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PRESS RELEASE
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE



Hospice at Home Honors Volunteers

Southwest, Michigan, May 15, 2008 - Hospice at Home is honoring its approximately 225 volunteers during its volunteer appreciation events in Bridgman on May 20 and South Haven on May 21.

“Our volunteers are the heart of our care,” states Carmen Biltgen, Hospice at Home Volunteer Coordinator. “We have volunteers who have helped us for over twenty-five years. Some care for patients, some run errands, and others help in our office or bake cookies. There are so many ways that people can help,” continues Biltgen.

In 2007, local volunteers provided over 6,500 hours to help support the care of Hospice at Home. The volunteers assisting the Buchanan and St. Joseph Hospice at Home teams are being honored with a luncheon at Pebblewood Restaurant in Bridgman on May 20th at 11:30 am. There will be local entertainment provided by Carl Payne. The volunteers assisting the South Haven Hospice at Home team are being honored the next day at a dinner at the Phoenix Street Café at 6pm with Carl Payne offering entertainment for the South Haven volunteers as well. An additional volunteer recognition luncheon will take place on June 24 for the South Haven Garden Club volunteers who work on the Flowers from the Heart Project. The project has provided fresh hand-arranged flowers to local hospice patients and their families.

Hospice at Home volunteers offer warm hearts, listening ears, and compassion to patients and their families. Trained patient care volunteers serve patients and their families by offering respite, friendly visits, writing letters, running errands, providing transportation, and so much more. Other volunteers help with clerical

tasks, special events, and other interesting projects. Volunteers choose how much time to give to Hospice at Home based on their availability.

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, 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 or becoming a volunteer call 269-429-7100 or 1-800-717-3811, or go to www.hospiceathomecares.org.

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