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**PRESS RELEASE**  
**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**



## 2009 Annual Holiday Hospice at Home Homes Tour

(South Haven, Michigan) November 10, 2009 – The Annual Holiday Hospice at Home Homes Tour is on Sunday, December 6, 2009. All proceeds are used by the South Haven Hospice at Home to provide hospice and bereavement care in the South Haven area.

“This year we will be featuring a variety of homes, from historic to recently built,” states Stephanie Timmer, event chairperson. “Our hospice organization has been providing care in our community for over 20 years. The funds from this event make a difference in the lives of our neighbors, friends, and families,” continues Timmer.

From 1pm to 5pm on December 6, the public will have the opportunity to tour the following premier homes:

814 Monroe Blvd., South Haven

A lakeside landmark with its distinctive wrap-around porch, this was one of the first homes built on Monroe Blvd. Mary Colliflower represents the third generation of her family—which bought the home in 1916—to live there. Extensive remodeling, cherished family heirlooms and Stan and Mary’s four avian “kids” are unique, as is the Hardanger tablecloth created by Mary’s grandmother and now hanging on the living room wall.

322 Prospect, South Haven

Furnished in antiques lovingly collected at area estate sales, the Jillson home has deep roots in area history. On a lot originally part of the 80 acre land grant signed by President Andrew Jackson in 1836, this century-old home was purchased by Gil and Shirley Jillson in 1964. Earlier owners included Attorney Charles O. Monroe, descendent of one of South Haven's original families.

16841 77th Street, South Haven

A cedar chalet with cathedral ceilings, Steve and Beth Onkens' home was built in 1987, the first area home by builder Rick Johnson. With its cherry wood floors, stone fireplace, rock gardens designed by the Onkens and access to Crystal Beach, this home is "usually filled with a lot of activity and kids." Selecting and decorating the Onkens' perfect 20 foot Christmas tree is an annual family project.

534 Michigan Avenue, South Haven

Often described as a castle, the three story home of Michael and Candice Shapow started life in 1904 as a single family dwelling. It has been a resort, a temporary convent, a four-unit apartment, and over the past nine years has been lovingly restored to its original purpose. Constructed of hand-quarried Lake Michigan stone, it features turrets, original woodwork, and historical paint throughout.

04688 Beechwood Lane, South Haven

Featuring more than twenty fully-decorated trees and dozens of festive collectibles, the spacious three-year-old home of Scott and Renee Shelton is transformed by the magic of Christmas. The Sheltons completed the majority of their custom-built home themselves and created and installed all of the lush landscaping. With its vibrant colors and lovely furnishings, this new home welcomes Holiday Home Tour visitors.

332 Prospect, South Haven

For over a century this charming Victorian on a quiet tree-lined street just two blocks from downtown has overlooked a secluded ravine and creek. Greg and Marj Shymske, who bought the home in 2000 for their future retirement, are the sixth owners and have enjoyed many remodeling and redecorating projects since then. Having 5 bedrooms and 4.5 baths, the Shymskes have plenty of room for their extended family.

1683 68th St., Glenn/Fennville

Nicknamed “the Quilt House” because of its bright patchwork of colors and textures, this home had suffered much neglect, including a fire and broken water pipes, but art instructor Tanya Zook saw character, charm and potential in its basic structure. In just one year she has restored the 70-year-old four bedroom home and its mother-in-law apartment into a haven of creative, expressive comfort.

Refreshments will be served throughout the day at the Frost Law Offices, 403 Broadway, South Haven. Tickets are \$15 per person and may be purchased in advance in South Haven at the Hospice at Home –South Haven Office at 05055 Blue Star Highway, the South Haven Visitor’s Bureau, MacDonald Drug Store, Wolverine Hardware or in Bangor at Swanstra Drug Store or by phone at 269-637-3825. Tickets are also available at the homes on the day of the tour ONLY for \$20 per person.

Sponsors of the event include Midwest Family Broadcasting, Lawn Boys, Inc., Chemical Bank, South Haven Community Hospital, Do-It Corporation, Value Drugs Pharmacy - Dan Simon, Girl Scout Troops 113 & 129, Orthopedic Physical Therapy Specialists, Kiwanis Club, River Ridge Retirement Village, South Haven and Countryside Nursing and Rehabilitation

Communities, Airway Oxygen, Down to Earth Chiropractic, Health & Wellness, Phoenix Street Café/Café Julia.

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 the Hospice at Home Homes Tour or Hospice at Home contact call 269-637-3825 or 1-800-637-3820; or go to [www.hospiceathomecares.org](http://www.hospiceathomecares.org).

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Photos included