Bob Dylan’s classic song could have been written about our Volunteer Services Department, where change is the word of the day—new faces, a new store and new ideas abound. Change is what life is all about, so let’s welcome the new as we offer a bittersweet goodbye to Kathy Berning, our Director of six years.

Super Send-Off

The Education Center was filled with volunteers, colleagues and former employees, including Alice Privett, President/CEO (1993-2009), Bob Fuller, Mary Ann Barrata, Joan Jackabon, Carla Collins, Lexie Anderson and Richard Palmer, who gathered to bid Kathy Berning a fond farewell. Kathy’s many contributions, insights and leadership in the Volunteer Services Department will be deeply felt as she enters the next phase of life. Kathy and her husband, Bob, are looking forward to spending more time together, playing golf and enjoying their three children and seven grandchildren. Her first vacation is a trip to Kansas City in late May to help care for four of the grandchildren for 10 days. Some retirement!

Connie Storms Named New Director

After an exhaustive search, Connie Storms has accepted the position of Director of Volunteer Services, effective May 29.

“I cannot tell you how thrilled I am to be joining the team at Hospice of Marion County,” says Connie. “Everywhere I went in Ocala, from getting my background check to setting up utilities, people were so enthusiastic and supportive of this organization—looks like I will need a “business-sized” promo card about volunteering!”

Connie comes to us with a wealth of experience in the not-for-profit world, primarily with the United Way. She was executive director for the Fort Madison, Iowa, chapter for nine years. During that time, she worked closely with the volunteer

Joyful Hands Spread Joy at the Legacy House

The Joyful Hands quilting group from Joy Lutheran Church delivered 16 beautiful handmade quilts to Legacy House patients. The group meets every Wednesday morning and, just in the last year, has donated some 160 quilts worldwide through the Lutheran World relief program. Jennie Halvorsen, a Hospice volunteer and church member, encouraged the group to gift some quilts to Legacy House, which is just down the road.

(Note: Connie, our new Director, is a quilter in her free time!)

Nothing says “Cozy” like a handmade Quilt

Georgia Adams, Joyful Hands coordinator (left) and Jennie Halvorsen display quilts in front of the Tree of Life.
A patriotic theme was the backdrop for the record crowd at the Annual Volunteer Recognition and Service Awards Luncheon on April 12, 2012 to recognize more than 80 volunteers celebrating 5, 10 and 15 years of service. The red, white and blue theme included guest speaker Trey Adams, flight coordinator for the Ocala Honor Flight. Also honored were the President’s Service Awardees, who dedicated 500+ hours of service during 2011 and the President’s Lifetime Achievement Awardees, each of whom have given more than 4,000 hours of service to Hospice of Marion County.

President’s Service Awardees—Gold Level
Pictured left to right: Dorothy Zucks, Isabel Villoria, Pat Moses, Joan Fiorentino, Kathleen Cap and Charles Vermeulen. (Not present: Wilma Spink.)

Volunteer Services staffers Chantay Paugh and Mike West greet the volunteers.

Mark Your Calendar
for the next volunteer quarterly luncheon on June 5, 2012, 12 noon, Hospice Education Center. Our featured guest speaker will be Dean Blinkhorn, editor of the Ocala's Good Life Magazine.

Your personal invitation is in the mail!
At the Awards Luncheon, Isabel Villoria was presented with the Thomas Cartwright Award for her exemplary volunteer service since becoming a Hospice volunteer in 2000. Fondly known as “Isy,” she is a respected and valued member of the Jasmine Square Thrift Store team, showing off the merchandise at right.

Isy also belongs to the WellCheck group of volunteers who call hospice patients every Thursday morning to assure they have all the supplies and medications they need for the weekend. Kudos to Isy—a deserving recipient of this prestigious award given by Hospice of Marion County every two years.

Our new staff joins long-timers, Rob Metzler, courier, and John Pockalny, administrative assistant.

Who’s New in Volunteer Services

Chantay Paugh, Volunteer Assistant
After working for two years in the Bereavement Department, Chantay is well-versed in the hospice culture. She joined us in January and graduated May 12 with a Bachelor’s Degree in Business Administration-Management from St. Leo University.

Mike West, Merchandising Manager
Mike has extensive merchandising and non-profit business experience. Since his arrival in January, he has been challenged with the exciting opening of the new Summerfield Thrift Store, slated for a June grand opening. Under the reorganization, Mike now reports to Bruce Chancellor, Facilities Management Director.

Paul Barrata, Courier
When Bob Fuller retired last year, the famous on-the-road team of Rob & Bob was no more, but former Volunteer Assistant Mary Ann Baratta’s son came to the rescue. Paul came on last October and is a wonderful addition and is keeping our hospice “family” intact.

New Director...continued from page 1

corps, recruiting and supervising volunteer activities. One innovative program she developed during her tenure was aimed at helping disabled and vocational/rehabilitation clients. She has a wide array of leadership, communication and fundraising expertise.

While caring for both her aging parents for more than 10 years, Connie became well-acquainted with hospice, which helped with her mother’s care. (See quote at right.)

Her education includes a BS in chemistry, and then an MS in nutrition from Iowa State University, where she was a scholarship recipient and a member of the Honor Society. Thinking her career would be in medical research, she found that she soon tired of lab rats in favor of people and went on to earn another master’s degree in management with an emphasis on not-for-profit organizations.

Welcome, Connie, to your new “family!”

“We brought my mother to my sister’s house for her final days, and were so happy to have the help of Hospice care. Hospice provided the graduated care we needed as we needed it, instructing us on the advancing challenges we faced as she became bed-bound. We especially appreciated the information they provided about what to expect in the next stage of her journey.”

Connie Storms
Ensuring Our Financial Future While Protecting Yours

**Hospice of Marion County** was founded back in 1983 by a dedicated handful of individuals whose passion was to ensure the provision of comfort care. Over the years, many have created such legacies by bestowing monetary gifts. Today, numerous avenues are available by which you, too, can ensure our future while we continue to provide compassionate care for generations to come. The Monarch Society has been established to recognize these donors.

Recognition of your generosity inspires others to follow by example. Currently, we are constructing the list of our legacy builders and wish to recognize these significant individuals during our Inaugural Appreciation Luncheon to be held on October 19, 2012.

You can become a member of the Society by naming Hospice of Marion County in your will, life insurance policy beneficiary or retirement plan beneficiary, or by making a life income gift (such as charitable gift annuity, charitable remainder trust, or charitable lead trust). Membership is voluntary, without obligation, and you will not be solicited in any fashion, other than to say thank you!

For more information regarding the Monarch Society or to be added to our Inaugural List, please contact Jennifer Harmon at (352) 291-5143 or e-mail JHarmon@hospiceofmarion.com.

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**New Volunteers** Since September 2011, we have welcomed 63 new volunteers:

- Vernon Allen
- Lexie Anderson
- Will Baker-Palenik
- Patricia Betts
- Pamela Blawie
- Linda Cohen
- Bob Corby
- Phyllis Cottle
- Sav Doni
- Hannah Donnelly
- Dan Durant
- Iris Edwards
- Richard Feller
- Jean Fernandez
- Pat Galvin
- Karen Gold
- Michael Graff
- Darlene Gravish
- Donna Gwin
- Marie Haar
- Betty Hayden
- Sue Henry
- Debbye Hilfiker
- Arne Holm
- Barbara Holm
- Sue Holman
- Mary Huff
- Ann Highey
- Phil Jacoby
- Dallas Johnson
- Kathy Keenan
- Mary Knight
- Sandy Lambert
- Laurie Lieberum
- Heather Lawton
- Karen Maffeo
- Terry Markins
- Lilly Novello
- Joanne Penny
- Dianne Phillips
- Ruth Overdorf
- Jim Prentice
- Ruth Prentice
- Kayla Range
- Grace Reichart
- Ann Robinson
- Ellender Sahr
- Paula Shira
- Judie Smith
- Suzie Socier
- Karen Spiero
- Mary Stimson
- Beth Turner
- Judith Turco
- George Van Hoorebeke
- Deborah Weber
- Karen Wells
- Jackie Wild
- Nancy Wilson
- Barbara Wood
- Art Woodstone
- Greg Youngblood
- Nancy Zielinski