



Hank next to photograph of him with The Merl Saunders Band backstage at the Ellis Theater, San Francisco, September 20, 1951

*"We are the **anytime,**
anywhere, place for **comfort**"*

Hospice of the Valley invested
\$8,482,637 in patient/client
care in 2009/2010

Hank—Hospice Patient

Born in San Diego, California and raised in San Francisco, Hank has been a professional drummer for over 62 years. He recalls his first drum set as pots and pans and, by age 14, he was working professionally.

"My parents couldn't afford my lessons, so I was self taught," said Hank. "What I like about Jazz is the freedom to express myself. In jazz, it's everybody for themselves."

At age 19, Hank served in the Signal Corps in Taegu, Korea and toured with USO shows. Following the Korean War, Hank performed with such artists as June Christy, Vince Guaraldi, Charlie Byrd, and Johnny Mathis early in Johnny's career. In order to raise a family, Hank worked for the phone company in the South Bay but continued to play with small groups throughout the San Francisco Bay Area—most recently the 2010 San Jose Jazz Festival.

In the fall of 2009, doctors found a tumor that they estimated covered 75% of Hank's liver.

"A group of oncologists made the determination that my liver was untreatable," said Hank. "So they referred me to Hospice of the Valley, which was probably the best call I ever made. I live alone, and I'm a very stubborn and independent guy, and I don't want anyone doing things for me. But I know if I need something, I have Hospice of the Valley. To me, that's the great thing about hospice care. I don't have to bother friends or relatives because I know that my hospice team is available 24 hours a day. It's a wonderful support system.



Hank with hospice nurse, Joanne (left), and social worker, Trish

And the care I have received from Hospice of the Valley has been instrumental in my feelings. My attitude has changed. I don't have a defeatist attitude like I did in the beginning. It's more positive. My nurse, Joanne, and social worker, Trish, have been a big help to me, and they've become my friends. They are caring friends and that means a lot to me."

Note: At time of publication, Hank remains stable.