

Hospice grows in Purcellville

Local

By Shannon Sollinger

Source: Loudoun Times-Mirror

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 5 2008

Blue Ridge Hospice in Purcellville has expanded its thrift shop to both floors of 151 W. Main St., and added a small clinical center for nurses, social workers and certified nursing assistants, and working space for bereavement counselors, music therapists, members of the spiritual support team and volunteers.

Chief Executive Officer Ernie Carnevale wielded the ceremonial scissors Feb. 29 and cut the ribbon to celebrate the growth of the branch.

Blue Ridge Hospice served 850 patients last year and reached out to more than 2,000 families, Carnevale said. The six offices, including Purcellville, employ 130 professionals and benefit from the contributions of 251 volunteers.

Hospice services are eligible for Medicare coverage.

Blue Ridge Hospice was founded in 1981. It serves patients with terminal and life-limiting diseases, and their families from Purcellville in Loudoun to the Shenandoah Valley.

The mission is to allow a dying patient to live as pain-free and comfortably as possible, and to support everyone in the community affected by death, dying and loss.

Money raised by the Loudoun/Clarke advisory board went to refurbishing the space. It greets shoppers with periwinkle blue walls and gleaming white patterned ceiling, and rack after rack of pants, suits, sweaters and jeans.

Bargain hunters and hospice supporters can find – and donate -- gently used books, clothing, toys, seasonal decorations, vintage and costume jewelry, shoes, sporting equipment, table settings, cutlery and furniture.

Tony Howard, Loudoun County Chamber of Commerce president and chief executive officer, was on hand for the "grand reopening."

"Our greatest economic asset is the quality of the people in our community," Howard said. Hospice, its staff and volunteers, are an important part of the high quality of life in Loudoun, he said.



Lynn Gray, of Berryville, picks up some reading material from the book nook at the Blue Ridge Hospice Thrift Shop in Purcellville Feb. 29 at a ribbon cutting to celebrate larger quarters and expanded services -- Times-Mirror Staff Photo/Lisa Johnson