

Contact: Melinda Graham
Hospice at Home
4025 Health Park Lane
St. Joseph, MI 49085
Phone 269-429-7100

**PRESS
RELEASE**

**FOR IMMEDIATE
RELEASE**



Hospice at Home Hosts National Healthcare Decisions Day

(Southwest, Michigan) March 5, 2010 - Hospice at Home, along with other national, state and community organizations, are leading a massive effort to highlight the importance of advance healthcare decision-making—an effort that has culminated in the formal designation of April 16, 2010 as National Healthcare Decisions Day (NHDD). As a participating organization, Hospice at Home is providing information and tools for the public to talk about their wishes with family, friends and healthcare providers, and execute written advance directives in accordance with Michigan state laws. These resources are available at www.hospiceathomecares.org and www.nationalhealthcaredecisionsday.org.

Specifically, on April 15, from 3:00 to 6:00 pm, Hospice at Home is welcoming the public at three locations in Southwest Michigan with free information about advance care planning and advance directive forms.

In South Haven, in partnership with South Haven Community Hospital and South Haven Senior Services, information will be available at the Shoreline Wellness & Rehabilitation Center, 950 South Bailey.

In St. Joseph, information will be available at the Hospice at Home office, 4025 Health Park Lane;

In Buchanan, information will be available at Woodland Terrace, 13 Longmeadow Village Drive.

“As a result of National Healthcare Decisions Day, many more people in our community can be expected to have thoughtful conversations about their healthcare decisions and complete reliable advance directives to make their wishes known,” said Terri Dotson, Community Relations Representative, Hospice at Home. “Fewer families and healthcare providers will have to struggle with making difficult healthcare decisions in the absence of guidance from the patient, and healthcare providers and facilities will be better equipped to address advance healthcare planning issues before a crisis and be better able to honor patient wishes when the time comes to do so.”

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 those 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, 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 about National Healthcare Decision Day, please visit www.nationalhealthcaredecisionsday.org or call Hospice at Home, (269) 429-7100 or toll free at (800) HOSPICE; or go to www.hospiceathomecares.org.

####