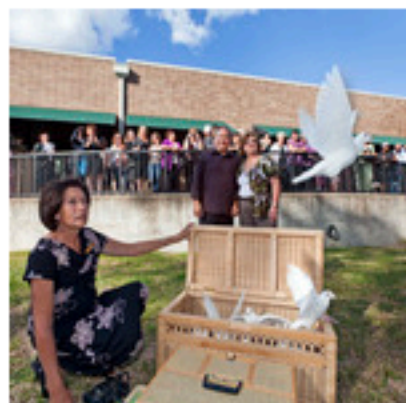


# "Celebration of Life" Honors Houston Solari Hospice Care Patients

by Deena West | November 2, 2011 2:26 pm



Thirty doves took flight in a special "Celebration of Life" ceremony held on Saturday, Oct. 22, at the Episcopal Church of the Epiphany in Houston. This symbolic gesture of love, peace, gentleness and faith was a tribute to the lives of Houston Solari Hospice Care patients who passed away during the past year.

"This is such an important service for both the patients' loved ones and the staff," says Matthew Stephens, spiritual coordinator, Houston Solari Hospice Care. "Sometimes when you're so busy caring for a patient, you can't take time to pour out your feelings and emotions. You feel like to have to stay strong. This service gives everyone a chance to come back together again, face to face, and to reconnect and reflect on the many special moments we've all shared - some tearful and some joyful. This is also an opportunity for the loved ones to get a little more closure as they work through the various stages of grief."

The service began with a welcome address and words of inspiration by Gary W. Polsky, founder, president and CEO, Solari Hospice Care. Stephens offered an invocation, followed by the release of doves. Special music on piano and keyboards was provided by Raymond Rax, who also sang a beautiful gospel hymn. Jim Mayer, chaplain, Houston Solari Hospice Care, delivered a message of comfort. Then, in the most moving part of the ceremony, the list of approximately 200 patient names was read. Following this, family members and friends had the opportunity to come forward and say a few words.

After the service, everyone was invited to enjoy refreshments and to tour the newly opened Houston Solari Hospice Care Inpatient Home, located at 9714 S. Gessner Rd.

"We just opened our doors in May, so many of the families had not seen our new facility," says Bren Hingle, admissions director, Houston Solari Hospice Care. "This is the first Inpatient Home in the Houston area to be built - from conception to completion - as a state-of-the-art medical facility fully dedicated to hospice care. We can now offer patients a warm, comfortable home-like setting when their circumstances require urgent or more advanced medical treatment. Our patients' loved ones repeatedly told us how appreciative they were of this new benefit."

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