



Emmett Pruett with examples of his carving talent.



## Hospice of Alexander... Through Each Step of the Journey

“We just didn’t feel like we were adequate to give him the relief he needed, and to keep him as comfortable as we could,” recalls Shelba Pruett about caring for her husband Emmett. The Pruett family was navigating through some difficult steps of life’s journey... the life-limiting illness of a family member. Although blessed with the love and support of family and friends, they felt overwhelmed. “I don’t know if we wore out physically or emotionally first, but we needed help. We called Hospice & Home Care of Alexander County. They came, and such a burden was lifted off us because we knew he was getting better care with hospice,” continues Pruett. “I think Hospice gave us enough of a lift and encouragement that it made it easier for us, as well as for Emmett.”



Shelba Pruett

The Pruett family chose Hospice & Home Care of Alexander County because they live in Alexander County. Members of the Hospice staff came to the Pruett home and explained what they could expect to happen, ways to handle things



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they might encounter, and provided the equipment necessary to make caring for Emmett as easy as possible. The nurses visited at least once a week, and more when needed. “These girls just exude caring. Our family thinks they’re the greatest!” says Pruett. “It’s as though it’s not just a job...it’s somebody who really cares about what they’re doing and for the patient, and that means a lot to the rest of us.”

The death of a loved one is the most profound emotional experience most of us will ever have to endure. And grieving the loss of a loved one can begin even before the actual time of death. Hospice & Home Care of Alexander County also provides emotional support through each step of the journey. Bereavement services offer emotional, psychosocial, and spiritual support to assist with issues related to grief, loss and adjustment both before and after the death of a hospice patient. Services begin as soon as the patient is admitted to the hospice program, and continue for up to 13 months after the death.

When Emmett Pruett died on May 31, 2010, Hospice & Home Care of Alexander County continued the journey with the Pruett family. “I really feel like they’re family...from the first visit to over a year later,” comments Shelba Pruett. “The calls, visits, and sweet letters we received have been so meaningful. Hospice has really helped us to process our grief and adjust.”

Hear more about Shelba Pruett’s experience with hospice on a video recently released by Hospice & Home Care of Alexander County, Inc. To view the video, and for more information about quality end of life care in Alexander County, contact Hospice & Home Care of Alexander County, Inc. at 828.632.5026 or visit [www.hospicehomecarealexander.org](http://www.hospicehomecarealexander.org).