

Lifeline Chaplaincy and Compassionate Touch 2021 Fourth Quarter Details by Region



Holding Space

In times of grief, loss, fear, and pain
Our thoughts and feelings can be hard to explain
Our heart and head can be all over the place
And we struggle to find some breathing space
It can help to have someone who understands
Then, aims to lend a helping hand
Someone who won't take your power away
By trying to fix you day-after-day
It's about opening your heart and offering support
Or giving guidance...as a last resort!
It's about walking alongside the other person
And being there when life is uncertain
To truly support someone at their own time and pace
Please remember the significance of "holding space"

Fourth Quarter Calendar Events

- 10/5 **2021 South Texas Virtual Gala** (via lifelinechaplaincy.org, Vimeo, Facebook Live)
- 10/21 **Lifeline/Philanthrocorp Lunch n' Learn Estate Planning Seminar** (via Zoom)
- 10/28 **LC/CT Staff Retreat** – Camp Allen, Navasota, TX
- 10/29 **LC Volunteer Retreat** – Camp Allen, Navasota, TX
- 11/6 **Ministry in Times of Illness and Loss: Part 2** – Virtual and In-Person (Central TX)
- 11/13 **Run4Compassion 12-hour relay run with Aggies for Christ** – College Station, TX
- 12/5 **Service of Remembrance** – Brentwood Oaks Church of Christ, Austin, TX

Central Texas

Patient Visits (In-person and Telephone)	1313
Pastoral Contacts	26
Mentor Meetings with Volunteers	14
Development Team Contacts	290

Stories



(Left) A wonderful group of Christian in Kerrville, TX gathered on October 16 for a “Coming Alongside” Seminar. Tom Nuckels presented three sessions, including themes of “Loss and Crisis,” “Why Me? Questions in Times of Grief,” and “Effective Hospital Ministry.” Twenty-three people attended to increase their knowledge and enhance their skills in ministry to others struggling with grief and loss.

(Right) Michele Thompson and Joy Dillman, alongside Tom Nuckels, taught a group during a hybrid (both online and in-person) version of our workshop, *Ministry in Times of Illness and Loss*. Six individuals participated in this one-day event, which covered important materials such as story listening, life commandments, self-care for the caregiver, and role-play of hospital visits.



(Left) Dan Bonner, a Lifeline volunteer, provided a reading during a Service of Remembrance at the Brentwood Oaks Church of Christ chapel on Sunday, December 5. Each year, this gathering provides a safe space for griever to mourn a loved one who has passed through song, reading of poems and prayers, and a lighting of a candle in honor of their loved one. This year, about forty people attended for a period of worship and fellowship and shared their stories of departed loved ones who remain in our hearts.

Lifeline volunteers gathered as we expressed our appreciate for their care in hospitals throughout Central Texas. (Right) Our Austin/Georgetown volunteers gathered on Dec. 16 while our Temple/Waco volunteers (far right) gathered on Dec. 22. We are blessed by these dedicated servants!



Dallas

Hospital Televisits	765
Development Team Contacts	1363
Soft Touch Pillow Ministry Volunteers	56
Soft Touch Pillow Ministry Items Created	1786
Soft Touch Pillow Ministry Hours Worked	433

Fourth Quarter Events

Aug 11 **From Victory unto Victory** – Volunteer Devotional/Encouragement
Aug 21 **MTIL Training, Part 1** (in-person)

Story: Two Elderly Gentlemen

A ninety-four-year-old gentleman was very happy to have someone come to his bedside during his hospital stay. He had stories to tell from his long life, but it takes someone to listen for this to happen. He told me about his wife who was at home and making it fine; he hoped. He was missing her. They had been married for seventy-one years. We sang a hymn and prayed. His eyes glistened as he said, “I surely appreciate your coming to see me, and thank you for this pillow - I needed that.”

In another room, I asked the patient if he would appreciate a brief visit from me a chaplain from Lifeline Chaplaincy, a ministry of churches of Christ. He said, “Yes. I feel right at home with chaplains because I use to be one. I served as a chaplain in a prison in Baton Rouge, LA for twenty-seven years. Brenda, my wife, and I now live in what’s left of Lake Charles, LA. You will remember the recent flood there almost washed us away. People know me in Lake Charles as the Cookie Man. I make cookies and very good ones at that. One of the most important things about cooking is to clean up as you go – don’t pile a bunch of dirty dishes in the sink. No, wash’em as you go and finally wipe the counter tops down with Clorox.” We prayed and he told me about how he became a Christian at a tent revival when he was thirteen. Often listening ears can be a great comfort to the lonely in our hospitals. Thank you for helping us be listening ears at the bedside.

Houston

Hospital Televisits	910
Pastoral Contacts	158
Development Team Touches	542

Story: Not This Year . . . But Maybe Next Year

It didn't take me long to figure out that Bob (not his real name) was an avid outdoorsman. Settling in for several weeks of inpatient treatment for leukemia, he adorned his room with tokens of his passion for hunting and the outdoor life. He replaced the hospital-issue bedspread with a camouflage camp blanket. He covered his head, now bald due to chemotherapy, with a camouflage hunter's cap. Photos from hunting trips adorned the walls of his room. On his nightstand sat two pictures – one of his wife, the other of him with his teen-aged son, taken on a hunting trip last season. Father and son looked happy, enjoying to the hilt the special bond of father and son in the wild.

Today was a good day for Bob – a blessing in a course of treatment that is fraught with ups and downs – good days and bad days. We talked about many things – mainly he talked and I listened. Most of his conversation was not about himself, but about his son – about how proud Bob is of him, and about how disappointed Bob is that the two of them will not be able to hunt together this season. “Not this year,” Bob said, “but maybe next year.”

“Not this year...but maybe next year.” As I reflected on our visit afterward, Bob's words would not leave me. They reflect both the burden and the hope of those fighting cancer. “Not this year...” So many plans put on hold, so many dreams deferred – and for how long? “But maybe next year...” Hope that the treatment will work, hope that life will return to normal – or at least an acceptable “new normal.”

I don't know whether Bob will be able to hunt with his son again. But I do know this: Looking forward to hunting with his son again is helping Bob wage the fight of his life – the fight for his life.

Not this year...but maybe next year.

Paul Riddle, Director of Spiritual Care – Houston

[Author's note: Some details in this story have been altered to protect the privacy of the patient.]

Tarrant County

Hospital Televisits	727
Development Team Touches	555

Story: The Christ Who Suffers With Us

Room One: An act of violence scars the psyche. The patient had witnessed such an event. A bloody act of terrorism wrenched his soul. Though he survived, the spiritual wound cut deeply. On top of this trauma was the failing health of a beloved family member. The lips trembled. Even so, the story spilled forth in the emergency room.

Room Two: Yet another patient opened his heart recently, telling of the death of his son. The police said it was suicide. The dad said it was foul play. We talked, then prayed for the justice of God to redeem the violence of our world. Thy kingdom come, indeed.

There is little one can say in the face of such sorrow, but sitting face to face, and sharing our grief, lifts the spirit somehow. In room two, we wondered aloud about the Man of Sorrows and his prayer in the Garden of Gethsemane. ***“Father, if you are willing, take this cup from me: yet not my will, but yours be done.” Luke 22:42.*** The patient’s language was salty and the disappointment with God evident. For thirty-seven years pain had wracked his body, and I wondered if he would agree to prayer. I asked anyway. He said yes.



Even when angry or disappointed with God, like this patient, we reach upward. It’s as if we say, “Not my will, but thine be done.”

But we don’t have to pray alone in a garden of Gethsemane. We can awaken. We can show up. We can enter the darkness of the hospital room.

And we can pray, saying, “God, our very present help in a time of trouble...” reveal to us a new day. Show us the empty tomb. Heal our tired bodies and resurrect our wearied spirits. In Jesus name. Amen.

David Martin, Director of Spiritual Care – Fort Worth



Assistance Provided

Total Amount of Assistance Provided	\$158,204.71
Number of Patients Assisted	479
Veterans – 18%	
Homeless – 3%	
Children/minors – 25%	
States Served	20
Texas Counties Served	71



Welcome Carol Pauley!

For six months we have been dreaming about expanding Compassionate Touch in the DFW Metroplex. For multiple years we have provided funding for patients in the Metroplex, but there is tremendous potential to grow our ability to connect with more patients and partners through expansion. In this prayerful process, God has gifted and partnered us with Carol Pauley. She is a beautiful soul with a heart to serve God and others and brings an incredible upside to our ministry with her years of social work and ministry experience.

If you don't know, Carol Pauley, along with Pat Scott and Ben Sims, helped bring Lifeline Chaplaincy to Dallas in 2005. This trio saw what we did in Houston and felt called to faithfully step into our ministry of offering compassionate support to the seriously ill in

Dallas. Their vision catalyzed our following expansions into Tarrant County and Central Texas! Secretly, though, the social worker in Carol was deeply attracted to Compassionate Touch. She understood, and still understands, how beautiful our partnership and ministry with hospital social workers can be. We are thrilled that she is now officially part of the Lifeline / Compassionate Touch Family as our Community Liaison for Compassionate Touch in the DFW Metroplex.

May God continue to bless us and hold us as we partner with hospitals and social workers throughout Texas, and as we expand on the foundation already laid in the DFW Metroplex