



# The Headlines

News From Members of the Branson/Lakes Area Chamber of Commerce

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## Hospice Patient Goes Fishing

SPRINGFIELD, Mo.—A 62-year-old hospice patient with Oxford HealthCare in Springfield wished to spend the day fishing with his grandson. In collaboration with the Dream Foundation, Oxford arranged with Eric's Elite Guide Service of Branson to make Gary Martin's wish come true.

Eric Olliverson took Martin fishing on Table Rock Lake where he caught-and-released seven fish. Olliverson says he would volunteer his services again for other Oxford hospice patients, said Kathryn Taylor, community relations representative for Oxford HealthCare.

"I want to give back as much as I can," said Olliverson, who takes people fishing year-round and has been a professional guide for seven years. Eric's grandfather, Bill Olliverson, was a record-setting angler. "I take so many things for granted," Olliverson said. "I saw (Martin's) eyes and the excitement, and it made me appreciate what I have."

Martin, of Springfield, was tired from the trip, but it was a "good tired." His family reported that he was overwhelmed with happiness, Taylor said.

Martin's condition has since improved sufficiently that he is no longer eligible for hospice, but Oxford's team members keep in touch with him regularly. Patients may receive hospice care for up to six months and their conditions are then reevaluated. Sometimes patients go on and off hospice care, depending on their conditions.

The hospice philosophy is based on caring for patients and families who are facing a life-threatening illness. Hospice usually begins when patients are diagnosed with a life expectancy of six months or less. People do not need to be elderly, bedridden or homebound to be eligible. Services are covered by Medicare, Medicaid and private insurance.

Oxford Hospice recently expanded its services to include Barry, Barton and McDonald counties, bringing to 17 the number of counties it serves. Services include symptom and pain management, skilled nursing, medications, medical equipment/supplies and bereavement care for the family. For more information, call Oxford in Branson at 417-336-6696 or 800-749-6555 or visit [www.oxfordhealthcare.net](http://www.oxfordhealthcare.net).

For additional information about the Branson/Lakes Area Chamber of Commerce and Convention and Visitors Bureau, visit [www.bransonchamber.com](http://www.bransonchamber.com) or call 800-296-0463.