

May/ June 2013

THE SPOTLIGHT'S ON...

*“Happiness is doing for others”*

Mary Kent Buttimer, Island Hospice Volunteer Coordinator, has published a children’s book called *Mary Lou’s Surprise*. The book was written by Kent when she was eleven years old and in the sixth grade thirty–six years ago. It was discovered in her mother’s attic in a small suitcase she used to carry around as a child. *Mary Lou’s Surprise* is a book about a little girl who has leukemia who and is at home missing her classmates. Henry, one of her classmates, decides to give her a surprise party during Easter time at her house with cake, ice-cream, games, and balloons.

The moral of the story is “happiness is doing for others.”

Today, Mary Kent is facing chemotherapy for a third time. She, too, has a white blood disease non-Hodgkin’s lymphoma and has had it for fourteen years. All the parallels in the book are so ironic in comparison to her own

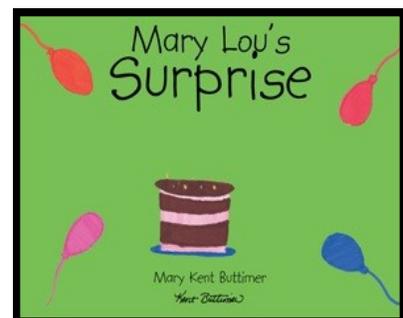
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Little did Kent know that she would be working for a non-profit hospice organization, while going through chemotherapy treatment and publishing a book she wrote as a child all at the same time. Kent Buttimer’s goal for the book is to help children who suffer from cancer and those families touched by cancer. She also wants to promote volunteerism for all ages.

The book was discovered in September, which is lymphoma’s celebration month. It was discovered at just the right time in order to share it with others. Sims and Stephen, Kent’s children, are more than joyous about its discovery. “It has made their faith grow stronger and has given us something to look forward to. I am grateful to God for showing us His love,” Kent sincerely comments.

If you would like a copy of *Mary Lou’s Surprise*, please contact: [www.xlibris.com/bookstore](http://www.xlibris.com/bookstore) or 1-888-795-4274 ext.7879

Thank you,  
Kent Buttimer  
buttimer1@att.net



## A Dying Person's Bill of Rights

**I have the right** to be treated as a living human being until I die.

**I have the right** to maintain a sense of hopefulness however changing its focus may be.

**I have the right** to express my feelings and emotions about my approaching death in my own way.

**I have the right** to participate in decisions concerning my care.

**I have the right** to expect continuing medical and nursing attention even though "cure" goals must be changed to "comfort" goals.

**I have the right** not to die alone.

**I have the right** to be free from pain.

**I have the right** to have my questions answered honestly.

**I have the right** not to be deceived.

**I have the right** to have help from and for my family in accepting my death.

**I have the right** to peace and dignity.

**I have the right** to retain my individuality and not be judged for my decisions which may be contrary to the beliefs of others.

**I have the right** to discuss and enlarge my religious and/or spiritual experiences whatever these may mean to others.

**I have the right** to expect that the sanctity of the human body will be respected after death.

**I have the right** to be cared for by the caring, sensitive, knowledgeable people who will attempt to understand my needs and will be able to gain some satisfaction in helping me face my death.

As a THA Group Island Hospice volunteer, always learn to put yourself in someone's else's shoes and treat others how you would like to be treated. Show great empathy towards the patient you are attending.



## VOLUNTEER APPRECIATION



### GOOD NEWS

Two of our Island Hospice Teen Volunteers have been selected for the American Red Cross Youth Hero Award

### CONGRATULATIONS, SIMS & LANDON!



The American Red Cross hosted a breakfast at Savannah State April 26th. The purpose of the breakfast was to recognize fifteen local youth heroes that have gone above and beyond in terms of volunteering for an organization in Chatham County. Two of our Island Hospice teen volunteers were nominated, Sims Buttimer and Landon Jennings, and were selected as two of the sixth, seventh, and eighth grade recipients. Sims has been the head of the teen Island Hospice group for over a year. She takes great pride in her volunteer job and dedicates herself to being efficient and friendly to the other team members. Sims and Landon have worked on "Thank You For Serving" Veteran artwork, patient birthday cards, patient holiday cards, Wish List distribution, Wish List closet organization, and patient gifts. We are very proud to have them on our THA Group Island Hospice teen volunteer team and we find their awards to be most honorable.

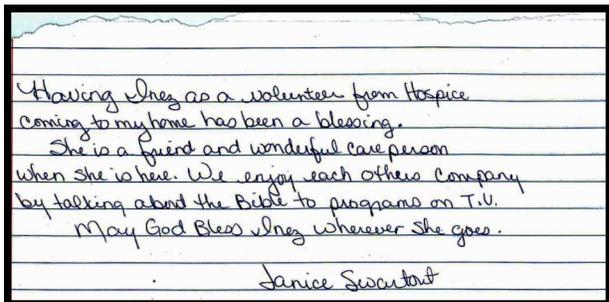
## "GOING THE EXTRA MILE"

**Inez Jenkins** is a woman who people are happy to see and has a voice people love to hear. She is a great volunteer and spends her time bringing joy to others. Inez Jenkins is the mother of seven children and grandmother of six. She is also a great grandmother of six. Inez has always been the woman to lend a helping hand and does as much as she can for others.

Inez has served as a Cub Scout leader and a Boy Scout leader and was the president of the Housing Authority of the Savannah Project. As shown in her work, she has great leadership skills and knows how to take charge. Inez sings in the Savannah Community Choir, the Gospel Music Workshop Choir and her church choir. Inez graduated from Beach High School and attended Savannah Technical College. She has also worked at Isle of Hope Elementary School and Savannah High School this past year.



After the death of her mother, who she sat with everyday, she began to see how some of the patients were alone. Inez is a THA Group Island Hospice senior companion. She takes care of two families and works five dedicated days per week. Inez says it is an honor working with these families. We love having her on our THA Group Island Hospice volunteer team.



*A kind note from patient Janice Swartout*

## “GOING THE EXTRA MILE”



**Chuck Witt** wears his volunteer job with a smile at all times. He was born and raised in Cleveland, Ohio. Chuck has a brother and a sister. He got his Associates degree at a college in southern Ohio. Chuck has worked in police/security positions throughout his career. He lives in Bluffton, South Carolina with his wife and has a grown son who also lives in the area. Chuck takes great pride in the fact that he has worked for the Department of Homeland Security/Transportation Security Administration for nine years. He works diligently at the Savannah /Hilton Head International Airport as a Behavior Detection Officer. Chuck’s parents live in Sun City.

Chuck’s mother is currently under hospice care and he has seen the excellent and heartfelt care that she has received from the program. He states, “I wanted to spend my time giving back to others, but do administrative type work versus direct patient support.” Currently Chuck works each month on bereavement mailings in the Bluffton office. He does the job thoroughly, timely, and is always enthused about completing the assignment. Chuck comments that he loves to spend his free time listening to music, reading, staying outdoors, and kayaking. Chuck is one of our veteran volunteers and we enjoy working with him. He is an asset to our volunteer team.



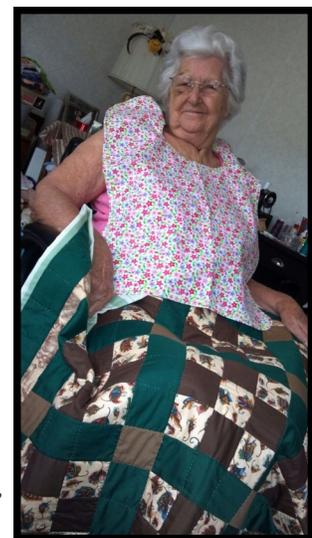
## “GOING THE EXTRA MILE”



**Christine Ingram** is a native of Georgia. Christine has lived in Richmond Hill since 1967. She is a dedicated caregiver who has cared for so many. Christine attended to her mother-in-law from 1980-1985 and then took care of her husband. He had suffered a stroke and was totally dependent on her attention until 1995. Christine currently is the primary caregiver for her brother who needs full time care and is a patient of Island Hospice.

Christine is an individual who is always doing for others and still finds time to dedicate herself as a volunteer for Island Hospice on top of all her duties. While also taking care of her sister-in-law she learned to make lap robes for hospice patients. Christine also volunteers her time by making bibs for all the Island Hospice patients. Island Hospice Volunteer Coordinator Kent Buttimer comments, “When I first met Christine she was at home sitting with her brother. She immediately started showing me her sewing room full of colorful materials and all her beautiful quilts she had creatively made. Christine was beaming with pride at her accomplishments and wanted to help out as a volunteer wherever she could.”

Christine is a master quilter and seamstress. The patients love her handmade gifts and she has forever touched our Island Hospice patients and team. She does not mind endlessly sharing her time making the quilts, lap robes, and bibs for others. LaVerne Young, an Island Hospice nurse, exclaims “Christine is a true gift herself from above.”



*Christine showing off her handmade bib and quilt*

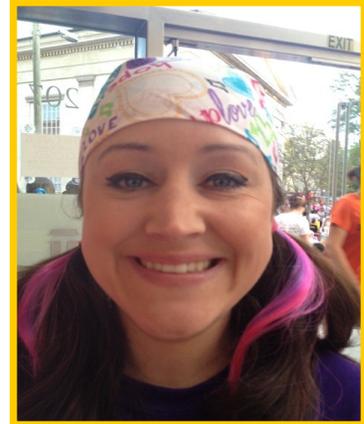
# EVENTS

## 2013 SUSAN G. KOMEN RACING FOR THE CURE

The THA Group Island Hospice team walked for the breast cancer cause on April 13th in downtown Savannah. They raised \$1200 that will go towards finding a cure for breast cancer. Island Hospice social workers, nurses, volunteer coordinator, volunteers, and director Jennifer Massey all participated this year. Volunteer Kathlene Stapleton, a twenty-three year breast cancer survivor, also walked. The weather was beautiful and the crowds of survivors and supporters showed great enthusiasm and spirit for the cause. The THA Group Island Hospice team would like to thank all those who donated and came out and supported the event.



*Island Hospice director, Jennifer Massey, Kent Buttimer, and new volunteers Suzanne Harper and Gwen Hester cheered everyone on from the sidelines.*





*Thank you Meghan Adams and Betsy Kane for organizing the team for THA Group Island Hospice!*

## VOLUNTEER APPRECIATION LETTER FROM DORIS BARFIELD

April 10, 2013

Hello,

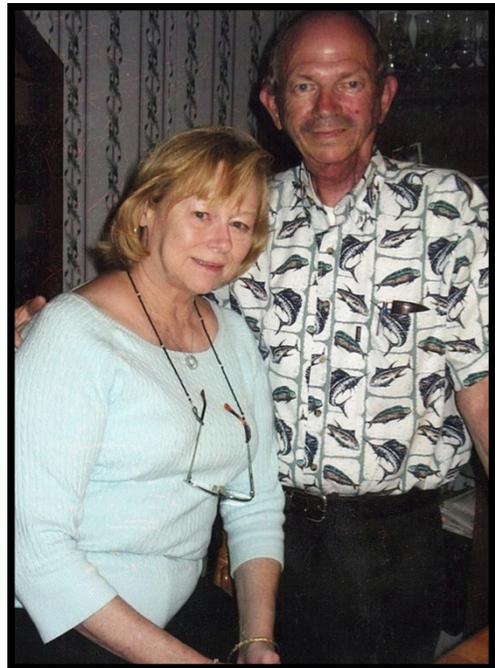
My name is Doris Barfield. My husband, Jack H. Barfield, Jr., was ill for many years before the Lord took him away. We became associated with the THA Group after one of his battles with cancer. We had Home Health at the time. With their assistance, Jack thrived and soon became independent again and then the unthinkable happened. On December 18, 2011, my darling husband of forty-six years had a major stroke. He was in Memorial Hospital until January 3, 2012. I had to make a decision to go home with hospice care or go to a nursing home. I gladly discovered that THA Group had Island Hospice for him.

The nurses were at my house when we arrived by ambulance. During those first, almost unbearable days, they had professionals by Jack's side daily. After awhile, I met spiritual coordinator Lonnie Johnson. He had just taken over temporarily as Volunteer Coordinator. Lonnie searched until he found just the right individuals to match with Jack and my self's personalities and medical circumstances.

First came Mrs. Beth Whelan in June. She was and still is like an angel sent to save us. Mrs. Whelan unfortunately had been through a similar situation two years earlier with her own husband. She knew how to react to all the ups and downs of our lives. Lonnie Johnson found two more wonderful ladies to come in and help. Mrs. Sheila Fogarty and Mrs. Opal Harris. They also were well trained and fit right in. Sheila and Opal have since moved, but they will remain in my heart always. Both of them still check on me.

Lonnie Johnson was only filling in until they found a permanent Volunteer Coordinator. He did a wonderful job. I am very grateful to him for all he did for Jack and myself. Then came along Mrs. Kent Buttimer. What a wonderful person and boy is she dedicated to her job. She came over right away and talked with Jack and I. During that first conversation, she grasped onto the fact the Jack loved to go frog gigging. This lady, along with her children, searched for weeks until she found just the right stuffed animal frog for Jack. The frog had to have just the right face and he had to have very long legs. Well she found that frog and Jack loved it. He rested his arm on "Kermit" from then on.

Now, my precious husband is gone. I want all to know that Jack's nurses, Betsy and Andi, Beth Whelan, Lonnie Johnson, and the Island Hospice staff are still watching over me physically, mentally, and spiritually. This is not the way I thought my life would be. We had beat everything, but the stroke. With all THA's help and my family and friends, I will go forward and hopefully one day be strong again to help someone else in some way in the future.



*Doris and the Jack Barfield*

Sincerely,  
Doris Barfield



## VOLUNTEER PROGRAMS



THA Group Island Hospice has developed many programs in which volunteers can participate. Volunteers can choose one or several. There are opportunities for direct patient contact as well as indirect patient contact. Each service is most appreciated by the staff at Island Hospice, the patients, and their families.

**We Honor our Veterans**– We give each veteran a special card and sewn star from a military flag that would otherwise be disregarded. The teens make “Thank You For Serving” Red, White and Blue framed artwork to give as an additional gift. The veterans enjoy the card and the sewn star, but love the fact that a child thought of them and that the gift was homemade.

**Card Committee**– Teens and other volunteers make homemade cards for patient’s birthdays, anniversaries, graduation, holiday, and other special occasions.

**Cupcake Committee**– A group of volunteers bake regular and diabetic cupcakes for patient’s birthdays, special needs, cheer up needs and holidays.

**Wish List**– We are collecting gently used items on an ongoing basis for activity bags that volunteers take to patient’s homes so they can listen to music, make art, write letters, and play games together to relieve stress. Items such as playing cards, music CD’s, art supplies, inspirational stories, holiday items, and beauty supplies are some of the items on the list. There are six drop off locations between Georgia and South Carolina.

**Pet Therapy**– Island Hospice has 4 pet therapists who visit the patient’s homes with their pets. The pets’ presence allows the patients to feel unconditional love and provides a sense of calmness to lower their blood pressure and stress level.

**Music Therapy**– Volunteers take in CD players and music that the patient selects to add quality to the patient’s every day life. CD’s are now being collected for our music library. Gospel, Holiday, Big Band, Oldies, Jazz, Inspirational to name a few.

**Patient Pal**– Volunteers are assigned a particular caregiver or patient. They are obligated to mail an inspirational token of encouragement each week or every other week. Lip balm, magazines, books, music, poems, and letters, are just some of the examples of items that can be sent. The caregiver and patient always know that someone at Island Hospice is thinking of them and they are not on their journey alone.

**Meals of Hope**– Volunteers provide one meal per week to patients and their families.

**Holiday Gift Committee**– Homemade gifts are made for holidays for the patients.

**Reiki Healing Therapy**– South Carolina has a new Reiki therapist for the patients and caregivers.

**Memory Keeper**– The patient’s life is reviewed, their story is recorded, and a scrapbook is made for them.

**Memory Bears/Memory Pillows**– Bears and Pillows are made out of the patient’s clothing as a keepsake.

**Bibs, Lap Robes, Prayer Shawls**– Volunteers who are sewers make bibs, lap robes and prayer shawls for the patients.

**Birthday Boxes**– Brown boxes are decorated with white label on top and are stocked with creative birthday items for the patients.

If you would like to be part of any of the above programs or know someone who would like to volunteer their time, please contact Kent Buttmer, Island Hospice Volunteer Coordinator. (912)721.5118 or [kbuttmer@thagroup.org](mailto:kbuttmer@thagroup.org).

## SERVICE OPPORTUNITIES

We have multiple service opportunities for volunteers.  
You can choose patient or non-patient service or both.

- Administrative
- Patient & Family Support
- Errands
- Callers
- Community Outreach
- Fundraising
- Bereavement
- Licensed Massage Therapy
- Licensed Pet Therapy
- Music Support
- Crafts
- Sewing
- Hairdressing
- Nursing Home Volunteer
- Inpatient Unit Volunteer
- Support to Children
- Patient Pal
- Childcare
- Photography
- Writing
- Reading
- Memory Pillows/Memory Bears
- Baking / Cooking
- Wish List Distributor
- Gardening
- Special Events
- 11th Hour
- Light Housekeeping
- Light Yard Work
- Memory Scrapbooking



## VOLUNTEER CITIES

There are numerous cities you can serve.

- Okatie/ Hardeeville/ Bluffton, SC
- Beaufort, SC
- Hilton Head, SC
- Ridgeland, SC
- Fripp Island /St. Helena /Lady's Island, SC
- Savannah, GA
- Statesboro, GA
- Rincon, GA
- Port Wentworth /Garden City, GA
- Pooler, GA
- Richmond Hill, GA
- Sylvania, GA
- Guyton, GA



**Please contact: Volunteer & Program Coordinator Kent Buttimer (Address below)**

EDITOR: KENT BUTTIMER PHONE: 912.721.5118 EMAIL: KBUTTIMER@THAGROUP.ORG

# WISH LIST

## ART SUPPLIES

Drawing Paper  
String  
Scrapbooks  
Acrylic Paint  
Watercolor Paint  
Paint Brushes  
Watercolor Brushes  
Yarn  
Glitter  
Elmer's Glue  
Large Glue Sticks  
Childproof Scissors  
Construction Paper  
Poster Board  
Crayons  
Washable Markers  
Colored Pens  
Dry Erase Boards w/ Markers  
*(at Dollar Tree)*  
Shellac  
Fabric Paint  
Molding Clay  
Playdough  
Colored Card Stock  
Wrapping Paper

## BEAUTY

Nail Polish  
Polish Remover  
Decorative Nail Files  
Fragrant Lotions  
Travel Size Shampoo  
Hypoallergenic Soap  
Shaving Cream

## BIRTHDAY ITEMS

Horns  
Hats  
Balloons

## BOOKS

Classic Short Stories  
Holiday  
Poetry  
Big Printed Picture Books of Animals  
Inspirational  
Nursery  
Crafting  
Books on Tape

## CLEANING

Clorox Wipes  
Glass Cleaner  
All-Purpose Kitchen Cleaner  
Scrub Pads  
Anti-Bacterial Gel

## CLOTHING

Socks *(Fun & Colorful)*  
Slippers *(Fun & Colorful;  
Men & Women; Large & Medium)*

## CONTAINERS

Baskets  
Decorative Boxes  
Decorative Tins  
Cardboard Boxes *(Flattened)*

## COUNTING & SORTING

Poker Chips  
Roll of Tickets

## ELECTRIC

Walkman w/ Headphones  
CD player w/ Headphones  
Tape Recorder, Tapes *(at CVS)*

## FABRIC

Decorative Satin Ribbon  
Yellow and Purple Thin Ribbon *(Cotton)*  
Holiday Ribbon  
Throw Blanket *(Cotton Fleece; Themed,  
Colorful, Fun)*  
Crocheted Lap Robe

## FOOD

Cookie Mix  
Diabetic Food Items  
Bread Mix  
Cheerios  
Fruit Loops  
Flavored Tea  
Muffin Mix  
Muffin Non-Stick Pan  
Cookie Non-Stick Pan  
Cake Pan  
Cake Mix  
Microwave Popcorn  
Diabetic Cooking Recipes

## GAMES

Large Piece Checker Set *(Great one at  
Cracker Barrel)*  
Chess  
Fun Playing Cards *(Large Print)*  
Dominoes  
Yahtzee  
Pictionary  
Backgammon  
Candyland  
Sudoku  
Go Fish  
Old Maid  
Rummy  
Guess the President  
Trivia  
Simple Games  
Name That Capitol & State  
U.S. Puzzle; Large Size Piece Puzzles  
Boggle

## GARDENING

Decorative Small Pots  
Soil  
Miracle Grow  
Seeds  
Tree Seeds *(plant in honor of patient)*  
Bird Feeders  
Bird Seed

## HOLIDAY ITEMS (2013 Dates)

Father's Day *(June 17)*  
Mother's Day *(May 10)*  
Veteran's Day *(November 11)*  
Grandparent's Day *(September 8)*  
Christmas *(December 25)*  
Easter *(April 8)*  
Valentine's Day *(February 14)*  
St. Patrick's Day *(March 17)*  
Halloween *(October 31)*  
Flag Day *(June 14)*  
Armed Forces Day *(May 19)*  
Independence Day *(July 4)*  
Thanksgiving *(November 22)*  
Pearl Harbor *(December 7)*  
Decorative Plates and Napkins  
Birthday Related  
Graduation Related *(If Leaving Hospice)*  
Anniversary

*(Please see reverse side for additional information.)*

# WISH LIST

## cont'd

### INSPIRATIONAL ITEMS

Angels  
Crosses  
Mezuzahs  
Menorahs  
Other Religious Items

### MAGAZINES

Newspaper *(with coupons)*  
Reader's Digest  
National Geographic  
People

### MOVIES

DVDs *(Classic, Funny, Family-Oriented)*

### MUSIC

CDs | All Types:

Country  
Classic  
Oldies '20s - '50s  
Inspirational  
Jazz  
Blues  
Children  
Holiday  
Small Music Box

### OFFICE SUPPLIES

Black Pens  
Colored Sharpies  
Black Sharpies  
Decorative Tags  
Hole Punch  
Funny Pens  
Paper Clips *(Big and Small)*  
Sticky Pads  
Stapler and Staples

### PETS

Toys for Dogs and Cats  
Pet Treats  
Pet Bowls

### PHOTOS

Family Albums  
Frames *(4x6, 8x10)*  
Collage Frames

### SPORTS

NASCAR related  
Sport Team Jerseys *(XL)*  
Fishing Related  
Boating Related  
Hunting Related  
Crafting Related

### STATIONERY

Men's and Women's Stationery  
Greeting Cards  
Roll of Stamps  
Writing Paper  
Safety Pins

### TOYS

Medium Soft Colorful Balls  
Beach Balls

### VETERAN-RELATED

Various Pictures of Flags  
Holiday-Related  
Small Red, White & Blue Flags  
Red, White & Blue Ribbon  
Military-Related Knickknacks

### OTHER

Oversized Universal Remote  
Make Your Own Plate Kit *(at Michael's)*

If you have items that are not listed above, feel free to call for item approval. We accept new or gently used items. All donations are for our volunteer activity bags that provide quality care for our hospice patients.

### CONTACT

Thank you for your donations! For more Island Hospice information, please contact:

Kent Buttimer  
Program & Volunteer Coordinator

912.721.5118 tel  
912.596.9332 cell

kbuttimer@thagroup.org

### DROP-OFF LOCATIONS

Georgia  
3 West Perry St.  
Savannah, Georgia 31401

1000 Towne Center Blvd.  
Suite 303  
Pooler, GA 31322

4A Skidaway Village Walk  
Savannah, GA 31411

124 Savannah Ave.  
Suite 1-D  
Statesboro, GA 30458

South Carolina  
1211 Newcastle St.  
Suite D  
Beaufort, SC 29902

300 New River Pkwy.  
Suite 7  
Hardeeville, SC 29927

