

Over Fourteen Years of Hospice Stories

My name is Renee and when I heard about this contest, I knew this was my chance to tell everyone how much Snowline Hospice means to me.

Fourteen years ago, I met Sharon, the manager of Snowline's thrift store in Cameron Park. Not only did I quickly learn that this was not your typical thrift store with fantastic deals, but the women who worked there were truly amazing. They were survivors, grandmothers, mothers, former business women, your neighbors offering their service and their many years of experience to the public for free which I have found to be priceless. These women are tough.

Sharon often told me of her experiences with raising foster children which led to my husband and I adopting three children. Snowline Hospice Thrift Store has been a godsend to everything from school clothes (new with tags), to Halloween costumes, to those everyday school projects. Hospice is a daily word in our home. My children ask if they can volunteer when I do because that's where they know they can get cool things with their allowance.

These women have not only become my friends, but a family to me. I have seen these women jump when asked to help after an apartment caught on fire in Cameron Park and the tenants needed clothes. Time after time, I have seen them give and help without expecting anything in return. They work just out of the goodness of their hearts to better help our community.

If you have never been to one of their thrift stores, you should check them out. It is truly a goldmine. I have seen everything come through there – from antiques, to collectibles, to books and toys. Lots of new items still have the tags.

Besides the thrift store, the ladies told me who to call when my brother, age 49 and my mother age 77, were diagnosed three days apart with colon cancer that had spread to their livers. My brother lived nine months, and my mother two years, and Hospice was there for them and me at the end when they passed. Hospice had so much helpful information. They really knew their stuff.

We called hospice again in January of 2010 for my mother-in-law who suffered from dementia and was residing in a nursing home. They were so helpful and made things so much easier for the family going through such a difficult time. They even offered support to the children after losing their grandmother. I am very grateful for the ladies at the hospice thrift store. I am also grateful for hospice itself for providing compassionate care to the terminally ill. I just wanted to thank the ladies and men for all their wisdom and all they do.