

Patient's voice for Palliative Care Day
By Martha

21 September 2009

I come from a child headed family.

In December 2003 my mother was very ill. I had to take care of her, being the eldest child in the family of five children.

One day a woman came to our house and told us about Hospice and wanted to know if it was ok with us if she called in the sister from Hospice to help us with the care of our mother. I agreed and that was the beginning of a long and lasting relationship with Hospice. Our mother passed away in 2004. My youngest sister was only 2 years old then. She was admitted to Hospice Creche, Khaya Tshepo until she graduated 2 years ago. Care continues for my younger sister as she is also infected.

In 2008 my other younger sister also became very ill during her pregnancy, only to find out that she was also infected. Hospice stepped in to help her, she was admitted at the In-Patient Unit, and Hospice helped her until she was back on her feet.

In 2009, this year, a year that I will never forget, I became ill; I was diagnosed with HIV and TB. I was too ashamed to meet the Hospice sister. I said to myself, how will the sister react, how can the whole family be infected? I was actually cross and ashamed of myself. I had to hide myself when I saw the Hospice car, until one day the sister came in to visit. My other 2 sisters and a cousin of mine who was taking care of me reported to sister that I am ill, the sister insisted on seeing me, we met and the sister was very supportive. She encouraged me to take the treatment and to go to my check-ups at the hospital, also encouraged me to attend day care once my condition was better. Three weeks after being to Hospice I attended day care. There I met people who are diagnosed just like me, they gave me hope and courage, and they also encouraged me to believe in God and to have hope that one day I will be well. I also started to learn to do beadwork. As I am reading this message I am back on my feet and am employed in one of the shops in town.

Hospice is my everything; they gave my family love, care and support. Hospice is the pillar of our home, the sisters, caregivers and even our daycare driver are very good people. WE THANK YOU.

May Hospice go forward and never get tired of helping the sick and orphans.

Hospice made it easy to go through the pain of losing our mother because they are always there for us and are still there for us, as almost the whole family is infected or affected.

THANK YOU HOSPICE