

“We Only Wanted the Very Best for Our Parents...”

This Cy and Gladys Purser built their lives, their family...their home... in Alexander County, NC. For 32 years, Gladys taught elementary school in Alexander County. Cy earned a living as a Hotpoint/GE appliance salesman, Holly Farms/Tyson plant supervisor, and was later part owner of Millstead Apple Orchards. They loved, raised and cared for their children: Dinah, Suzanne, and Mack. Through the years, their family grew to include three grandchildren. The Purser family lived a full life in Alexander County.



In 2007, the Purser family was faced with the difficult circumstances and decisions that almost every family has faced or will face at some point...the life-limiting illness of a parent. When Gladys Purser became ill and was facing end of life, their family chose Hospice & Home Care of Alexander County to help them “live the best quality of life possible” through that painful season of their lives. “We only wanted the very best for our parents,” says Dinah Purser. “I can’t say enough about Hospice of Alexander...and how sweet, loving, and compassionate they were. When I laid the rose on Mom’s casket, I had no regrets.”

Because of their experience with Hospice & Home Care of Alexander County when Gladys passed away in 2007, there was no question as to who to call when Cy Purser needed end of life care. “When we found out about Dad’s cancer, I started praying that if this was the path we faced that God would put people in our path to make the journey easier...and He did,” says Dinah Purser. “It is very obvious that the love and compassion of God is in Hospice & Home Care of Alexander County. They’ve become like a part of our family!”

Above: Cy Purser and hospice nurse, Kelley Jolly-RN.

Left: Cy Purser with daughter Dinah and his dog Lucky.



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Cy looked forward to the visits from the hospice nurses. According to the family, “Kelley, Jamison and Suzan were great! We don’t know what we would have done without them.” The hospice staff specializes in easing the physical, emotional and spiritual discomforts that each patient and their family face as the end of life nears. They helped relieve the Purser family of questions and concerns about Cy’s care, and allowed them to focus more on their time together as a family.

Cy Purser died on September 9, 2011, at the age of 82. “It was an honor and blessing to have my dad at home when he died,” says Dinah Purser. “I was there with him, along with his dog Lucky...and Kelley Jolly-RN, Hospice Nurse, was right there with us to take care of whatever we needed.”

Hospice & Home Care of Alexander County continues to provide care and support to the Purser family. Bereavement services offer emotional, psychosocial, and spiritual support to assist with issues related to grief, loss and adjustment both before and after the death of a hospice patient. Services begin as soon as the patient is admitted to the hospice program, and continue for up to 13 months after the death.

Hospice services are highly utilized in Alexander County. The most recent four-year growth rates for days of hospice care and deaths in Alexander County were over three times greater than those experienced by the state. While hospice utilization in the county has steadily increased, Alexander County continues to lose potential patients to neighboring counties. Statistics show that of Alexander County residents admitted to hospice care in 2006 through 2009, the percentage served by Hospice & Home Care of Alexander County fell from 58% in 2006 to 27% in 2009.

However, current data show promise as more residents seem to be turning to their local hospice provider. Statistics from October 1, 2008 to September 30, 2009 showed 47 admissions to Hospice & Home Care of Alexander County, while admissions for the same period in 2009 to 2010 rose to 61. “The increase of local utilization is very encouraging,” says Tonya Roland-RN, CHPN, Executive Director of Hospice & Home Care of Alexander County. “We believe that residents of Alexander County receive a higher quantity, as well as quality, of end of life care when they utilize their local hospice.”

Hospice & Home Care of Alexander County provides the highest caliber of end of life care and services from a foundation of loving and educated medical professionals and volunteers dedicated to quality hospice care to the residents of their county. Given the choice, most people facing a terminal illness prefer to receive end of life care in the comfort of their own home. While the Hospice team does everything possible to make that happen, there are times when a patient needs more care than can be managed at home, or symptoms require more intense management than family caregivers can provide. For these instances, Hospice & Home Care of Alexander County provides several options for inpatient care through contracted relationships with other facilities. If the inpatient options available through Hospice & Home Care of Alexander County are occupied, or are not the best option for the patient, patients may be transferred to a facility with the resources needed. Transferring a patient is a simple process, and the continuity of care will not be compromised.

For more information about quality end of life care in Alexander County, contact Hospice & Home Care of Alexander County, Inc. at 828.632.5026 or visit www.hospiceandhomecarealexander.org.