

# HOSPICE OF THE CAROLINA FoothILLS

## Annual Report 2003



# Dear Friends,



Jean H. Eckert  
Executive Director

We bring you good news from 2003, our twenty-third year of operation. Last year, we provided end-of-life care, bereavement support, and education to more people than ever in Polk County and Upstate South Carolina. We cared for 228 people and their families as they dealt with terminal illness. We sponsored 22 programs and grief support groups related to the loss of a loved one. We offered educational programs on hospice care, advance care planning and dementia at our Center behind St. Luke's Hospital, and in your churches, businesses, and community centers. Our professional staff and board of directors were hard working and steady, and our dedicated volunteer staff grew larger than ever.

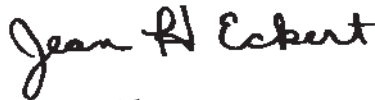
Despite all the good news and good work, we still faced the economic challenge of having only 87% of patient costs reimbursed — and bereavement costs were not reimbursed at all. However, because of the steadfast financial generosity of our friends and supporters, we were able to serve all those who came to us for care, and to offer to the public the grief support and education that we are committed to

providing. We are extremely grateful for the loyal part you have played in our work.

People associate hospice with death, and it is true that our services and programs concern matters related to the end of life. But we believe that our compassion, knowledge, and skill help make it possible for people to better prepare for death, to live fully until they die, and then to die as peacefully as possible.

It is our privilege to be of service to you.

Sincerely,



Jean H. Eckert  
Executive Director



Ronald E. Smith  
Chairman of the Board



Ronald E. Smith  
Chairman of the Board



## Mission Statement

Hospice of the Carolina Foothills promotes and provides compassionate end-of-life care, meeting the medical, emotional and spiritual needs of individuals and their families.

# A Building for the Whole Community

When we moved into our new Administration & Program Center in June 2001, we pledged to make it **available for community functions**, and to provide more **educational programs for the public** than we had been able to host in our old offices. In the first six months, community organizations used our facilities eight times, and Hospice conducted 11 educational/support programs for the public. In 2002, outside groups used our building 18 times, and we offered 37 educational/support programs open to all. For 2003, the figures were 11 outside uses, and 33 Hospice programs.





## 2003 Staff and Volunteers

Our staff consisted of **22 full-time** and **seven part-time employees**. Ten worked in administration, and 19 in hands-on care for patients.

We had a total of **138 volunteers**, 10 of whom performed



in more than one area. Sixty-eight volunteers provided patient care, 40 worked in the office, and 40 were involved in the Good Samaritan program.

## 2003 By the Numbers

- 228 patients served
- 87% of patient care costs reimbursed by Medicare, Medicaid and private insurance
- 41,833 volunteer miles driven
- 254 bereaved families served
- \$130,570 dollar value of total volunteer hours donated
- 54% patients served in their homes
- 46% patients served in five area nursing homes
- 9,537 staff visits to patients
- 2,859 volunteer visits to patients
- 12,738 staff and volunteer visits to patients and bereaved families



# Major Milestones

- 1977** Tracy Lamar, Rector of Holy Cross Episcopal Church, learns about Hospice and spearheads vision of Hospice in Polk County. Our first \$100 is donated.
- 1979** A group of 17 from Polk County attends a three-day seminar hosted by Hospice of North Carolina.
- 1980** Polk County Articles of Incorporation are signed by Jack Allen, Dr. Marian Bosien, Nell Deaver, Jackie Fisher, Dr. George Hartman, Hugh Key, Tracy Lamar, Cam Lawrence, Ruth McIlwaine, Barbara Nama, Ken Selby and David Wells. Ken Selby is elected first president of the board.
- 1981** First training class for volunteers and staff completed by 24 people. Part-time nurse hired. First office opened in small rent-free space in Tryon. In July, Hospice of Polk County accepts its first patient.
- 1988** Moves to two rent-free rooms on second floor of Town Hall, Tryon. Slowly expands to fill entire floor as other tenants move out.
- 1995** South Carolina Upstate added to area of service and name changes to Hospice of the Carolina Foothills.
- 1999** Board of Directors approves construction of a new building on land donated by St. Luke's Hospital.
- 2001** Hospice of the Carolina Foothills celebrates its 20th anniversary and moves into its new Administration & Program Center.



# Financial Statement

Hospice of the Carolina Foothills is a 501(c)3 not-for-profit corporation, whose financial statements are prepared in accordance with Generally Accepted Accounting Principles and audited annually by an outside firm of Certified Public Accountants. Those statements comply fully with criteria prescribed by the Medicare System, and Tax Form 990 is filed annually with the Internal Revenue Service.

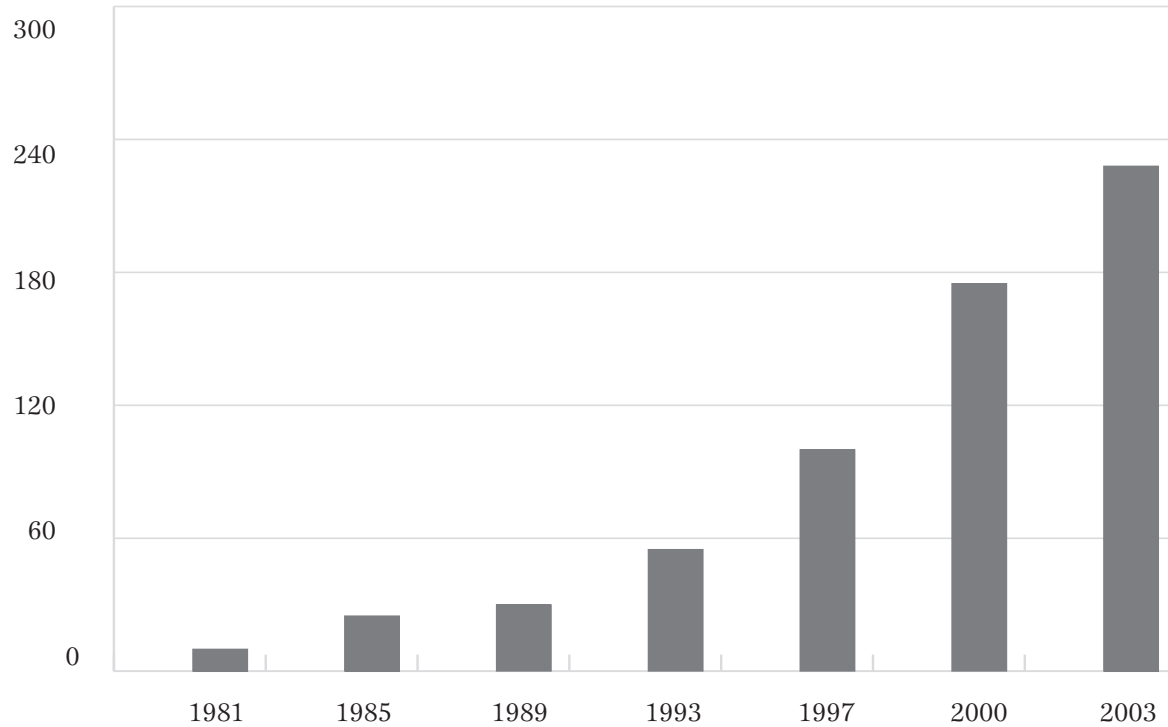
With reasonable notice a copy of IRS Form 990 will be made available at Hospice Administration & Program Center during normal business hours, Monday – Friday, 8:30 – 5:00.

Copies of State Solicitation Licenses are available from North and South Carolina by calling 888-830-4989 (NC) or 803-734-1790 (SC).

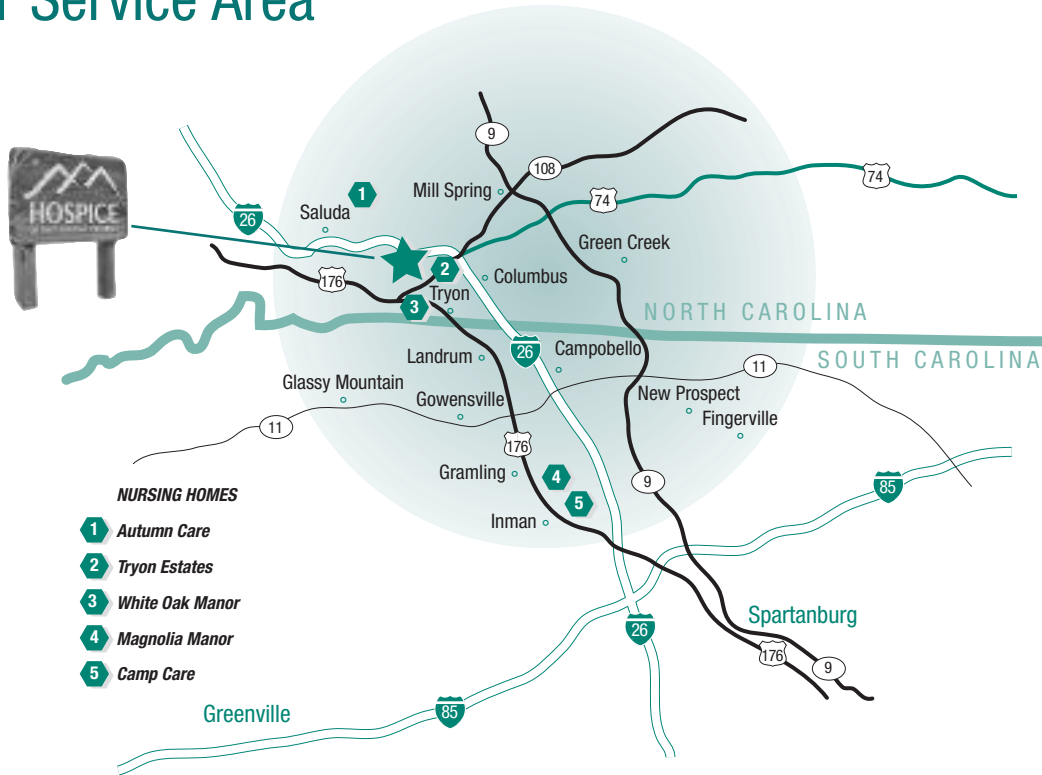
*On behalf of the Board of Directors,  
William P. Wuehrmann, Treasurer  
June 1, 2004*

# Our Growth

Patients Served



# Our Service Area



## **HOSPICE OF THE CAROLINA Foothills**

Serving Polk County, North Carolina  
and upstate South Carolina

Jean H. Eckert, *Executive Director*  
Lonnie Lassiter, III, MD, *Medical Director*

### **Board of Directors**

Ronald E. Smith, *Chairman*  
Jean L. Wright, *Vice Chairman*  
William Wuehrmann, *Treasurer*  
Norman Powers, *Secretary*

Anne Arledge  
Gary L. Byrd  
Dale Holl  
Donna B. James  
Ralph D. Kuether  
Jack Newton  
Joseph C. Phayer  
Callie Smith  
Thomas Strader  
William W. Rinck  
Dorothy Wyckoff

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