

BIZ EXTRA

THE COMMERCIAL APPEAL / WEDNESDAY, JULY 30, 2008

MY PROFESSION / HOSPICE FOUNDER

Unlimited care

Meeting needs of terminal patients is her ministry

By Lani Lester

For Pat Sherman, becoming a nurse was a dream deferred -- repeatedly.

It took Sherman, founder and president of Unity Hospice Care, several attempts to become a licensed medical professional. Her marriage to a naval officer forced her family -- which includes six children -- to move frequently, postponing her education.

PAT SHERMAN

Profession: Founder and president of Unity Hospice Care

Education: Bachelor's degree in nursing from California State University; master's degree in nursing administration and community health from San Jose State University

Family: Married with six children and 19 grandchildren

bachelor's degree in nursing and a master's degree in nursing administration, Sherman worked in the medical field for more than 20 years before she felt called to go into business for herself.

The hospitals and hospices she worked for seemed to put limits

on how much "extra" care she could provide. Their first move happened shortly after she was accepted into the nursing program at the University of Memphis, and again after she was accepted to the University of Hawaii.

But after she enrolled in Florida Junior College in Jacksonville, Sherman decided to forgo moving with her husband again and earned her two-year nursing degree.

"I was determined," she said. Eventually receiving a

on how much "extra" care she could provide.

"If I want to do something, or if an employee comes to me and says, 'This family isn't going to have Christmas,' then I know we can do something about it."

In 2001, she founded Unity Hospice Care, a full-service medical provider that cares for individuals during the final phase of a terminal illness.

"The care that you provide to a patient that is dying means so much," said Sherman, who refers to her business as her ministry.

Headquartered in Germantown, Unity Hospice Care has seven locations in Mississippi and one in Linden,

Tenn. Sherman is even looking into building an in-patient care facility.

Nursing isn't her only pursuit.

A Germantown Rotarian and elder at Farmington Presbyterian Church, she is also a member of the Germantown Chorus and is taking voice lessons.

"Music and singing is when I can release stress," she said.

For more information about Unity Hospice Care, visit unityhospicecare.org.

— Lani Lester: 529-2395



Pat Sherman is the CEO and founder of Unity Hospice Care, an organization that cares for people in the final phase of a terminal illness.