



Member Newsletter



Issue 4 - 2025-2026

JUNE 2026



From the President's Desk



The time has come for me to step down as your Board President, and I do so with a heart full of gratitude. I want to take the opportunity to thank each and every one of you for the extraordinary privilege of serving as President of the Board of Directors. Over the past year, our collective efforts have driven significant progress and our accomplishments are a true testament to the dedication of our Members.

Together, we successfully increased our donor base, invested in our membership, and improved our Board governance. I am incredibly grateful to the Executive Committee for showing up, working hard and supporting the Friends of Hospice Mission. We told "our story" of how we do what we do with passion and enthusiasm with every opportunity. We built incredible momentum, and proved what we can achieve when we work with a shared purpose.

Times are difficult for families, especially those who are uninsured. It gets even harder when a loved one is diagnosed with a life-limiting illness. The cost of hospice is expensive, and through our fundraising efforts, Friends of Hospice was able to present CHRISTUS VNA Hospice with a total of \$150,000 this year. In turn, over 26 patients and their families received end-of-life care that they very much needed this past year.

The transition to our next chapter is already underway. I am excited to hand over the baton to our incoming President, Ellen Pfeiffer, under whose capable leadership our Board of Directors will undoubtedly reach new heights. Please welcome her with the same warmth and enthusiasm you granted me. I look forward to seeing the amazing milestones that Friends of Hospice will conquer next.

Onward and Upward,
Robin Ford Dillard, DBA, MBA,BSN,RN

Board of Directors 2025-2026

Executive Committee

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Dr. Robin Dillard

President-Elect

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VP Education Programs

Dr. Ken Smith

VP Membership

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Secretary

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Nancy Davies

Members at Large

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Becky Walker

Terri Gutierrez

Executive Director/Editor



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The mission of Friends of Hospice San Antonio, Inc. is to increase community awareness and understanding of hospice and to raise funds in support of patients and their families in end-of-life care.

2025-2026 Executive Director's Report



Can you believe that our 2025-2026 year is almost over? This year we welcomed several new Board members and said goodbye to some long-time Board members. I think our new Board did a great job! They hit the ground running with new energy and ideas. I am happy to report that we were able to give \$150,000 again this year to

CHRISTUS Health Foundation for uninsured patient care for CHRISTUS VNA Hospice. That's because of the support of all of you, our members, as well as our many private donors, foundations, memorials and gifts. Your generous donations, participation and giving at our events is what makes our Mission possible, and we couldn't be more grateful for your support.

This coming year is our 35th Anniversary! Starting July 1st, we begin our 35th year of serving the hospice community here in San Antonio. There are not many small non-profits like ours that have been able to sustain and grow for this long, and we already have our dates set for several events:

- **Fall Social on September 30th at the San Antonio Garden Center**
- **New event: Sunday Tea Party at the San Antonio Country Club on November 15th**
- **Valentine Luncheon and Style Show at the San Antonio Country Club on February 13th, 2027**

Please put these dates on your calendar and join us as we celebrate this special anniversary year.

I would like to thank our outgoing Board President, Robin Dillard, who despite a very difficult personal loss this year, continued to support our organization and did a great job holding us to task. It was my pleasure to work with her and the Board as we partnered to strengthen Friends of Hospice for the future.

Our Board next year will have five new members: **Lois Armor (returning), Ashley Askew, Tracy Hibberd, Pastor Germaine Mathis, and Autumn Puckett**, who start on July 1st. Welcome to you all, and welcome to our **new President, Ellen Pfeiffer**. I can't wait to work with you all and see what new ideas you bring to our Mission. I hope everyone has a great summer and don't forget to renew your Membership and send me your summer pictures for our Facebook page.

Thank you for all your support this year and every year!

Terri Gutierrez

New Executive Committee 2026-2027

President
Ellen Pfeiffer

President-Elect
Dr. Aggie Manwell-Jackson

Vice President
Education Programs
Dr. Ken Smith

Second Vice President
Membership
Beverly Tuomala

Secretary
Trisha Lodde

Treasurer
Nancy Davies

Members at Large

Shary Smith
Liz Jauer



Special Gifts as of June 8, 2026

MAJOR DONORS (\$500 +)

J. McLaughlin
Camilla Parker
Rebecca Sargeant
Valero Energy Company

CONTRIBUTORS

Alison Buck
Elizabeth and Bill Chiego
Gillian Cook
Wanda Edlund
Annette Camp Gould
Terri and Juan Gutierrez
Stephanie Hobbs
Olive Anne and Tres Kleberg
Sarah Lemessurier
LouAnn and Wayne Noll

IN MEMORY OF

Felipe (Phil) Garza
 Carol and Rain Jones
 Mary Sullivan
George Gates, M.D.
 Charlotte Hains
Richard Goldsmith
 Winifred Cocke
John M. Jackson
 Trisha Anest
 Ron Deage
 Alison Lusty
 Kathleen Manwell
 Cheryl Morency
 National Philanthropic Trust
 Linda Smith
Welles Kumler
 Carol Kumler
Kaye E. Wilkins
 Sidney Wilkins
Mertie Wood
 Mary and Michael Benedum
 Kay Fitch
 Sherry and Toffe Satel

IN HONOR OF

Becky Davis
 Patti King



MEMORIAL DAY HONORS
IN MEMORY OF

Roy Butler
Ava Noll
 LouAnn and Wayne Noll
Winston L. Cave
 Ginger and Mike Cave
Will O. Davis
 Mary Young
Brig. Gen. John Dunning
 Sue Dullnig
Pat Johnson
Sara Dwyer
 Nancy Puckett
Col. Tom McNish POW 1966-73
 Lisa Howlett Cohick
Armando Jude Medina, Jr.
 Lupita Medina
Inez Mueller
Julie Mueller
 Lee Mueller
Peter C. Hains IV
George A. Gates, M.D.
 Charlotte Hains
Frederick E. Maples, Jr.
 Leona K. Maples
William McCrae
 Helen McCrae
Col. A.E. McCormick
 Marguerite McCormick
Raymond Updike, M.D.
Dallas Comuzzi
Don Comuzzi
 Johanna Comuzzi

IN HONOR OF

Roy Mueller
 Lee Mueller
Larry Updike
 Johanna Comuzzi
Memorial Day Donations
Vicky Dowling
Carol King
Anita Lindner
Judith N. Morton
Mae Wannarka
Chica Younger

REMEMBERING
MEMBERS AND
FRIENDS



Mary Zuschlag



John Marcus Jackson

HOPE YOU HAVE A GREAT SUMMER!



President Elect, Ellen Pfeiffer, CHRISTUS Hospice Executive Director, Leona Tatum and Dr. Robin Dillard presenting annual check.



Our Annual Meeting Brunch



New Member, and Exhibitor, Sandy Weeks, at our Spring Lecture.



New ABODE Executive Director, Natalie Buster and Bev Tuomala, Board Member at the Spring Lecture.



Our President, Dr. Robin Dillard with Liz Jauer, Board Member, at the Woman's Club of San Antonio.



Susan and Gil Kargl at our Spring Lecture.