



April 7, 2011

To Whom It May Concern:

We, the undersigned, would like to take this opportunity to express our appreciation for the work of Ms. Katherine Honey, harpist, at the Summit campus of Alta Bates Summit Medical Center. Ms. Honey's gracious presence and celestial music welcome visitors to our hospital as soon as they enter the lobby. This unexpected delight seems to allay anxieties, while giving the institution a human face and a welcoming touch. We often see visitors to the hospital register surprise and delight upon discovering that the music is live. They may sit for a while to listen, or just go on their way with a lighter step. Children are always fascinated, and will stand transfixed at the sight of the beautiful golden harp until their parents cajole them along.

Ms. Honey's harp has wheels, as well, and she plays in different locations in the hospital, including the Infusion Department. Ms. Honey sometimes gives chaplains referrals that aid us in our spiritual care giving. At the request of chaplains, and with clearance from medical staff, Ms. Honey has come to play for individual patients, particularly those who are on Comfort Care. We have seen that this provides a rich blessing to the patient, their friends/family, and to staff as well. Ms. Honey is an accomplished musician with a copious and eclectic repertoire. One chaplain shares a memory of our resident harpist providing the accompaniment for Harry Belafonte's "Jamaican Farewell," a lively but melancholy calypso number, so that a man visiting the ICU could serenade his brother who had just been taken off of life support.

Ms. Honey is a valuable asset in the effort to treat the whole person at ABSMC. Her smiling welcome and melodious sound stylings give a gentle assurance that, in the words of Julian of Norwich, "All shall be well, and all shall be well, and all manner of things shall be well."

Signed,

Carl Magruder, Chaplain

Stevie Stennis, Chaplain

Edie Westphal, Chaplain

Julie Kim, Chaplain

Michael Cobbina, Chaplain

Susan Conrad, CPE Supervisor

Sr. Kristine Huynh, Chaplain

Rosalyn Lee-Bazemore, Cust. Svc. Ambassador

Christopher Clary, Chaplain