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PRESS RELEASE
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE



November is National Hospice Month

(Southwest, Michigan) October 25, 2007 - At noon on November 1, 2007 local churches and faith communities will ring their bells in honor of all who have died under hospice care during the last year, and also in respect for their families.

November is National Hospice Month. During this time, Hospice at Home expands its efforts to make the community aware of its commitment to expanding access to hospice care with the goal of significantly enhancing the quality of life for people in Southwest Michigan, and for their loved ones. Considered to be the model for quality, compassionate care, hospice care involves a team-oriented approach of expert medical care, pain management, and emotional and spiritual support expressly tailored to the patient's wishes. Emotional and spiritual support also is extended to the family and loved ones. Medicare, private health insurance, and Medicaid in Michigan cover hospice care for patients who meet certain criteria.

In recent years, Hospice at Home added Palliative Care to its services, as hospice and palliative care share the same core values and philosophies. Defined by the World Health Organization in 1990, palliative care seeks to address not only physical pain, but also emotional, social, and spiritual pain to achieve the best possible quality of life for patients and their families. Palliative Care extends the principles of hospice care to a broader population that could benefit from receiving this type of care earlier in the stages of their illness or disease. To better serve individuals with advanced illness and their families,

Hospice at Home encourages access to earlier care. Health care professionals who specialize in hospice and palliative care work closely with staff and volunteers to address all the symptoms of illness, with the aim of promoting comfort and dignity.

Hospice at Home has offices in South Haven, St. Joseph, and Buchanan and serves the counties of Berrien, Van Buren, Cass, and Allegan. Bereavement services and education are available at no charge for any child, adult, or family in need of grief support. Bereavement staff and trained facilitators offer these services at Lory's Place, individual homes, schools, community centers, and workplaces.

For more information about Bells for Hospice, National Hospice Month, or Hospice at Home contact, 269-429-7100 or 1-800-717-3811; or go to www.hospiceathomecares.org.

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