

Sowing Seeds of Life

Nikia Denny, Owner of Tranquility Hospice

"I think I love you," said an elderly hospice patient.

Nikia Denny had met him only minutes before. When she first entered into his small bedroom, she found it full of arguing family members. But drawing on years of experience, she had quickly won them over with her kind spirit, successfully refocusing their attention on what was truly important...taking care of their father. Enjoying the break in the bickering, the old man relaxed, knowing Nikia was going to be a friend he could depend upon. And for that favor, he instantly fell in love with her.

The story is not an unusual one for this highly successful hospice nurse. Patients appreciate her medical expertise and her devotion to give absolutely the best care, but it is her positive spirit that they notice most of all.

"Hospice" is both Nikia's God-given calling and her business. After working for one of the largest hospice care centers in Oklahoma, she longed for the time and the corporate approval to do more, to expand the level of treatment way past the norm. It was a dream that would ultimately encourage her to start her own business called Tranquility Hospice.

"Her hospice would be different," she pledged. "Controlling its size and never losing that family atmosphere, that caring touch. Her dedication would remain focused on the needs of the patient instead of on the numbers of the balance sheet."

Now after four years in business, Tranquility Hospice is holding fast to its original mission. Often described as a "boutique" hospice, it is small enough to ensure that Nikia, as well as her medical director, are able to continue to make home visits. And, just as she had always dreamed, the company's thirty employees act much more like a family than a corporation.

Nikia's interest in hospice started while she was working as a nurse at Hillcrest Medical Center. As a favor, she assisted her friend, "Pat" with one hospice patient. Though Nikia said she could "never do hospice," Pat sensed that she had a special gift for it. In fact, Pat smiled as she said, "God told me that you would someday be a great hospice nurse."

Nikia resisted the idea, but try as she could to run from it, it seemed God kept pulling her toward it. Then, when Pat herself became terminally ill, it was Nikia who would lovingly care for her. "I didn't choose hospice," Nikia explained. "It chose me."

Now years later, Nikia has a passion for this type of nursing. "There is no normal day in the life of a hospice nurse. We help people 'live' not 'die.' Helping people feel better...that is what it is all about. Death really is a new beginning and it can be beautiful," she explained.



"Quality matters to us," insisted one staff member. We do many things other hospice centers would never dream of...like providing massage therapy, not only for the patient, but also for the caregivers. Such extra care is an example of why many of our patients actually get better, lasting much longer than first expected." It is a level of care that Nikia hopes will set the bar higher and set new standards in the industry.

If she were given a personality profile test, there is no doubt that Nikia would score way off the charts for compassion. It is something her dad and step-mom cultivated in her from any early age. Christian book writers as well as employees the Ford Glass Plant, they insisted that she wake up each and every day thanking God for everything. "We would plant a garden as a family and they would continually tell us about our opportunity to sow seeds in people's lives. They taught us how to bless people for the right reasons," she explained.

Now Nikia teaches those same lessons to her employees. And as a result, she is sowing "life" into something that the world would only describe as a business of "death." Pat was right. God did exactly what He told her He would do. Nikia is one great hospice nurse.

About Tranquility Hospice

Tranquility Hospice features a dedicated staff with many years of experience helping individuals and families through the end-of-life phase.

Hospice care from a dedicated and caring team can make a meaningful difference for those facing end of life, and for their loved ones. The hospice team can reduce physical pain, ease emotional and spiritual suffering, and facilitate financial and legal activities as needed.

Hospice may be appropriate for any person who has a ter-

What is hospice?

To Nikia, hospice is about living life to the fullest in secure and familiar surroundings with those who matter most - family and friends. Her company, Tranquility Hospice, offers terminally ill patients an alternative to routine home care and repeated hospitalizations. They proudly offer comprehensive care focused on easing the physical, emotional and spiritual pain that often accompanies terminal illness. Offering outstanding care, the hospice team members are dedicated professionals and trained volunteers who specialize in meeting the individualized needs of terminally ill patients and families. Who Qualifies for Hospice Care?

Patients who are eligible for hospice services are patients diagnosed with a terminal illness resulting in a life expectancy of six months or less, as determined by the patient's physician. Hospices are responsible for providing quality care regardless of diagnosis, age, gender, nationality, race, creed, sexual orientation, disability, or ability to pay. A decision to choose hospice care will be made by the patient in partnership with his or her family physician and the hospice team, after a thorough review of all the care options.

terminal illness and a prognosis of six months or less. Through hospice support, Tranquility strives to enhance the person's remaining time and to make end-of-life as peaceful and fulfilling as possible. Hospice care can be delivered anywhere: in a person's home, assisted living facility, nursing home or wherever the person chooses to spend their final weeks or months.

When faced with end-of-life challenges, it's difficult to think about payments. Fortunately, Medicare covers all hospice services related to terminal illness. Most commercial insurers also have a hospice benefit. (Check with your insurer for specific details.) Self-pay is another option for funding. Please be assured that Tranquility Hospice will not turn a patient away because he or she cannot pay.



Pet Therapy!

Meet Prince Louie IV. "Louie" is the official mascot of the Tranquility Hospice family. Tranquility developed the pet therapy program to give their patients extra love and affection. Louie makes his trips each week to the patients, providing quality love as well as wet kisses to everyone he meets.

Tranquility Hospice is located at 1815 E. 15th Street in Tulsa. Their phone number is 918-592-2273 and their website is www.tranquilityhospice.com. You can also follow them on Facebook and Twitter. 📱



After a couple of years with the Tulsa Chamber, Nikia's brother, Tom Green joined the Tranquility "family" as their Director of Operations and Marketing. Tom and Nikia are shown working in the Tranquility office.