

Greetings north coast and all ships at sea

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One of the shining examples of giving and a can do mind-set of our community is The Evergreen Lodge. The Evergreen Lodge provides a peaceful, supportive atmosphere, in a low-cost home away from home for cancer patients, care givers and, other patients from out of the area who are undergoing extensive medical treatment at St. Joseph Hospital in Eureka. Before Evergreen Lodge opened its doors, those undergoing long-term cancer treatment were faced with either paying for expensive overnight accommodations or returning home on a daily basis, this proves arduous and exhausting.

At the Evergreen Lodge, comfortable, home-like surroundings provide the physical and emotional relief patients need during the six to eight week period of cancer treatment. There is even space for a caregiver - a family member or loved one - to stay with each patient during this critical time in his or her medical care.

The Evergreen Lodge now has fourteen private living suites, a large common living room, and a utility room with coin operated washers and dryers. Each private suite is 576 square feet, well equipped, with a private bath and bedroom. The building is surrounded by landscaped patio gardens and five RV pads with complete hookups. The large community room serves as a gathering place where patients are able to meet other families who are far from home and facing similar medical treatment.

The evergreen lodge project was launched when Members of the Rotary Club of Southwest Eureka, The American Cancer Society, and St. Joseph Hospital, which donated the land for the Lodge, began a fund-raising drive in 1987. College of the Redwoods students - aided by local builders - constructed the 6,626 square foot building. Less than three years later Evergreen Lodge opened its doors to its first patient. In 2005 the Evergreen Lodge was expanded by 6 rooms, a large common living room and a new lobby. Over \$400,000 was raised for this expansion thanks to our community's help and a number of grants. The refurbishing and updating of the original 8 rooms ~~has just been~~ completed at a cost of 50,000.
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Today, the Lodge continues to meet the needs of cancer patients and their families through the ongoing commitment and dedication of the Evergreen Lodge volunteers and support from the community. For more information and availability call **(707) 445-8121 ext. 7980 or the Cancer Registry Services, 800-477-1922.**

Please remember, We are blessed by all mighty god to be living in this wonderful country of ours, and those of us living on the north coast are doubly blessed. This is Haider Ajina with a community comment.