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PRESS RELEASE
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE



Local Doctor Receives State Hospice Award

(Southwest Michigan) April 1, 2010 – On Tuesday, March 30, Hospice at Home Medical Director, Dr. George Drake, was honored as the Michigan Hospice and Palliative Care Association Dream Team Medical Director for the State of Michigan. This award is for excellence in care of people with life-limiting illnesses, vision in the area of end-of-life care, and team leadership. This award was presented in Bay City, MI, at the annual Michigan Hospice and Palliative Care Association Leadership Conference.

“Dr. Drake’s passion for end of life care and especially for the mission of Hospice at Home is unquestionable,” states Linda Beushausen, President and CEO of Hospice at Home. “Our patients and families are blessed by having him as part of their care team and I know all of us are blessed by his presence in our lives personally and professionally.” Dr. George Drake is Hospice and Palliative Medicine board-certified by the American Board of Family Medicine.

Dr. Drake achieved this award because he cares for patients and families and interacts with other team members in a way that exemplifies the depth of his caring and compassion. He is so authentic and genuinely present with patients, families, and staff that they often say they have never experienced a doctor like him. Dr. Drake has not only been willing, but also deeply honored to make the arrangements with the rest of the team to bring several patients home before they were taken off life-support, helping to facilitate death experiences that were pain-free, peaceful, and sacred.

Dr. Drake often finds that the most appropriate care he can give a patient and/or family is to quietly sit at the bedside or talk with the family. He not only embraces people as whole beings, he is also filled with gratitude for the teachers they are to him personally and professionally. He is a healing presence and sometimes this is far more powerful than medicine. Many times Dr. Drake creates bonds of love and trust with patients and families that they tell us they can scarcely comprehend. He attends the visitation and/or funeral for many of his patients and shares his gratitude with their family for the privilege of caring for their loved one.

Dr. Drake is passionate about end of life care and the value of teamwork in caring for each patient physically, emotionally, and spiritually. He has an incredible sense of humor and is committed to having fun with his fellow team members, while at the same time sharing with them the deepest parts of his being.

Hospice at Home is the non-profit community hospice focusing on the patient and family regardless of the patients' diagnosis, treatment choices, or ability to pay. It provides quality care to people adjusting to living with a serious illness, to people facing death, to people anticipating the death of a loved one, or to people healing their grief after the death of a loved one. Hospice at Home places an emphasis on the emotional, social, and spiritual needs of those who need care and those receiving support services. Serving Berrien, Cass, Van Buren, and Allegan Counties, the care is coordinated by a team of physicians, nurses, hospice aides, social workers, spiritual care counselors, bereavement coordinators, and trained volunteers. Extending this care, Lory's Place, a bereavement and education center that builds hope and strength for every grieving family, is available to anyone in Southwest Michigan or Northern Indiana.

For more information about Hospice at Home, call 269-429-7100 or 1-800-717-3811, or go to www.hospiceathomecares.org.

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Photo: Dr. George Drake
Interviews are available