

## Volunteers from Hospice Care of the Southwest are name the RSVP Volunteer Couple of the Year for 2011!



At the RSVP Annual Appreciation Banquet on September 22, two volunteers from *Hospice Care of the Southwest* were recognized as the **2011 Volunteer Couple of the Year!**



John and Terry Wagoner have served as volunteers in our hospice program for many years. They serve quietly, often behind the scenes. No task is ever “beneath them.” You may see them setting up for or serving food at a special event, or you might catch them re-setting the clocks for nursing home residents during the fall and spring time change.

They make patient care visits, visiting with hospice patients or playing games to add some fun to their life. Spiritual care visits find them encouraging and praying with patients and family members. John and Terry have also filled the vital role of sitting with dying patients – offering support by their caring

presence. Their love and support has also been extended to those who are bereaved, encouraging them by phone or facilitating grief support groups.

The daughter of one of our hospice patients wrote the following about the important part these two volunteers had in the life of her mother:

*When her death was just hours away, when it was so hard for me to watch her struggle for every breath, Hospice Care of the Southwest sent two more angels our way: Terry & John, two of your wonderful volunteers. They had been her special canasta friends. Terry always has a smile to go along with her sparkling eyes, and John, as a retired Methodist minister, brought Mother Communion – something which was very special to her. There at the end, they were able to be with her when I could not, sitting with her while she journeyed home.*

In addition to their volunteer involvement with *Hospice Care of the Southwest*, John and Terry volunteer with the American Red Cross, through their church, and at Palo Duro Canyon. Wherever they go, their heart-warming smiles go with them!

RSVP, the Retired and Senior Volunteer Program, provides opportunities for people 55 and over to make a difference in their community through volunteer service. The national organization is celebrating 40 years of service this year.

