



*Solace House*  
OF THE OZARKS

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## A special word from our Chairman

*Recently I had the privilege of giving a “guided tour” of Solace House. I watched, first hand, this visitor take in the beauty of Solace House leaving them in surprise and awe as they described the “at home feel” of SHOTO.*

*As we journeyed down the hallway, the mood of the visitor seemed to change. We observed a volunteer engaging with a newly arrived guest as his hospice provider adjusted pain medication. We went into the office and saw the electronics in place providing safety, efficiency, and operations to run smoothly. A second guest was observed sleeping in the other family room. I asked the visitor what was being experienced. The visitor replied that there seemed a reverence centering around the guest with loving care being provided.*

*The visitor was extremely impressed and amazed with the house; but more so with the volunteer serving that day. I discussed the responsibilities of the volunteers, the involvement of the hospice providers, and the goal of caring for a guest of Solace House. We discussed current needs, some goals, and some dreams for the house including being able to serve more guests at once.*

*My opportunity to give a “guided tour” that day is only one of many that have taken place. I must ask: have you had your tour yet? Have you seen first-hand the house and the care given there? Would you consider volunteering? Do you feel led to contribute to Solace House? Finances are always appreciated. There are many opportunities for service!*

*For those who have already visited and are contributing in some way, please accept from me a heartfelt word of thanks! Your interest, involvement, contributions, and prayers mean so much as we remain dedicated to serving families at an extremely critical time of life.*

Sincerely,

Johnie Adkins

# SOLACE HOUSE OF THE OZARKS BIRTH RECORD

By Susan Lincoln

During the year of 2017, I attended the **Leadership Academy**, a product of **Leading Age International**, for a year-long educational journey. The group of around 45 people were from all over the United States and had careers in the senior living industry. In fact, **Leading Age International** deals exclusively with senior living issues. At the end of that year of travel to Boston, Chicago, Washington D.C., Los Angeles and New Orleans, taking tours of cutting edge and innovative approaches to Senior Living facilities, reading several books, engaging in in-depth discussions, hearing lectures concerning all issues pertaining to seniors from well-known speakers, doctors and authors, we were individually tasked with designing a project that would impact our entire communities back home. As the time of our graduation was approaching, each of us was to submit our plan. I was struggling with the plan I had originally intended to delve into.....it just wouldn't "gel" in my mind. So I went in to my Executive Director's office and asked him (Scott King) his opinion. After I stated my dilemma, he, being a man of few words, simply said, "Hospice care.....it has some gaps!"

I didn't know anything about hospice care at that time. I had not been closely, personally involved with anyone in that situation up to that point in my life. My Dad had passed away but not under hospice care. However, as LifeStyle Coordinator at Spring River Christian Village I had seen great suffering among some of my residents as they tried to cope financially, emotionally and physically with a dying spouse, even though they were contracted with a hospice company. **There was a gap that needed a remedy.**

Graduation was in October of 2017. I decided that after the holidays, I would start calling the hospice companies that I knew about and see if someone would like to work on this project with me. It was obviously going to take more than one person to make this happen. So, in January, I started calling folks and leaving messages on their machines. One lady called me back. Leisa Matthews. She said she

would love to get together and talk about how to find a way to fill in the gaps that folks find themselves in during those last days/weeks of hospice care.

So our first lunch meeting was scheduled. In the meantime, Megan Spiering from Freeman called me and said....."We've heard about your project. Have you considered the **social model**?" I didn't have any idea what that was, so I began to look it up. I found that the flagship for the Social Model End-of-Life Care Home is in Tulsa, OK. *Clarehouse*. Both Leisa and my employers were gracious enough to let us have the day off, and we went to Tulsa and toured *Clarehouse*, meeting with the Executive Director, Kelley Scott and Executive Assistant, Britni Smith. We were pumped when we left there! Wow! This is exactly what our region needed!

A couple days after we returned, Britni from *Clarehouse* called me and asked if we knew a lady named Sandy Hughes. She relayed the fact that Sandy had recently lost her husband and had made a visit to *Clarehouse* to find out about it and the social model they followed, saying that this region really needed one of these homes. Britni said, "Sandy is someone who would be great on your team!" Well....truer words were never spoken! Immediately, Leisa, Sandy and I met for a lunch meeting. Having Sandy join Leisa and me was like pouring gasoline on an already pretty hefty fire! *Whoosh!*

**God was putting His plan in place for our region!**

Leisa had years of hospice care experience, knowing all the "ins and outs", the rules, the insurance issues....just everything about the hospice business. Leisa saw firsthand day in and day out the struggles families have with the end-of-life issues. She knew the facts and the "lay of the land" and how to negotiate through the maze.

Sandy had grown up here. She and her husband worked here, raised their family here. Sandy either went to school with, worked with or was related to nearly everyone in this whole region! And Sandy had been the primary caregiver as her husband

passed and had received amazing help from their hospice company. Her soft heart was “right there.” Her first hand immediate experience was “red hot”!

I was completely inexperienced with hospice but was determined to learn all I could about it AND to complete a task I had been given.....”*create something that will make a positive difference in this region.*”

So we called and emailed everyone we could think of who might be interested in helping. We had about 20-25 people at our next meeting where we found out that numerous entities, doctors, hospitalists, etc had been thinking for some time that the Joplin region needed something like this.

***God had already clearly been at work.***

Seeds had been planted all around the community before we three “girls” met. Those at that gathering, called and talked to many others.

Our next meeting would have a special speaker, Kelley Scott from Tulsa. This gathering had around 50 in attendance. Doctors, nurses, nurse practitioners, hospice workers, and many other professionals from all walks of life across the entire community. At the end of that session, after Kelley had finished speaking, we said, “So now, if any of you are ready to roll up your sleeves and join with us in making this happen here in our community, stay for a brief meeting as we begin setting up a Board of Trustees. About 15-20 stayed. We organized ourselves to begin our task. And the rest is history!



(Pictured left to right) Susan Lincoln, Sandy Hughes, and Leisa Matthews

**Summer of 2018**  
**Original Board of Trustees**

- Susan Lincoln – Chairman
- Leisa Matthews – Vice-Chairman
- Sandy Hughes – Secretary
- Margie Myers - Treasurer
- Amanda Bearden
- Lynne Duffield
- Cortnee Eaton
- Dr. Adam Fahrenholtz
- Roger Flint
- Lana Nelson
- Megan Spiering
- Kelley Wheeler



## Community Outreach News



(Pictured left) On May 24th, Solace hosted a brunch for Gentiva Hospice. We hope to continue inviting area agencies to show appreciation for their dedicated employees who support our mission.



(Pictured above) Mayor Doug Lawson, former classmate of Sandy Hughes, toured Solace House on June 2nd. He and Mona discussed house operations.



(Bottom left) Alisa Schultz traveled from Bolivar, MO on June 6th to experience our house operations with Mona. Bolivar Hospice Faith Care has become part of the Omega Home Network.



(Pictured below) Members of Give 5 tour Solace for the second time on June 14th to check our services and to potentially become new volunteers. Solace feels blessed to be selected to partner with Give 5, in conjunction with the Area Agency on Aging and United Way-Southwest Mo.



(Pictured middle from left to right) Cortnee Eaton and Marci Stoebel visit the Solace House booth at Joplin Senior High School gym for Health, Benefits & Retail Therapy Expo on August 4th.



(Pictured left) Sandy had the pleasure of interviewing Susie Bevan, Development Officer, at HopeWestCO.org in Grand Junction, CO. HopeWest is a (501c3) just like Solace House serving the needs of hospice guests. They have 1,200 volunteers and governed by a Board of Directors. HopeWest was founded in 1993. Hospice teams serve in both homes and facilities.



# Introducing the New Teen Growth Track Program

SHOTO is pleased to welcome our newest volunteers in the Teen Growth Track Program. This is a wonderful opportunity of learning and growth for teens 14 and older who want to help others and learn more about hospice. Working under strict supervision of a qualified volunteer, teens are allowed to provide basic caregiving support to the guests and their families, as well as participate in grief support.



*(Pictured top left) Hunter Williams*

*My name is Hunter. I'm 15 I have been interested in emergency medicine ever since I was five. A paramedic at a rural fire department in Colorado took me under her wing and I was hooked. I spend a lot of time working and riding with METS Ambulance, Neosho Police Department, and Duenweg Volunteer Fire Department. I have spent so much time in the emergency medicine aspect of healthcare that when I stumbled upon the Solace House due to my grandpa passing there, I figured it would be really interesting to see the end of life aspect. I also really love being there for families and the guests during that time.*



*(Pictured above right) Emery Elston*

*I am Emery Elston, a sophomore at Carl Junction High School. I am also on the Carl Junction High School Tennis team. I have always had an interest in the medical field and I am excited to see where this opportunity will lead in my future. I wanted to be a volunteer at Solace House, not only to get the exposure to what it's like working with patients or guests as you call them, but to connect on a deeper level with the guest and their families while they are going through a time of grief. To connect with and be with people as they are in a time of grief to me is an honor within itself. I am really thankful for all that you do at Solace House and I am extremely excited that I get to be a part of it.*

*(Pictured bottom left) Addison Davis*

*My name is Addison and I am 15 years old. I am going into 10th grade and my favorite things to do are cheer and painting. I wanted to be a teen volunteer at the Solace House because my grandpa went through hospice and it was so hard on the family and me. I just wanted to help other families go through there tough times as well because everyone deserves support.*





# Bayou at the Barn Fundraiser

On June 10th SHOTO hosted the first ever Bayou at the Barn Old Fashion Shrimp Boil at the Red Door Barn, Webb City. Courtney Vaughn and Tommie Wright prepared an all you can eat meal for attendees and raffle ticket items made for happy memories. With close to 150 in attendance, the Bayou fundraiser netted just over \$6000. The event was such a success we plan to do it again next summer. Big thank you again to Courtney and Tommy, SHOTO fundraiser committee, Red Door Barn and our gracious raffle and monetary donors.





# A Minute with *Mona*



## Volunteer Spotlight

My name is Laura Casey, I am a mom of 3 beautiful daughters, Natalie, Amanda, and Haylee. I am married to my wonderful husband Dick—we are both retired. When my youngest daughter started kindergarten, I went back to school and became an RN. Before moving to Joplin, I worked at Norman Regional Hospital in Norman Oklahoma on the Med/Surg floor. I also volunteered with hospice through St. Johns in the late 70's.

Life keeps me busy with my family. I enjoy traveling, but always love coming home. You can usually find me outside in my flowers. We have 40 acres and enjoy deer, raccoons, etc. We've raised 3 fawns who remain near our home. We have 6 kids between us, 5 grandchildren, and 4 great grandchildren. We also enjoy our Pomeranian Pippa and Great Pyrenees Hubbel along with 2 Munchkin cats named Butter Bean and Bear. I love life and the precious friends and clients at Solace House!



*Laura Casey*  
Volunteer since March 2021

## Amazon Wishlist

Donations are a fabulous way to partner with us in our mission. Scan the QR code below to view our Amazon Wishlist. The list is updated regularly, and can be shipped right to our door!



**THANK YOU!**

## Guest Report

"Thank you for your care of my father. Dad would thank you if he could. You supplied everything that he provided to my mother during her passing. All of the volunteers were so caring and kind. We had smiles, laughter, and tears together."

## New Volunteers

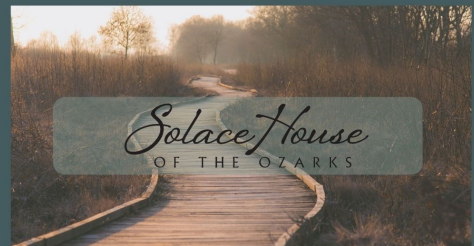
- Marci King
- Nedra Torix
- Hayley Carey
- Chelsie Bennett
- Addison Davis
- Emery Elston

*Welcome!*



## Mona's Minute *Teamwork*

The volunteers that make up Solace House of the Ozarks come from all walks of life and volunteer their services in many different ways. We truly are for the community and by the community! We supply all of the training necessary to offer a top notch level of care that we are so proud of. Nobody asks to lose a loved one, but everyone needs compassionate love and support when it happens to them. It makes all the difference in the world.



*Connect with Us!*

- [solacehouseoftheozarks@gmail.com](mailto:solacehouseoftheozarks@gmail.com)
- [referrals@solacehouseoftheozarks.com](mailto:referrals@solacehouseoftheozarks.com)
- 417-726-5139

## Want to Volunteer?

If you have a heart for caregiving and a desire to make a difference in your community—we need you! There are so many ways to volunteer at Solace House –contact us today!



# Volunteer Opportunities

- **Trained Guest Caregiver:** Hands on physical care of the Guest, sometimes assisting family members or other volunteers, and sometimes on your own. Training opportunities for new volunteers monthly including our new Teen Growth Track Program.
- **Hospitality:** Visit with family members, greet visitors and share about Solace House, serve food and beverages to family and friends.
- **Food Service:** Provide freezer meals, bring by snacks or other pantry items to have on hand. Participate in meal trains for families who request it.
- **Household Care:** Deep cleaning, laundry, maintenance, yard work. Done monthly or quarterly as needed.
- **Office Work:** Assist the House Coordinator with various office tasks as needed. Knowledge of computers is a plus.
- **Donor Services:** We welcome service and supply donations! Several ways to contribute include:
  - ◆ Provide gift card donations from various restaurants in town such as Texas Roadhouse, Johnny Carinos, or even DoorDash. Cards can be dropped off or mailed to the home. This ensures our families eat well on the day they arrive.
  - ◆ Sponsor the cost of a nighttime caregiver shift. The cost is \$120 a night. We eventually would love to have volunteers cover ALL shifts but for now we need your donations to help cover the cost at night and keep our services FREE to all who need us.
  - ◆ Place Solace House of the Ozarks on your monthly giving list by becoming a *Heartbeat* participant. To ensure our sustainability, consistent monthly donations are vital. Just 48 people giving just \$25 each month would pay our mortgage payment.
  - ◆ Consider shopping with AmazonSmile for a 0.5% donation to SHOTO per purchase.
- **Committee Member:** We depend greatly on our committees to oversee and grow the mission of SHOTO. Our biggest need is someone with web design experience for our Marketing/Media committee as well as someone with free time in the day to help with Community Outreach. Of course, we have several other opportunities if you have a specific talent such as building and grounds, fundraising, finance, or grant writing to name a few.







Solace House  
OF THE OZARKS



**3RD ANNUAL GOLF TOURNAMENT**

September 30, 2023

**BRIARBROOK GOLF COURSE • CARL JUNCTION, MO**

**DOOR PRIZES:** CUSTOM PUTTER WITH LOGO AND CUSTOMER PUTTER COVER (\$300 VALUE) AND \$200 CASH PRIZE

*Catered lunch provided Chicken Annie's*

**WE WOULD LIKE TO BE A PLAYER**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Contact: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

**4-Man Scramble-Shotgun Start at 9 AM**

\$10 mulligans - cash purchase at the event

\$75 per person to play

Register as a team of 4 or individual

1st Place Team - \$75 gift card\*

2nd Place Team - \$50 gift card\*

3rd Place Team - \$25 gift card\*

\*(per person) to the Pro Shop

Closest to the pin on hole 4 - \$50

Closest to the pin on hole 11 - \$50

**Deadline to register is 9/27/23**

**Sponsor a hole for only \$250** (tax deductible)

*No Rain Date. Allowances will be made for inclement weather.*



Solace House  
OF THE OZARKS

Solace House provides loving care to individuals prescribed by their hospice provider. This care (at no cost), seeks to fill the gap that is created when people require 24-hour care at the end of their lives



SCAN QR CODE  
TO REGISTER

To register to play or sponsor a hole, visit [solacehouseoftheozarks.com](http://solacehouseoftheozarks.com)

Registrations can be done online at [solacehouseoftheozarks.com](http://solacehouseoftheozarks.com) or by check:

Solace House of the Ozarks, P.O. Box 4467, Joplin, MO 64803

For more information please contact Sandy Hughes at 417-312-4350 or email: [shughes248@gmail.com](mailto:shughes248@gmail.com)



## ***Mission and Vision***

*Our objective is to provide a safe dwelling for persons nearing end of life who cannot or do not wish to stay in their own homes until death; to convey a sense of home by showing love, comfort and support during the final days of living.*

*Solace House of the Ozarks is a home, founded on the love of Christ, filled with loving-kindness for those at life's end, and a haven of support for caregivers.*

### **Board of Trustees**

**Chairman** - Johnie Adkins

**\*Co Chairman** - Megan Spiering  
(Professional Development Comm.)

**Secretary** - Crystal Lowery

**Treasurer** - Mindy Forbes

### **Trustee Members Alphabetically**

Kara Arnce

(Nominating Comm.)

\*Tabitha Jessip (Media & Marketing Comm.)

Danny Mullins

\*Nickie Pederson (Volunteer Development Comm.)

Dr. Justin Wilberding

Randy Wilson

**\*Additional Committee Chairman**

Matt Cline (Building & Grounds)

David Heltzel (Finance)

Sandy Hughes (Grants/Community Outreach)

Susan Lincoln (Governance)

Leisa Springsteen (Fundraising Comm.)

### **Advisors Alphabetically**

*Dr. Chris Black*

*Chuck Brown, JD*

*Brandon C. Davis, CPA*

*Dr. Adam Fahrenholtz*

*Dr. Amanda Harrell*

*Philip Mitchell*

*A word about our Board of Trustees and Advisors List.*

*You will notice that the names of the Board of Trustees and Advisors change slightly annually. That's because, from the beginning we designed our board to continually accept new people while maintaining continuity. We are interested in fresh perspectives as well as "the wisdom of the ages"...so to speak. So even though people move off the board for a time, they stay actively involved in the work as committee members and as advisors until and if they desire to come back to the board.*

**Solace House of the Ozarks is:**

- A home, founded on the love of Christ, filled with loving-kindness for those at life's end, and a haven of support for caregivers.
- A home that provides a safe and peaceful environment for those at the end of life.
- A home where life is celebrated and the dying process is regarded as a precious time for the guest and their family.
- A home where each guest and their family will know unconditional love and will be treated with respect and dignity.
- A home where volunteers come together with servants' hearts, intending to treat each guest as we would want our own family member treated.



*Thank you*

FOR ENTRUSTING US WITH  
THE CARE OF YOUR LOVED  
ONE!



PLEASE PROVIDE FEEDBACK REGARDING YOUR STAY WITH US. SIMPLY SCAN THIS QR CODE, OR VISIT [WWW.SOLACEHOUSEOFTHEOZARKS.COM/FEEDBACK](http://WWW.SOLACEHOUSEOFTHEOZARKS.COM/FEEDBACK)

**Solace House Business Hours:**

Tuesday - Friday  
9am to 3pm

(the office will be closed on all major holidays)

**Contact Info and Ways to Donate:**



417-208-9292 (Google Voice—leave a message)  
**BEST WAY TO CONTACT US!!**

417-726-5139 House phone



P.O. Box 4467, Joplin, MO 64803 (mailing address)

2425 S. Mina, Joplin MO 64804 (physical address)



[www.solacehouseoftheozarks.com](http://www.solacehouseoftheozarks.com)

You can donate with Pay Pal on this site

[www.donatesolacehouse.com](http://www.donatesolacehouse.com)

<https://www.facebook.com/solacehouseoftheozarks/>

Donate and contact us here as well. Don't forget to "like" us!

<https://www.solacehouseoftheozarks.com/about-solace-house>

Visit the link above for an informative and heartfelt testimonial