



## The Hospice Movement: Remembering Jean Kliewer

### Mission

To provide compassion, comfort, and support through your end-of-life experience

### Values

- Excellence
- Integrity
- Compassion
- Stewardship
- Relationship-centered care

### Vision

To help you live out the rest of your life, on your own terms, among people who care



BENTON HOSPICE SERVICE FOUNDERS: (LEFT TO RIGHT) BETTY JOHNSON, DAVE KLEIWER, JEAN KLEIWER, DAVID CONNELL, GEORGE CONSTANTINE

*“I think people are gradually developing a different attitude towards death and dying and coming to accept it much more as a part of living.”*

~ Jean Kliewer

Hospice care today focuses on meeting the needs of the dying person. The relationship between doctor and patient, and nurse and patient is of utmost importance. It's hard to imagine that this hasn't always been the case. In the 1960's medical providers in the United States and England were noticing how people deemed incurable typically received fewer visits from nurses, doctors and family. Patients were left to die their own painful death, often alone. These concerns motivated the opening of the first hospice in England in 1967 and later in the United States, with Benton Hospice Service incorporating in Oregon in 1979. Two local people involved with the hospice movement in Corvallis were David and Jean Kliewer.

Jean was a nurse at New York Hospital when she met her future husband, David, a young intern doing rotations. And so began her life with David, her husband of 52 years. After they married, Jean and Dave moved to Boston, Seattle and then Hawaii while Dave became a pioneer in the new

field of oncology and hematology. It was in Hawaii, while caring for patients who were dying of their illnesses, that Dave envisioned the kind of care hospice offers today.

Soon after Jean and Dave moved to Corvallis, Dave joined The Corvallis Clinic while Jean took on various nursing positions and completed her masters in education, returning to work as a public health nurse. According to Jean, there was a great deal of interest in the hospice movement when she and Dave arrived in Corvallis. The first hospice in the United States had opened in Connecticut. Jean and Dave became interested in starting a pilot hospice program. So they formed their own trial hospice program, he, the doctor, and she, the nurse. They soon realized that they couldn't do it themselves—they had to have help.

Elizabeth Kubler-Ross's views on death and dying were generating a great of interest in

## Remembering Jean Kliewer

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caring for the dying person—interest across the globe and in Oregon. They felt the time was ripe for founding a hospice program in Corvallis. They gathered a group of like-minded people who got together to discuss the possibilities (see photo on page 1). Over the next few years they pursued, as Jean put it “an evolution of ideas” leading to the formation of an all-volunteer group that incorporated as Benton Hospice Service on February 15, 1979, a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization. The first patient was admitted on October 9, 1980. The first year of operation, Benton Hospice Service served fewer than 20 patients with a volunteer staff working out of donated office space.

As Jean put it in an interview in 2006, “We realized that it took a lot of diverse people, both experts, as well as general public...a sort of groundswell to start this hospice movement. Dave actually had a lot more to do with it than I did. But I think we were both so pleased with the hospice that developed, all the people who were involved in it and the philosophy they had about care of the dying. I do think that this has been an integral part of the whole development of different attitudes toward death and dying, and towards medical care in general because within a space of a few years it became apparent that people were going to want to have more of a hand in making their own decisions about their life and medical decisions. And the doctors, even though they had often been almost godlike figures who made all the decisions and gave all the directions for what was to be done, they became much more partners in this whole process. I think that was a lot related to the hospice movement. I think people are gradually developing a different attitude towards death and dying and coming to accept it much more as a part of living.”

Benton Hospice Service has grown over the years, from the all-volunteer organization working out of donated office space serving only Corvallis, to today, serving all of Benton and Linn counties and parts of Marion, Polk, Lincoln, and Lane counties. Today Benton Hospice Service has over 50 staff and 125 trained volunteers serving nearly 400 patients a year, and is quickly outgrowing the building built in 2001 with donations from the community.

From its humble beginnings, Benton Hospice Service has not lost sight of its mission, “To provide compassion, comfort and support through your end-of-life experience” and vision, “To help you live out the rest of your life, on your own terms, among people who care.”

Thank you, Jean Kliewer. You will be missed.

*Jean Kliewer died peacefully, from complications of Parkinson's, on February 5, 2017, surrounded by loving family. David D. Kliewer died March 21, 2007 at age 90 at home under the care of Benton Hospice Service.*



## KLIEWER Legacy Society

Our Kliewer Legacy Society honors donors who have established planned gifts or provided for Benton Hospice Service in their wills. While recognizing our donors' generosity, we hope their example will inspire others to consider this creative and effective form of philanthropy. With planned gifts, donors demonstrate their abiding stake in our community. Become a member simply by notifying us that you have included Benton Hospice Service in your estate plan or will. There is no minimum gift level and membership is lifelong and complimentary. We hope you will join us.

Making a planned gift - one that benefits families facing end-of-life choices after your lifetime - is easier than you might think. Options include:

- Gifts by Will
- Life Insurance Policies
- Individual Retirement Account (IRA) assets
- Charitable Gift Annuity
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- Gift of a Retained Life Estate

*Find out more by contacting Laurie Russell, Director of Community Engagement at 541.757.9616 or [laurie.russell@bentonhospice.org](mailto:laurie.russell@bentonhospice.org)*

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 Donna and Jerry Williamson  
 Hannah and Bruce Wilson  
 Gloria Wood

## Advanced Planning for Healthcare Decisions

Find out how to put end-of-life choices into effect with appropriate legal planning tools. Take control of your legal future by understanding your options.

### April 20, 2017 at noon

Presenters: Kara Daley, Attorney; Stephen Neville, MD

Location: Benton Hospice Service, Annex  
2314 NW Kings Blvd, Suite B

A free event. Cookies & beverages provided.  
Brown bag lunch ok.

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## Beans for Bags

Support Benton Hospice Service

April - June 2017

## Benton Hospice Service

### Annual May Memorial

Saturday, May 20, 2017  
10:00 to 11:00 am



Please join us for a springtime, outdoor memorial event where we will honor those who have died by gathering, sharing their names and releasing flower petals into the water.

Location: Bruce Starker Arts Park, 4485 SW Country Club Drive, Corvallis

# 2017 EVENTS CALENDAR

For more info, visit [www.bentonhospice.org](http://www.bentonhospice.org)

## GRIEF SUPPORT

Eight-week sessions open to any adults who have experienced a loss. Pre-registration required. Location: Benton Hospice Service office main meeting room. Thursday evenings, 5:30 to 7:30 pm, beginning April 6 or July 6 OR Friday mornings, 11 am to 1 pm, beginning April 7 or July 7.

### *Family Grief Group*

Held the first Wednesday of each month from 5:30 to 7 pm at Old Mill Center for Children and Families, 1650 SW 45th Place, Corvallis. Families must register and complete a brief questionnaire before attending. Call 541.757.9616 to register or for more information.

### *May Memorial Event*

At Bruce Starker Arts Park, 4485 SW Country Club Drive, Corvallis. A springtime, outdoor memorial event at 10 am on May 20, 2017 to honor those who have died by gathering, sharing their names and releasing flower petals into the water. Music and refreshments provided.

## VOLUNTEER TRAINING

Two-day training offered in June, October and February. Pre-registration required. The next training is Tuesday and Thursday, June 13 and 15, 8:30 am to 4:30 pm each day.

## CAREGIVER CONNECTIONS

For family caregivers to share and learn from each other. Drop-ins welcome. *In Corvallis:* 2nd and 4th Tuesday of each month, 1:30 to 3 pm, Benton Hospice Service office. *In Lebanon:* 1st and 3rd Tuesday of each month, 1:30 to 3 pm, Lebanon Senior Center, 80 Tangent Street.

## POWERFUL TOOLS FOR CAREGIVERS

A six-week educational program designed to help family caregivers. Series location rotates between Corvallis, Albany, Philomath and Lebanon throughout the year. Registration required, call 541.757.9616 for details and to register. Upcoming workshop on Mondays in Lebanon: April 10 to May 15, 10 am to 4:00 pm - 6:30 pm at the Lebanon School District Legacy Room, 485 South 5th Street.

## COMFORT CRAFTING CIRCLE

An afternoon of knitting, crocheting, and crafting for hospice patients and families. First & third Wednesday of every month, 1 to 2 pm, Benton Hospice Service office.

BENTON  
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2350 NW PROFESSIONAL DR.  
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## Caregiver Support

Groups are now offered two times per month in Lebanon.

**Learn more at [www.bentonhospice.org](http://www.bentonhospice.org)**

“Thank you for offering the drop-in support group option for family caregivers. I’ve received immeasurable help and support from attending these meetings over the period of the past few months while caring for my husband. I also gained tremendous support and opportunities for introspection during the 6-week Powerful Tools for Caregivers series. Thanks to your team for offering these groups. They help so many of us family caregivers. I’ve met wonderful people within the group.”

*~ Family Caregiver*

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