



Members of the LSM team, Clifton Chamber of Commerce and the community celebrate the ribbon cutting at Hospice Sunset.

Hospice Sunset is officially open at our new location at 1315 W. 5th Street.

On April 30, the Clifton Chamber of Commerce held a ribbon cutting to help us celebrate the big move. Many members of the community joined us for the ribbon cutting and an open house so they could see the new space.

“We’re so pleased to have a permanent home for Hospice Sunset. It’s a great location and is a lot more visible, so hopefully more of the community will become aware that we have a local hospice program,” said LSM President Rodney Rueter. “You can get quality end-of-life care right here at home.”

Hospice Sunset provides end-of-life services to people within 25 miles of Clifton, including LSM residents and members of the broader community. By limiting the service-area served by Hospice Sunset—primarily within Bosque County—we have been able to ensure a very quick response time.

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Sunset Home
College Hill Assisted Living
Rainbow Retirement Community
Hospice Sunset
Sunset Companion Services

Message from the President



There is a lot going on up here on the hill!

At the end of 2025, we began an extensive remodeling project in the upstairs receiving area at the Pot O' Gold. Since that building originally served as a personal care unit when it opened as Luckenbach Hall in 1988 and it was not constructed to be a thrift shop, the processes for intake of donations were cumbersome and space was cramped. The plan to improve the building to make it a better, more usable space for our incredible volunteers was to open up the entire receiving area by removing all the walls, restroom plumbing, unnecessary electrical wiring, etc.

Like many remodeling projects, it took on life of its own as we ran onto unexpected challenges, especially with the unique fire suppression systems and HVAC issues. The Pot O' Gold was closed during most of this time since we could not receive donations. As I write this, all is complete except for the much-needed installation of a new HVAC unit.

The Pot O' Gold has reopened for large crowds of shoppers who missed the weekly bargains. However, delays from vendors for parts to build the HVAC unit cause our volunteers to work in a hot area with fans. The latest word is that we may have HVAC installed in two to three weeks from today. We will most likely be closing the Pot O' Gold again until the HVAC is installed to protect our volunteers from the heat. By the time you get this newsletter, it should be installed.

Our other big project was the purchase of a new location for Hospice Sunset in January. The hospice program started in 2006 and it has been in seven different locations over that period of time, so we are glad to have a permanent home. The new address is 1315 West 5th Street here in Clifton, in the building that formerly housed White's Photography Studio. This location is the most visible place our Hospice Sunset program has ever called home.

This building also required extensive remodeling which was completed by the end of March, and then Hospice Sunset moved in. We are very pleased with the way the building looks inside and out. It is much more customer friendly for those families who need to come see us about our services. I am excited about the future of Hospice Sunset!

On another note, Heckmann Assisted Living and Rainbow Retirement Community are both full and have a waiting list. Sunset Home has been full but now has a few empty beds and is doing well. Our Personal Assistance Services program has 25 folks who receive in home services on a routine basis. Additionally, they also provide daily transportation for doctors' appointments, shopping etc.

As you can see it has been a good, busy start to the year. Thank you as always for your support of Lutheran Sunset Ministries!

Rodney Rueter, CEO/President

“We’re excited for the opportunity to expand our services and care for even more families in our community,” said Hospice Sunset Director Kim Evans. “We strive to provide the most compassionate and loving care possible to our patients and their families. I often say it is both a blessing and an honor to walk alongside families during one of the most difficult times in their lives. This is more than just a job for us—it is truly our heart.”

Hospice Sunset offers support to the patient, as well as to the family or caregiver, in managing the physical, emotional, financial, social and spiritual aspects of a terminal illness. The team—physicians, nurses, social workers, home health aides, bereavement counselors, chaplains and trained volunteers—provides these services in the patient’s home, whether that be a private residence, an assisted living community or nursing facility.

To learn more about Hospice Sunset and the care we provide, call 254.675.3391 or visit lutheransunset.org/hospicesunset.

April Fools!

Residents weren’t quite sure what to expect when our activities team announced that they were holding a wet t-shirt contest at the beginning of April.

It was revealed to be a silly event in true April Fools’ Day fashion, where they would compete to see who could throw a wet t-shirt the farthest. The residents got a kick out of this prank and enjoyed cheering each other on.

Congratulations to Gary Maske, who was crowned the champion.



Sunset Spotlight

Kim Evans, Hospice Sunset Administrator

LSM has long been a part of Hospice Sunset Director Kim Evans' story. She started at LSM back in 2001 when she was a brand new LVN at only 19, and she stayed for 10 years.

"Several friends recommended Lutheran Sunset Ministries to me, and I'm so grateful they did," she said.

Kim lived in Clifton from childhood through her freshman year in high school, returning after she graduated to call it home. Her and her husband have lived in Clifton for the last 26 years, raising their six sons here.

"This community has always had a special place in our hearts," she said.

So when she had the opportunity to return to LSM as a RN case manager for Hospice Sunset in 2022, she took it. Two short years later, she was promoted to administrator.

"Kim has been a great leader for our hospice program," "We're so happy to have Kim as the leader of our hospice program," said LSM President Rodney Rueter. "She brings many years of hospice experience and her level-headed and calm demeanor brings stability to our program and the care our patients receive."

When asked why she likes working at LSM, Kim says the supportive work environment and meaningful mission is at the top of her list.

"LSM truly feels like family," she said. "We are always here to support and encourage one another, and the compassionate care provided to our senior residents makes a meaningful difference every single day."



Here's a little behind-the-scenes sneak peek of our glamour shots.

Thank you to our dream team Jeanie Hord-Belows (photos), Hospice Sunset and Brithza Arreola (makeup) and Elisha Ann West and Anita Nichols (hair) who made it all happen!





Employer of Excellence

In January, LSM was named the Bosque County Employer of Excellence by the Workforce Solutions for the Heart of Texas!

This award recognizes employers who have created or used innovative approaches to create or retain jobs and foster economic development and community relations.

Working together with Workforce Solutions, LSM develops powerful relationships, bringing the most qualified candidates into the healthcare field. With more than 185 employees, LSM is one of the largest employers in Bosque County. We continue to help the local economy grow by putting people to work, as we have for more than 70 years.

HR Director Christy Blanton accepted the award on LSM’s behalf, alongside Bosque County Judge Cindy Vanlandingham.

“This honor is important because it recognizes that we go beyond simply hiring workers, but actively strengthen the regional workforce, economy, and community,” Blanton said. “Being selected as Bosque County’s best shows that we are viewed as a model employer and trusted workforce partner.”

This is the 4th time LSM has been recognized with this award. Previous years include 2016, 2019, 2020, and 2026.

LSM is an Equal Opportunity Employer and Provider. Find current job openings at lutheransunset.org/careers or contact Director of HR Christy Blanton at 254-675-8637 ext. 2227.

Congratulations to Clinton Stanford, the winner of our People’s Choice Award at our 11th Annual Resident Art Show!



Friends of LSM

Thanks to generous donors, Lutheran Sunset Ministries is able to provide person-centered services based on Christian values. The following gifts were given between January 1 and April 30, 2026.

Memorial Gifts

All memorials, whether directed or not, go to the care and services provided. The residents served going forward are blessed by your thoughtfulness.

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Lance Allen, Clifton.

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Lance Allen, Clifton.

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Lance Allen, Clifton.

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All gifts help LSM in its work
and mission.

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St. John Lutheran Church – Coryell,
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St. Matthew Lutheran Church, Waco

St. Paul Lutheran Church, Crawford

Thrivent Financial for Lutherans,
Appleton WI

Reverend Don Wright, who served on the LSM Board of Directors for four years, retired at the end of January from his pastorate at Trinity Lutheran, Clifton, TX.

During his six plus years at Trinity, he also conducted our Tuesday Chapel Service at Sunset Home once a month.

We gifted Rev. Wright a LSM Jacket for his service in these two roles benefitting our residents and Lutheran Sunset Ministries. Enjoy your well-deserved retirement!



Your gift means we can continue to provide the highest standard of care, based on Christian values, for those who need us most.

Make a donation online by visiting lutheransunset.org/give

OR

**Mail a check to
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Lutheran Sunset Ministries is a not-for-profit organization sponsoring programs of skilled nursing care, assisted living, retirement living, hospice services and companion services. Sunset provides services to qualified individuals without regard to race, color, religion, sex, disability, familial status, national origin or other protected statuses according to applicable federal and state law.

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