

*Evergreen Healthcare's commitment to provide services outside the walls of our hospital is unique on the Eastside and contributes significantly to the health and well-being of our community. In this continuing series, we highlight some of the programs made possible by your levy support.*

## *"I don't know what we would have done without hospice."*

"I think hospice is a wonderful thing," 83-year-old Huntley Berg says with a smile. "It's too bad more people don't know about it."

Berg learned about Evergreen Hospice following surgery in May 2004. She was diagnosed with an aggressive form of colon cancer 10 years ago, and her recent surgery revealed that curative treatment was no longer possible. Facing the end of life is not easy; however, Berg – like many patients and their families – found tremendous support through Evergreen Hospice.



Sue LeRoy, RN, MSN

### **CARE FROM SPECIALISTS**

Nurse Sue LeRoy is Berg's case manager, and part of a team of specialists that works to help both Berg and her husband cope with her illness and prepare for her death. LeRoy works in concert with Berg's physician and a pharmacist to manage her symptoms. A social worker provides counseling and emotional support and assists with financial, legal and insurance issues. Certified nursing assistants help with

bathing, and hospice volunteers are available to help with errands. Chaplains provide spiritual support.

"When Huntley is doing well, I visit once a week," LeRoy explains. "But I will visit every day if necessary. I also make phone calls in between visits to see how she is managing."

"These people never seem to get tired of helping," Berg says. "An aide comes twice a week to help me shower and shampoo. It doesn't seem like it would be such a big deal, but for me it would just be overwhelming."



Huntley and Hap Berg

Berg receives hospice care in her home, as do the majority of hospice patients. Care is also available at the Gene & Irene Wockner Hospice Center, located on the Evergreen Hospital Medical Center campus.

### **"...MORE THAN CARETAKERS..."**

"I don't know what we would have done without hospice," says Hap Berg, Huntley's husband. "They are more than caretakers; they're really good friends."

Huntley Berg couldn't agree more. "I am not looking forward to the end," she says, "but hospice has made it possible for me to maintain the same quality of life in the last stage of my life."

*For more information, call Evergreen Hospice Services at 425.899.1040 or visit our Web site at [www.evergreenhealthcare.org](http://www.evergreenhealthcare.org).*

### **ABOUT THE EVERGREEN LEVY**

About 3.6 percent – roughly \$13.4 million – of Evergreen Healthcare's annual operating budget comes from the levy money paid to King County Public Hospital District No. 2. Some of this money is used to pay for buildings and equipment; the rest funds innovative community health programs to meet the diverse needs of the area we serve. The taxation rate for 2005 is \$.33 per thousand, or \$83 for a \$250,000 home.