

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

PRESS RELEASE
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE



Veterans and Hospice Partnership

(Southwest Michigan) November 5, 2009 – On November 11, 2009 we celebrate the sacrifice that our nation's veterans made to our freedom and safety in the annual Veteran's Day observance. Many Americans are unaware that more than 50,000 veterans die each month; that's roughly 28 percent of all deaths in the United States. Nearly 40 percent of enrolled veterans live in areas that are considered rural, where community hospices and VA palliative care programs are often not readily available. On any given night, more than 200,000 veterans are without shelter and lack basic healthcare. Ensuring that all veterans receive compassionate, quality care at the end-of-life is a priority for Michigan hospice care providers.

The Michigan Hospice and Palliative Care Organization is a lead partner in the Michigan Hospice – Veterans Partnership. This collaborative group is working on a grant-funded project to develop enhancements to the Michigan State Homeless Management Information System that assists Continuum of Care organizations in identifying and referring homeless veterans to hospice and palliative care providers, and increase understanding and awareness of end-of-life support services available to homeless veterans in Michigan. Locally, Hospice at Home works with the medial providers, long-term care facilities, veteran's service organizations, shelters, and other organizations to assist veterans that could benefit from care.

“This program provides us with the information to know where homeless veterans are staying and how we can address their needs,” states Jeff Towns, President/CEO of Michigan Hospice and Palliative Care Organization. “It will help us offer end-of-life care to rural and homeless veterans in need of our services.”

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

To learn more about the hospice providers in your area go to www.mihospice.org. For more information about Hospice at Home, call 269-429-7100 or 1-800-717-3811, or go to www.hospiceathomecares.org.

#####