



Oxford
HealthCaresm

Oxford's Care Update

Spring 2006

Oxford Helps Hurricane Rita Victims.

In the wake of Hurricane Rita, Linda Hartman and her family headed toward Springfield. With the help of Oxford Health Care they found the care they needed.

On Friday, September 23, an evacuation order was set for Beaumont, Texas, the Hartman's hometown. Linda, Grandma June, David Sr., and David Jr. drove to the nearest highway out of town. In their van, packed with clothes, medicine, food and personal treasures, they encountered bumper-to-bumper traffic, causing them to change direction multiple times. Deciding to turn north at Lafayette, they slowly made their way to Springfield.



After 3 days at a hotel in Springfield, the Hartman's realized that their return to Beaumont would not be immediate. Hurricane Rita had hit land with near 120 mph winds, destroying much in its path. The clean up of Beaumont would take over a month.

A cousin of the Hartman's from Willard invited the family to stay in his home, but the Hartman's were concerned about adding a burden to his family. Linda has Multiple Sclerosis, Dave Jr. is severely disabled and Grandma June is losing her eyesight. Linda's cousin assured her that with the help of Oxford Health Care, the family's medical concerns could easily be dealt with.

After a call to Oxford, Linda's concerns were quick to fade. The staff at Oxford was quick to respond to the needs of this displaced family.

"Each and every time we opened the door to nurses and health care aides, we met compassionate and extremely professional people. The entire staff of both Oxford and Cox was extremely well qualified and professional. When I became stressed, the assistants on the phone spoke in a manner that could calm any storm!" says Linda.

Though the Hartman's were forced to flee the convenience of their home and their regular health care professionals, they found exceptional care from Oxford Health Care during their stay in Springfield.

HomMed Makes a Difference.

Mary Duncan put HomMed in her home in October 2005. With a long history of Congestive Heart Failure, Mary was hospitalized frequently and went to the Doctor's office several times a week. Since Mary began using HomMed in her home, a nurse visits her once a month in her home and she has only required hospitalization once.



HomMed Health Monitoring System

With HomMed, Mary is able to monitor her condition in her own home and drastically cut down on outside medical visits. "The monitor is helpful to me and the nurses are good about calling me when my weight is up and monitoring for symptoms of Congestive Heart Failure." Mary said. Adjustments to her medications have been made based on the information from HomMed, helping to manage her disease.

Mary's husband, William, has seen the many benefits from having HomMed. "The monitor has been a big help. We feel that having the monitor has helped decrease Mary's hospitalizations. We also like that it keeps track of all her vital signs so we know how she is doing." HomMed makes keeping track of her health much simpler William said. "It is wonderful to have the nurses' call and check on her and then call our physician with a report."

Oxford Client Receives Service Award

Oxford client, Mary Kathryn Gilbert, was named the Lieutenant Governor Senior Service Award Winner for January 2006.

The award, given by Lieutenant Governor Peter Kinder was given to Gilbert for her outstanding participation in volunteer services. Lt. Gov. Kinder created the award to promote and highlight the positive accomplishments that Missouri's senior citizens provide their local communities.

"There are thousands of Missourians whose lives are touched by the unselfish work and caring hand of someone like Kathryn Gilbert," said Kinder.

Gilbert will receive an official declaration from Lt. Gov. Kinder, a Senior Service Award Lapel Pin, and special recognition at the State Capitol from Lt. Gov. Kinder.

Community Spotlight

Benefits Available for Some Oxford Patients.

Over 30,000 veterans in Missouri are eligible for Veteran's Affairs benefits, but do not receive them. Many of these veterans do not know what is available or how to access their benefits. Oxford HealthCare provides services that are paid for through various veterans benefit programs.

An application should be completed to determine a veteran's eligibility for VA benefits. There are many avenues to assist veterans in determining their eligibility and to determine what program is their best option. The VA website, www.va.gov leads to a variety of materials and information. Locally, assistance can be obtained through the Missouri Veterans Commissions.

A wide variety of programs exist for veterans. The Aid and Attendance Pension Program is a disability pension program that helps veterans to have care at home. The purpose of this program is to purchase care. This care can be provided at home, in assisted living or in a nursing home setting. To be eligible for this program, veterans must have served at least 90 days of active duty with at least one day beginning or ending during a period of war. This program is also available for dependants and surviving spouses who qualify.

The Disability Pension provides monetary compensations to veterans who served during wartime and are disabled by an injury or disease incurred or aggravated during active military service. Vocational Rehabilitation training for re-employment, housing loans, health care benefits and survivor benefits are just a sampling of the Veteran's Affairs benefits that are available.

In addition to the VA and Missouri Veterans Commissions, Oxford HealthCare can help veterans obtain information about VA benefits. A Care Coordinator can assist with phone numbers, applications schedules and office locations in the area. Oxford can also help with setting up services in the home being funded by VA benefits. Call (417) 883-7500 or 1-800-749-6555 and ask to speak with a Care Coordinator.

**Article Submitted by:*

Valentine Basket Raffle Raises Funds.

Manda Lambert, HHA Team Assistant, was the lucky winner in the 2006 Valentine Basket raffle. The fundraiser raised \$350 for Oxford Caring Baskets. "This was a wonderful fundraiser to assist with the caring baskets and we appreciate everyone's support," states Shelley Cologna, organizer of the event.

The basket, donated by the Accounting Department, included Valentine's dish towels and plates, a dozen silk roses, a package of rose petals, rose petal bath soap leaves, a Valentine picture frame, a heart box of chocolates, Ghirardelli Dark Chocolate, an Angel Lantern, a chocolate-dipped strawberry scented candle, wine glasses full of candy, other various Valentine items and a \$20 gift card to Wehrenberg Theatres.

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