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PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE



National Grief Teleconference at Hospice at Home

Southwest, Michigan, April 8, 2009 - Hospice at Home is offering, free to the public, the Hospice Foundation of America annual live via-satellite teleconference. The national teleconference, entitled *Diversity and End-of-Life Care* will be broadcast on Wednesday, April 29 from 1: 30 to 4:00 pm and can be viewed at Hospice at Home, 4025 Health Park Lane, St. Joseph.

The Hospice Foundation of America's 16th Annual National Bereavement Teleconference will examine how diversity influences end-of-life decision making and the impact that culture has at the time of death and during bereavement. One of the goals of the teleconference is to increase sensitivity by helping professionals acknowledge how their own cultural values and assumptions influence the delivery of care. The program will also discuss the challenges that may occur when culture considerations may cause ethical concerns or moral distress. The moderator is Frank Sesno, Professor of Media and Public Affairs at The George Washington University and Special Correspondent with CNN.

Mr. Sesno will lead the panel of noted authorities that includes: **Samira K, Beckwith**, President and CEO of Hope Hospice and Community Services; **Sandy Chen Stokes**, Executive Director, Chinese American Coalition for Compassionate Care; **Kenneth J. Doka**, Professor of Gerontology, Graduate School of the College of New Rochelle; **Wanda H. Jenkins**, Bereavement Services Manager, Vitas; **Richard Payne**, Director, Institute on Care at the End of Life, Duke University; **Paul Rosenblatt**, Professor, College of Education & Human Development, University of Minnesota; and **Carlos Sandoval-Cros**, Rev., St. Simon's Episcopal Church, and psychiatrist, private practice.

“This distinguished panel of ethicists, educators and hospice experts will examine how diversity influences end-of-life decision making and the impact that culture may have at the time of death and during bereavement.,” states Lisa Bartoszek, Director of Bereavement Services and Lory’s Place. “Hospice professionals, psychologists, counselors, educators and school-based personnel, parents, social workers, nurses, physicians and other health care workers, funeral directors, and clergy, as well as the general public, may be interested in this informative program.”

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 whom 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 contact Hospice at Home at 269-429-7100 or 1-800-717-3811, or go to www.hospiceathomecares.org. or contact Lory’s Place at 269-983-2707 or 1-800-717-3812, or go to www.lorysplace.org.

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