



## Making a Difference, Together

**Part n e r s h i p;** (definition) a cooperative relationship between people or groups who agree to share responsibility for achieving a specific goal.

**B**uilding a Hospice House had been both a vision and a goal of the Upper Chesapeake Health and Hospice Board of Directors for many years. Before today in Harford County, options for terminally ill patients who could not be cared for in their own home were primarily limited to hospitalization or nursing homes. Hospice services were provided to these patients in hospital settings; a far cry away from the feeling of home. Likewise, terminally ill patients who chose to be cared for in their own home were often not receiving the same level of support that they would be provided if they were in a facility that was professionally equipped and staffed to care for those who can no longer care for themselves. Not to mention, the often devastating emotional and financial stresses families face in order to provide around-the-clock care for their loved one.

The Hospice House project would be the answer to our community's need; a warm, comforting, home-like environment with hospice services to include clinical care, social workers, bereavement services, and chaplains. But with this answer came the following questions:

How could such an expensive undertaking occur during a time where many local businesses were forced to lay-off employees or even close their doors? How would it be possible for the people of our community to rally around this project when many were losing their jobs and even their own homes?

"To say we thought long and hard about this project being just a dream, is an understatement," explained Joe Hoffman, Chief Financial Officer of Upper Chesapeake Health. "It seemed like every time we were convinced the time was not right to start this project, there was a recommendation, or another great volunteer recruited, or another generous gift or pledge. Every bit kept propelling this project forward." Volunteers and



*Paul Thompson, Dr. Richard Streett, Jr., Lyle Sheldon, Shirley Hooper, Cindy Hushon, Bill Minton, Andy Klein, Shawn McNamara, Beverly Dean-Crabtree and Joe Hoffman cut the ribbon to officially open The Senator Bob Hooper House.*

stakeholders in the community came together, challenging themselves and each other to provide a place of peace and serenity for those in the final stages of life; a home away from home. Despite a troubling economy, our community opened their hearts and made many sacrifices to bring a Hospice House to Harford County.

"It seemed in the blink of an eye, this amazing community project truly took on a life of its own," explained Beverly Dean-Crabtree, Executive Director, Senator Bob Hooper House.

The land for the home came in the form a gift from the Klein family. The design and construction of the home came from the gifts of time, talent, and resources from local business owners including Bill Minton of Jarrettsville Builders, Paul Thompson of ADW Architects, and Susie Comer of Comer Construction. All local businesses effected greatly by the struggling economy but nonetheless, all supporting the hospice project in a tremendously selfless way.

And then there was the generous gift of the Hooper family who chose to support the project and give the House its name in honor of one of Harford County's finest, the late J. Robert "Bob" Hooper, a popular state legislator, businessman and resident. The Hooper family's generous support allowed for an October 2009 groundbreaking and transformed this plan in to action.

Before too long, community residents were calling and reaching out to Upper Chesapeake Health Foundation asking what they could do to help. Girl Scout Troup 1447 held fundraisers and with their proceeds, along with gifts from Harford Pediatric Hospice Angels, designed and furnished a children's play room in the lower level of the House.

Char Hamel, owner of Simply Grande Home Furnishings



donated services and the time of staff members to furnish the residence, bringing the 'feeling of home' to each room.

## Embracing the Fundraising Challenge

Friends; young and old, many longtime County residents, others, brand new neighbors, joined hands and embraced the fundraising challenge.

What started out as simply a group of individuals with a common goal transpired into over \$3 million in gifts and generous commitments, a beautiful facility, and quality Hospice services and care for our community.

After just 14 months of construction, a ribbon-cutting ceremony was held. The Senator Bob Hooper House doors were at last opened to the community who so graciously turned the project into reality. Upper Chesapeake Health Foundation and the Hospice House Board of Directors showcased the fully-furnished home for donors and the community to see.

The Senator Bob Hooper House, the county's first residential hospice facility, is truly a community success story – a story of commitment, generosity, and team work of so many County residents and local businesses. The vision was clear, the determination was great, and the result reminds us all of the strength, wonder, and power of partnerships.

"My father would be so very proud of how the community came together to open this house," explained Cindy Hushon, Hospice Board Member and daughter of the late Bob Hooper. "My Dad's legacy, his commitment to service, compassion, and caring for his neighbors lives on in Harford County through the creation of this home."

The Senator Bob Hooper House's fundraising efforts are on-going as costs to care for just one terminally ill resident averages \$200 per day. No resident will ever be turned away for their inability to pay. The Foundation has launched the 2011 "Make Their Day Campaign", helping to fund the cost of care for residents and families who are unable to pay on their own.

To make a gift, or offer your support, please call The Upper Chesapeake Health Foundation at **443-643-3460**.



*Visionary leaders of the Residential Hospice Campaign gather in the formal living room of The Senator Bob Hooper House.*



*Girl Scout Troop 1447 showcases the beautiful mosaic they donated to decorate the children's play room.*



To learn more about  
The Senator Bob Hooper House  
please call **410-809-2191**  
or visit **www.uchs.org**