From Hospice Rotation!

Junior nursing students enrolled at Kennesaw State University are spending two days at various hospices in and around the north Georgia area. The experience begins with an orientation to hospice conducted on campus, which consists of an introduction to hospice philosophy, eligibility criteria, settings, palliative care concepts and the role of the professional nurse. Then each student spends two days with hospice nurses, making rounds in residential facilities and going along for home visits.

The hospices involved in this program are United Hospice, Community Hospice of Rome, Haven House Hospice, Hospice Atlanta and WellStar Community Hospice. Students report seeing a different side of life and experiencing the normalcy of death. Students come away from the experience with a good understanding of the benefits of hospice and it changes their perspective. They say the "nurses are great teachers" that "show them a new way of caring". Dr. Lois Robley, Ph.D., R.N., coordinator of the adult health class in which this experience resides states "we honor the partnership that we have with these loyal friends and respect their willingness, year after year, to teach our students. We know that somewhere over time patients, their families, and nurses will benefit from the knowledge our graduates have about hospice."



## How Can You Help?

The United Hospice Foundation is an independent, non-profit organization that depends on contributions from the community to fulfill its mission. We always appreciate:

- Volunteer Time
- Cash Gifts
- Memorial Gifts (in lieu of flowers at a funeral)
- In-Kind Gifts
- Deferred Gifts
- Gifts of Property
- Wills & Bequests

Call the United Hospice Foundation, Inc. at (770) 925-4788 or (800) 443-4788 for more information regarding your giving options. A United Hospice Foundation representative would be pleased to discuss these opportunities with you. Or, clip out the coupon below and send it with your gift to...

**The United Hospice Foundation, 3945 Lawrenceville Highway, Lilburn, GA 30047**

I would like to pledge my support of the United Hospice Foundation and its mission. I will contribute \$\_\_\_\_\_ every  month  quarter  six months  year for the next \_\_\_\_\_ years.

I would prefer to support the United Hospice Foundation with the enclosed one-time gift of \$\_\_\_\_\_.

Please send me more information about  becoming a volunteer  including United Hospice Foundation in my/our will  other giving options  hospice  advance directives  grief support

today's date: \_\_\_\_\_ name: \_\_\_\_\_

address: \_\_\_\_\_

city: \_\_\_\_\_ state: \_\_\_\_\_ zip: \_\_\_\_\_

phone: (\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ e-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

This gift is  in memory of  in honor of \_\_\_\_\_ (tribute name)

## Your Board of Directors & Staff



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