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PRESS RELEASE

**FOR IMMEDIATE
RELEASE**



Hospice at Home Adds New Professionals and Expands Services

(Southwest Michigan) July 13, 2009 –The local non-profit hospice provider, Hospice at Home, recently added nine new professional staff and increased programs and services to meet the needs of Southwest Michigan. “Our organization is dedicated to serving people who are facing a serious illness, caring for someone with a progressive disease, or living with the loss of someone,” states Linda Beushausen, Hospice at Home President and CEO. “It is our philosophy to go beyond expectations for patients, families, and our community, so we are proud to expand our services and introduce new staff who will add to our excellent care,” continues Beushausen.

One new service is Transitions. It is a volunteer support service provided by Hospice at Home. Available to individuals with progressive illnesses much earlier than hospice care, the program is designed specifically to enhance the quality of life for these individuals as well as their families. The program addresses questions and needs, coordinates referrals to community resources, and provides volunteer assistance at no charge. “While Transitions is a program of

Hospice at Home, a person does not need to be considering hospice care to access the benefits of the program,” states Beushausen.

To assist with new services as well as provide for the increasing number of patients and families receiving hospice care and bereavement support, nine new employees joined the Hospice at Home staff in July. Susan Cimala will serve patients and families as a Massage Therapist. Ruth Crum, RN, will provide nursing care from the Buchanan office. Brandi Edge and Bonnie Poschke will provide compassionate care as Hospice Aides with the St. Joseph office, while Amy Gonzalez will serve in the same capacity with the Buchanan office. Gerrit Haagsma, Jonathan Rose, and Dan Scheid will serve as Spiritual Care Coordinators for the South Haven, Buchanan, and St. Joseph offices, respectively. Ann-Marie Jones, MSW, joins the Clinical Resource Team as a Social Worker.

This exceptional group of new hires brings the total number of new staff to 34 people year-to-date. New staff has been added to each of our four locations and to each professional discipline. Prior additions to staff since February include: Gina Huebner, Lynn Kohnen, Rochelle Gargus, Debbie George, Mantissa Schuler, Lois Wagtowicz, Tonya Foote, Barbara Lutton, Nancy Thompson, Markeyta Dawson, Sue Duthler, Julie Ostdiek, Traci Payne and Elouise Thomas. More additions are planned for August.

Hospice at Home is the non-profit community hospice focusing on the patient and family regardless of the patients' diagnosis, treatment choices, life expectancy, or ability to pay. It provides quality care to people adjusting to living with a serious illness, facing death, anticipating the death of a loved one, or 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, 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.

To learn more about our new employees or Hospice at Home, call 269-429-7100 or 1-800-717-3811; or go to www.hospiceathomecares.org.

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