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PRESS RELEASE
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE



Hospice at Home Physician Board Certified in Hospice and Palliative Care

(Southwest Michigan) February 17, 2009 – Local physician and Hospice at Home Medical Director, Dr. George Drake, recently became Hospice and Palliative Medicine board-certified by the American Board of Family Medicine, one of the certifying boards co-sponsoring the examination.

“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.”

Certification is a rigorous, comprehensive program for evaluating physicians to assure patients, colleagues, employers and payers that a physician has achieved competence for practice in the field of Hospice and Palliative Medicine. Although certification is sought and earned by physicians on a voluntary basis, it is widely recognized as an essential tool to judge that a physician has the knowledge, experience and skills to provide quality palliative care. It is considered the gold standard for assessing qualifications. The first Hospice and Palliative Medicine certification exam sponsored by American Board of Family Medicine and the co-sponsoring boards was held in 2008.

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, home health 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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