



Tresa Marlow and Pam Simpson in Mississippi.  
Photo courtesy  
of Edward Biamonte.

## Team Brings Care to Victims of Katrina.

When tragedy struck the states of Mississippi and Louisiana, many people wondered what they could do to help. Tresa Marlow, Assistant Director of Home Health, was one of those people. Tresa and three other nurses from Oxford, Crystal Burgess, Diane McNamara and Bill Russell, joined a 31-member team to deliver supplies and assistance to the Mississippi region devastated by Hurricane Katrina.

It began with a phone call early Friday morning, September 2, from Dr. Steven Daugherty, and by that afternoon a caravan of eight vehicles was on its way. "I'm amazed at how fast it came together," shares Tresa. Oxford nurse Sylvia Speer made many phone calls, and Oxford, as well as numerous clinics, donated medical supplies and food for the team to deliver.

The first destination was Picayune, Mississippi, where the local hospital was flooded and had to be shut down. Some members of the team stayed there with supplies while the rest of the team moved on to Poplarville, to help relieve an exhausted staff who was running a hospital and nursing home. The team helped reopen the hospital emergency room on Saturday and treated a steady stream of people needing emergency assistance. The nursing home had 100 patients who were very sick—requiring tube feeds and IVs, therefore treatment proved to be difficult without electricity. The hospital and nursing home were running off of gas-powered generators. The simple act of serving meals to patients required volunteers to cut wood for fuel and cook meals on grills. "You have to rethink your whole way of taking care of people," explains Tresa. "We found ourselves in situations we've never experienced as medical professionals."

*"We found ourselves in situations we've never experienced as medical professionals."*

*"There's a lot of need, and I don't think that need is going away."*

By Sunday, the team was organized enough to allow the hospital and nursing home staff to go home for the first time in six exhausting days. Unfortunately, half of them didn't have homes to return to, and many slept on cots in the kitchen. "It was amazing—these people were still smiling and caring for patients. There was such relief on their faces when we got there—they actually applauded us. They had such a positive attitude. I felt guilty returning to a normal life when these people have nothing. It felt good helping them—it was rewarding. There's a lot of need, and I don't think that need is going away."

# Rep. Bob Dixon Visits Oxford Client.



Representative Bob Dixon with Gudrun,  
an Oxford client.

Gudrun, who has congestive heart failure and is on oxygen, has been on Oxford's HomMed Health Monitoring System since July of 2004. Before HomMed, Gudrun was making an average of four trips a month to the emergency room. "I didn't know what to do before I had the monitor—I had to go to the hospital," explains Gudrun. Since using the HomMed System, Gudrun's hospital visits have significantly decreased.

*"I didn't know  
what to do before  
I had the monitor."*

In order to understand the impact telemonitoring has made in patients' lives, Representative Bob Dixon met with Gudrun and Oxford HealthCare. Gudrun explained her situation to Dixon and how the system allows her to assist in managing her healthcare—that without it, she wouldn't be able to stay in her home. She emphasized the difference HomMed has made in her life and how it also

gives her peace-of-mind knowing that Oxford is monitoring her daily and allowing her to stay in her own home.

With the HomMed Health Monitoring System, the average percent of patients returning to emergent care is only 6.2%, compared to the national average of 20.1%. The national average of re-hospitalized congestive heart failure patients is 10.2%, but with the HomMed System and Oxford, that average is significantly lower at 1.1%.

*With the HomMed  
Health Monitoring  
System, the average  
percent of patients  
returning to emergent  
care is only 6.2%,  
compared to the  
national average of 20.1%.*

If you would like more information on the HomMed Health Monitoring System, please call 417-883-7500 or 1-800-749-6555 and speak with a Care Coordinator today.

## Oxford Introduces Medication Management Program.

Each year, 125,000 people lose their lives due to medication noncompliance, and many nursing home admissions are due solely to this noncompliance issue. An estimated 45% of the elderly population do not take their medications properly. This can be due to physical barriers, such as weakness, arthritis and being wheelchair-bound or bedridden. Functional barriers, such as memory loss, medication side

effects or using multiple pharmacies can also add to the problem.

Oxford HealthCare offers a Medication Management Program to help prevent medication misuse and difficulties. Oxford's nursing staff can work closely with physicians and pharmacists to provide assistance with medications. A nurse will set up and monitor medications either on a

# Community Spotlight

## Medicare Prescription Drug-Coverage

Time is quickly approaching for Medicare beneficiaries to begin enrolling in the new Medicare prescription drug plan. Medicare beneficiaries should already be receiving some information in the mail which will help them make a decision about the plan they want to choose. It is important that Medicare beneficiaries review all of the information before selecting a prescription drug plan. The following information may be helpful for the Medicare Beneficiary:

- To enroll, you must have Medicare Part A and/or Medicare Part B.
- You can enroll beginning November 15, 2005. If you enroll before December 31, 2005 your coverage will begin January 1, 2006. If you enroll after January 1, 2006 your coverage will begin the month after you sign up. May 15, 2006 is the last day to sign up for coverage in 2006.
- If you enroll after May 15, 2006 you will pay a higher premium unless you currently have drug coverage that is as good as the standard Medicare prescription drug coverage. In this case you may enroll at a later date without an increase in the premium.
- If you have limited income and resources, you may qualify for extra help on your Medicare Prescription Drug Coverage. The amount of help depends on your income and resources. If you are in this group you should have already received information from the Social Security Administration (SSA) or from Medicare. You can reach SSA at 1-800-772-1213 or visit their website at <http://www.socialsecurity.gov>.
- Be on the lookout for Medicare Prescription Drug Plan presentations in your area that will help explain the program and answer your questions.

For more information, you can call the Medicare Hotline at 1-800-633-4227 or visit their website at <http://www.medicare.gov>.

*Information obtained from the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services.*

weekly or monthly basis, while reporting to and coordinating with the client's physicians. Oxford will call patients and remind them to take their medications at specified times throughout the day, and will not only reorder medications as necessary, but will pick up and deliver medications from the pharmacy.

"Our Medication Management Program alleviates pressure from the spouse or caregiver," explains Carl Wilson, Regional Director

of HealthCare Services at Oxford. "When we help clients establish a regular routine and coordinate with their multiple physicians, we have found noncompliance issues can be greatly reduced."

For more information about Oxford's Medication Management Program, call 417-883-7500 or 1-800-749-6555 and ask to speak to a Care Coordinator.

# Oxford Contributes to Memory Walk.

Deana Parsick, an Accounts Payable Specialist with Oxford HealthCare, organized fundraising efforts for the Alzheimer's Association Memory Walk for the second year in a row. Deana designed a logo commemorating the walk and sold old-fashioned candy dispensers displaying the logo. She also organized bake sales and a raffle for handmade jewelry donated by Linda Taylor, a co-worker. Oxford employees helped raise \$1,000 in just about five weeks for the Alzheimer's Association. "Everyone at Oxford is extremely generous and supportive with our fundraisers," states Deana. Oxford employees Alice Goodson and Becky Graf took part in the walk. Oxford also volunteered a vehicle driven by Cathy Mulford to pick up walkers.



*Caring for You at Home.*

3660 S. National, Ste. 300  
P.O. Box 10939  
Springfield, MO 65808-0939

PRSRT STD  
US POSTAGE  
PAID  
SPRINGFIELD MO  
PERMIT # 801

*Voted Best Home Health Care Agency  
and Best Place to Work.*



*Caring for You at Home.*

Springfield: 417-883-7500  
Joplin: 417-782-0111  
1-800-749-6555  
[www.OxfordHealthCare.net](http://www.OxfordHealthCare.net)



Not for profit.