

# heart to heart

THE NEWSLETTER OF TANNER HOSPICE CARE

## WALKER MEATS HELPS FEED A NEED

For 20 years, volunteers and supporters have fed the community's appetite for delicious food while helping meet a vital community need through Tanner's Hospice Holiday Food Sale.

Bill and Don Walker of Walker Meats are among the many individuals and organizations that support the food sale, which raises funds to help ensure Tanner Hospice Care is available to all who need it.

Walker Meats generously donates use of their refrigerated truck each year to keep donated food items fresh and

ready for the sale. "Where there are opportunities to help, we do our best," said Bill Walker. "We are proud to be part of this wonderful community."

Like most established local families, the Walkers have had many experiences with Tanner Health System. "My three children were born there, and I have countless friends and family who are employed there," Bill Walker said. He appreciates the "... care that Tanner has provided our family and friends," and said that he was "glad it was there" when Tanner Hospice Care services were needed by his extended family.

*Continued on page 2*



*Nicole Smith and Bill Walker are long time supporters of Tanner Hospice Care*

**SAVE THE DATE**

For more information, please call Tanner Hospice Care at 770.214.2355. Hospice volunteer meetings are for current volunteers only.

**Hospice Volunteer Meeting —**  
Program TBD  
11:30 a.m.  
Tanner Medical Center/Carrollton  
Classroom 1  
Wednesday, Oct. 17

**Hospice Volunteer Meeting —**  
Program TBD  
11:30 a.m.  
Tanner Medical Center/Carrollton  
Classroom 2  
Wednesday, Nov. 21

**Hospice Volunteer Meeting —**  
Christmas Luncheon  
11:30 a.m.  
Tanner Medical Center/Carrollton  
Classroom 1  
Wednesday, Dec. 19

Taylor Gordon, MD  
Medical Director

Debbie Brock  
Director of In-home Services

Tommy Thomas, LMSW  
Social Worker

Kathy Booth  
Administrative Assistant

Mandy Jackson  
Volunteer Coordinator

Neda McDonald, M.Ed  
Bereavement Coordinator

Phyllis Gentry, RN  
Assistant Director  
of In-home Services

Sharon Moody, RN  
Client Care Supervisor

**Case Managers**

Regina Adamson, RN  
Christina Bassett, RN  
Christy Downs, RN  
Shellie Hagan, RN  
Stacy Pope, RN  
Diane Rhine, RN  
Rhonda Riley, RN  
Julie Warren, NP

**CNA Staff**

Becky Grizzard, CNA  
Martha Moore, CNA

**Chaplain**

Alex Brookhuis

**Volunteer Chaplains**

Rev. Jimmy Bryan  
Rev. Steve Davis  
Rev. Parris McCoy

**DME Staff**

Dan Gentry  
Kevin Lea

Mary Busby  
Editor

Donna Fuller | Warren Tingen  
Graphic Designers

If you do not wish to receive this publication, please call 770.836.9871 to be removed from the mailing list.

# Walker Meats Helps Feed a Need

*Continued from front page*

Family and business have always been the core of Walker Meats, which was started by brothers Bobby and Donald Walker more than 30 years ago, and their family's values are reflected in the company's priorities.

"We value people and relationships," said Bill Walker. "Our family believes in helping others in need and doing what we can to make life better for people."

The company's commitment to the community, including helping local organizations like Tanner Hospice Care, may be one of the reasons for its success. Walker Meats employs 35 workers, has a sister company that is famous for its barbecue and Brunswick stew, and has evolved into a regional institution serving customers throughout Georgia, Alabama and Florida.

Tanner Hospice Care counts on the support of Walker Meats and others in the community to make a difference for the families who rely on Tanner Hospice Care. As a non-profit organization, Tanner Hospice Care relies on private insurance, Medicare and financial gifts to provide hospice care to local families, regardless of their insurance status. Tanner Hospice Care has never billed a patient for service, and care is never discontinued if the source of reimbursement comes to an end or the patient cannot afford his or her care.

Bill Walker encouraged other organizations to consider supporting Tanner Hospice Care.

"Get involved and grow relationships with your community," he said. "This is a great avenue to do so." ❤️

## How Can You Help?

We are signing up chefs for this year's Hospice Food Sale. As a chef, your job is easy: simply make any food item(s) you like – a pie, cake, casserole, side item, etc. – then drop off your dish at the fellowship hall at First Baptist Church in Carrollton (102 Dixie Street) on Friday, Nov. 16, from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. Volunteers will be there to take your dish.

Please support the sale on Saturday, Nov. 17, starting at 9 a.m. by purchasing some of the delectable treats, perfect for stocking up for the holidays!

To learn more or offer to prepare a dish, please call Tanner Hospice Care at 770.214.2355.

You also can support the food sale with a gift to Tanner Hospice Care:

- By mail with the enclosed envelope
- By telephone at 770.836.9871
- By secure online donation at [www.TannerMedicalFoundation.org](http://www.TannerMedicalFoundation.org).



# Special 'Thank You' to Pat Robertson



In 1994, when Pat Robertson was told that the local hospice service was looking for volunteers, she knew this was the opportunity for her. What she didn't know was that Tanner Hospice Care would be part of her life for more than 18 years.

"It's a privilege and a calling, it's not just a job," Robertson said of her service. She began as a volunteer in January 1994 and was hired as a counselor just a few months later, putting her education to excellent use. Robertson earned her bachelor's in psychology and public social services at Kennesaw State University, and her master's and specialist's degrees from the University of West Georgia.

In 1997, Robertson became the executive director of the hospice agency and oversaw its merger with Tanner Health System. Following the merger, she took on her role as counselor and was instrumental in launching some of Tanner Hospice Care's signature programs, including the Grief Support Group.

"The Grief Support Group was always my favorite, because I got to spend

weeks with the members of the group and I got to see them get better," said Robertson. The "spinoff" program, Healing Hearts, is another favorite. The group meets each month to share a meal and a social activity, such as playing games or making crafts. "It's very important for people who are in the grief process to reconnect socially, and one of the hardest things is to get back to a social life."

"I can't even begin to put into words how much I have learned from

Pat," said Neda McDonald, M.Ed, bereavement coordinator for Tanner Hospice Care. "She has such a wealth of knowledge, both from her educational accomplishments and from the wisdom she has garnered through her life experiences. I have been so blessed to work with her at Tanner Hospice Care. She will be greatly missed."

Kathy Booth, administrative assistant for Tanner Hospice Care, agrees. "More than anything else, I've learned from Pat to ask myself 'Is it right?'" said Booth, who has worked alongside Robertson for her entire career at Tanner. "When I'm trying to make a decision, the last and most important question I ask myself is whether, in my heart, it is the right thing to do. I learned this from Pat, because she puts her heart into everything she does."

Robertson's retirement plans include spending quality time with her husband and "puttering" in her English garden, which boasts roses, zinnia, Gerbera daisies, marigolds and all colors of lilies.

Tanner Hospice Care extends deepest gratitude to Robertson for her many years of service and volunteerism that has touched countless lives in our community. 

## From the Heart

"Thank you so much for all the good care you gave. Everyone was so kind. We pray the Lord will bless you all and keep you in good health and strength to do all you do."

"We wish to thank you for your care and kindness to my husband and family at such a difficult time."

"Thank you to you and your staff. They did an amazing job in our time of need. Thank you for what you do."

"To Regina, Becky, Martha and all the nurses who attended to my husband before his death: You made such a difference in my life. It takes a special kind of person to be a hospice nurse. I will never forget your support, your kindness and for always coming whenever I called you. I will forever be grateful for the tender and professional care you gave. May God bless you all."



# Choirs for Cancer Returns Nov. 13



The third annual Choirs for Cancer concert, Raising Hope for Cancer Patients, will be held on Nov. 13 at 7 p.m. at the Joshua R. Mabry Center for the Arts at Carrollton High School.

This thrilling night of choir music and hope features Grammy-nominated recording artist Babbie Mason, and the talented members of local church and community choirs.

Proceeds from Choirs for Cancer help cancer patients in our own community

with treatment and expenses related to their cancer care that they could not otherwise afford.

Tickets are \$20 each, and are available at [www.ChoirsForCancer.org](http://www.ChoirsForCancer.org) or by calling 770.836.9871.

You can bring hope to local cancer patients.

It's easy. With a few clicks, you can make your own Choirs for Cancer online "Personal Page" and share how cancer

has touched your life. Whether your Personal Page encourages a friend battling cancer or is dedicated to the memory or in honor of a loved one, your friends and family will see your message and understand that even a small gift has a big impact on people fighting cancer in our community.

For more information, please visit [www.ChoirsForCancer.org](http://www.ChoirsForCancer.org) and click on "Create a Web page" or call 770.836.9871. ❤️

## Care Through Our Numbers:

We are so appreciative of every gift that you and other members of our community donate to care for our patients and their families. Thanks to your support, we've been able to:

- Care for more than 900 hospice patients in the past three years
- Reach countless grieving family members with our bereavement programs
- Recruit, train and support volunteers who donated nearly 8,000 hours of service from 2008-2011

Thank you for all you do for our patients and their families! ❤️

	2011	2010	2009	2008
<b>Patients Served</b>	344	310	323	305
<b>Volunteer Hours</b>	1,750	2,078	1,920	2,210
<b>Volunteer Hours Value</b>	\$36,498	\$42,083	\$37,468	\$47,410

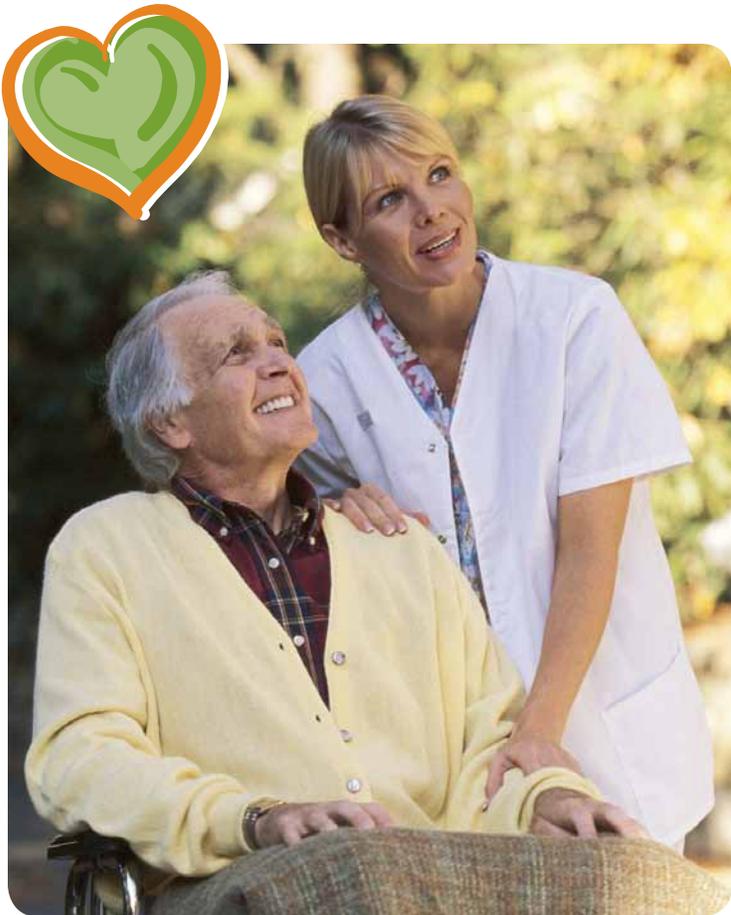


NONPROFIT  
U.S. POSTAGE PAID  
CARROLLTON, GA  
30117  
PERMIT #128

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Tanner Medical Center, Inc.  
P.O. Box 1136  
Carrollton, GA 30112  
770.214.2355

**TANNER** HOSPICE CARE



## The Need Continues

The staff and volunteers at Tanner Hospice Care are always there for patients and their families when the need is the greatest. The last newsletter reported that Tanner Hospice Care now needs the support of the community. The financial assistance of the community and gifts from compassionate donors are a critical component of the continued success of this program. Special thanks to all those who heard the call for help and responded. However, the need continues.

Tanner Hospice Care is the region's only community-based, nonprofit hospice care provider, serving the emotional and spiritual needs of patients in addition to their physical needs. Tanner Hospice Care believes that the quality of life is as important as the length of life, and that patients should have the option of being at home, alert and free of pain, among the people and things they love.

Tanner Hospice Care has never billed a patient for service, relying on private insurance, Medicare and donations to continue providing care. No patient has ever been turned down based on their inability to pay. Thank you for making a difference in the lives of our patients and their families.

Contributions for Tanner Hospice Care may be mailed to P.O. Box 1136, Carrollton, GA 30112, or call 770.214.2355.