Leon Warren, Clovis, New Mexico
Hope Lodge, guest (Patient Story)
By: Carley Thompson

Cancer Patient Grateful for Free Lodging

American Cancer Society Hope Lodge is Home Away From Home

LUBBOCK, Month Date, Year -- "There is no doom and gloom, but lots of laughter going on." That's how Leon Warren, from Clovis, NM described his extended stay at the American Cancer Society Hope Lodge in Lubbock.

After learning his diagnosis with prostate cancer, he learned his next step was the need for 9 weeks of radiation treatment 100 miles away. The realization of being that far away from home played a heavy toll on his heart and mind.

Luckily for Leon, his oncologist suggested the American Cancer Society Hope Lodge in Lubbock, conveniently located next to the hospital where he would undergo treatments. Leon had never heard of a Hope Lodge before and asked if he needed a reference or a qualification. His doctor said, "The only qualification you need is to be from a town 40 miles or more outside of Lubbock." Leon then asked what the cost of staying there would be and was in shock to hear it was absolutely free! Leon and his wife, Terri knew that the American Cancer Society Hope Lodge was truly a "Godsend."

"I found the Hope Lodge to be my new home away from home," he says, "It's peaceful, convenient, and in an excellent location. The staff is wonderful, and there is always plenty of stuff to do from reading, playing Nintendo Wii, crafting, watching TV, or just simply relaxing. I liked everything about it!"

One of Leon's passions in life is his love for cooking. "I always looked forward to Thursday night potlucks at Hope Lodge. While there I actually gained weight, not lost it." The Hope Lodge provides a huge kitchen with multiple sets of appliances that allows guests to come and go as they please. Leon says, "The Hope Lodge is simply unbelievable, -- the service, the attitude, the atmosphere; I recommend it to everyone."

The American Cancer Society knows that getting the best treatment means patients sometimes have to travel great distances from home. Gas prices, dinning out, and hotel expenses can add up quickly and be a financial challenge for many. Hope Lodge provides free lodging for cancer patients and their caregivers along with an amazing staff, endless amenities, and the support from others. With 31 Hope Lodges around the country, it was estimated in 2011, that Hope Lodge saved guests $23 million from hotel expenses. For more information visit cancer.org/HopeLodge or call the American Cancer Society at 1-800-227-2345.

About the American Cancer Society

The American Cancer Society combines an unyielding passion with nearly a century of experience to save lives and end suffering from cancer. As a global grassroots force of more than three million volunteers, we fight for every birthday threatened by every cancer in every community. We save lives by helping people stay well by preventing cancer or detecting it early; helping people get well by being there for them during and after a cancer diagnosis; by finding cures through investment in groundbreaking discovery; and by fighting back by rallying lawmakers to pass laws to defeat cancer and by rallying communities worldwide to join the fight. As the nation's largest non-governmental investor in cancer research, contributing about $3.4 billion, we turn what we know about cancer into what we do. As a result, more than 11 million people in America who have had cancer and countless more who have avoided it will be celebrating birthdays this year. To learn more about us or to get help, call us anytime, day or night, at 1-800-227-2345 or visit cancer.org.

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