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PRESS RELEASE
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE



VOLUNTEER WINS AWARD

(Southwest Michigan) July 20, 2010 – On Thursday, July 15, South Haven Hospice at Home honored its volunteers during a Friends of Hospice luncheon. “Our volunteers are the heart of our care,” states Beth Fones, Hospice at Home Volunteer Coordinator. “We have volunteers who have helped us for many 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 Fones. In 2009, local volunteers provided nearly 11,000 hours to help support the care of Hospice at Home.

During the event, Judi Ison and her dog Bars were awarded the Helen White Angel of Service Award for their dedication and faithful service to the community. Judi Ison became a volunteer with Hospice at Home in 2007. Since that time she has been involved in the Partners in Care program to expand care in faith communities, community outreach, and fundraising activities. Judi and Bars work together as regular visitors to the local nursing facilities and patient homes. The dynamic duo regularly visit over 30 seriously ill individuals each week. Both Judi and Bars are goodwill ambassadors of Hospice at Home and look for opportunities to educate the community about the benefits of hospice care and pet companionship.

The Helen White Angel of Service Award was established to recognize those individuals who have shown exemplary service in the area of volunteering. Helen White was one of South Haven Area Hospice founding board members and devoted many hours of service during her association with the organization.

Helen was honored and recognized upon her retirement in June 2004 with the establishment of this award in her name. She has since passed away. Betty Bregger received the award in 2005, Elaine Fluck in 2006, Bill Rockhold in 2007, Wesley Stephens in 2008, and Mike Henry in 2009.

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, 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 Hospice at Home, call 269-HOSPICE or 1-800-717-3811, or go to www.hospiceathomecares.org.

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Photo: Linda Beushausen, Judy Ison, Beth Fones, and Bars