

Assisting Hands Home Care-

When you can't do it all, give them a call



By: Susan Meinholz

Whether for personal assistance after a stay in the hospital, help or companionship for an aging parent, respite for a husband or wife who cares for an ailing spouse, Assisting Hands Home Care is there for you. When you can't do it all, give Assisting Hands a call. Owner Terri Robbins knows from experience how much help someone who is ill needs. While her mom battled breast cancer, she helped with daily tasks for more than two years. Following her mother's death, Terri created the Claire Gulsby Patient Care Fund to assist breast cancer patients with treatments and services they are unable to afford. Her involvement with this mission inspired her to become passionate about patient advocacy and in 2008, Terri opened Assisting Hands Home Care in Humble to provide non-medical services that help the elderly, the ill, and those with special needs.

She and her son, Cole, work together to provide personal service to their clients.

"Our mission is to offer our clients the very finest personalized non-medical care, allowing them to live safely and comfortably in their homes. We provide that care to the elderly, those with chronic illnesses, high-risk pregnancies, cancer recovery, rehabilitation recovery, pre/post surgery, dementia care and seniors facing the challenges of aging,"

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stated Terri. "We strive to support the individual's choices and preferences in order to maintain their dignity and independence. We assist clients in a spirit of true concern for their welfare, gaining satisfaction and a sense of pride for the value that we add to their lives."

Specially licensed caregivers help with everything including bathing, dressing, meal preparation and running errands. "Our staff includes CNA's and caregivers with many years of experience caring for people. They are compassionate, caring people who enjoy helping others," said Terri. "They are trained specifically to provide in-home care. They are bonded, insured and a thorough background check is done on every caregiver." Each caregiver is also first aid/CPR trained, drug-screened, nurse-registry checked, Hepatitis B vaccinated, TB tested and all are employees of Assisting Hands Home Care, not contractors. When Terri went through the interviewing process for caregivers, she was very particular on who she hired. "They have to have compassion and this has to be their calling. They are not just here for a paycheck," she explained. Having someone you don't know come into your home and care for yourself or a loved one can be scary. Terri relieves concerns people have by carefully choosing the

right caregiver and allowing her clients to meet and interview as many caregivers as necessary to find the right one for them. "We allow clients to interview caregivers so they can choose who they want. A lot of our clients are used to taking care of themselves and it's the first time they are asking for help. It's a loss of independence for them and we want them to feel comfortable with whomever they choose." Terri does supervising visits, stopping by unannounced to make sure things are going well and that clients are happy. She stays in touch with her clients regularly, handling any issues necessary. She is on call 24 hours a day, taking clients' calls at all times. If a caregiver is sick and unable to be at a client's home, Terri will personally go out and take a shift. "Our job is to make sure the caregiver is there and that the client is being taken care of," she said. Thanks to Terri's thoughtful and thorough consideration in matching her caregivers with clients, many people in the community are getting the help they need and family members are feeling relieved knowing their loved ones are being cared for. "When my wife was released from the hospital, we needed someone right away to help care for her in our home," said Ray. "Assisting Hands was able to schedule a caregiver starting the next morning, and went out of their way to accommodate our changing needs." Kathleen is forever grateful for the help Charlotte, her caregiver, has given. "I don't know if I would even be here on earth if it weren't for her. You may call it a good match, I call it a gift from the heavens," she expressed to Terri. The daughter of one of her clients, Betty, said that their caregiver, Linda, means a lot to the whole family. "Linda is so much



to us; she is a wonderful, experienced and caring caregiver; she is our friend, and she is a member of our family," she said. Oftentimes the caregiver gets attached to the family and although the goal is to get their client's strength back so they can become independent again, Terri said that it is sometimes sad when the caregiver is no longer needed. "We are happy when we are able to do a good job in helping our clients become independent but then it is also sad because we will miss them," she said. Services can be provided for any period of time; from a few hours a week to round-the-clock care including weekends and holidays. Clients choose when they want the caregiver at their home and for how long. The shifts are a minimum of three hours. There is no charge for an initial consultation. At this time insurance and Medicare do not pay for services however, long term care insurance and Medicaid do. For more information, contact Terri at 281-540-7400 or visit www.asistinghands.com The office is located at 1250 Indiana Street in Humble. At Assisting Hands Home Care, Terri and Cole, along with their staff of caregivers, do everything possible to make things easier on their clients and their families. "We can be there when family members can't or give relief to family members by giving them a break every now and then," said Terri. "We give piece of mind to our clients and their loved ones." ♦

