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DECORATORS' SHOW HOME FOR HOSPICE

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DESIGNS FOR A GOOD CAUSE Decorators' Show Home benefits hospice care in Baton Rouge

Nineteen leading Baton Rouge designers and businesses joined forces earlier this year to transform a home located just outside the gates of LSU for the 11th Decorators' Show Home. All proceeds benefited the Patient Care Fund of the Hospice of Baton Rouge (HBR), the only nonprofit United Way hospice agency in the Baton Rouge community. More than half of the businesses have participated since the first one was held in 1990. "Everyone agreed that this was the best Decorators' Show Home ever," says HBR's CEO, Kathryn Grigsby.

by Lisa LeBlanc-Berry photography by Chad Chenier









"Fortunately, we are very sound financially," she adds. HBR is the only nonprofit hospice in the Baton Rouge area. "The for-profit hospices with stockholders are very profit-driven, which affects the care of the patients. It is a hugely competitive field that is currently under a national investigation," she points out.

"We have an amazing staff of volunteers," Grigsby reflects. "They do everything from direct care to simple, ancillary things such as running errands and cooking meals for families. We also have in-patient care at the Butterfly Wing. Our youngest child is three days old, and our oldest adult is 108 years old. We had the first pediatric hospice program in Louisiana."

The Butterfly Wing, which opened in November 2005, provides short-term supervised care for patients with acute needs. Patients are eligible for the general in-patient level of care when round-the-clock care is necessary to manage pain and control symptoms or treatments that are difficult to oversee at home. It provides the same full range of medical, emotional, social, and spiritual services that HBR's home care patients receive, but in a setting that permits more intensive monitoring. "It is a warm, welcoming place that is a home away from home," Grigsby points out.

"Something new happens every week," Grigsby adds. "Every one of us knows that no matter how bad our day has been, we have made a difference for someone, somehow. Each member of our volunteer staff is truly an angel." For more information on HBR, visit www.hospicebr. org or call 225-767-4673. ◆