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**PRESS
RELEASE**

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Hospice Employee Awarded the Certified Fund Raising Executive (CFRE) Designation

(Southwest, Michigan) November 2, 2009 CFRE International has named Melinda Graham as a Certified Fund Raising Executive (CFRE). Melinda Graham, Director of Development and Strategic Initiatives at Hospice at Home, joins over 5,400 professionals around the world who hold the CFRE designation. Individuals granted the CFRE credentials have met a series of standards set by CFRE International which include tenure in the profession, education, demonstrated fundraising achievement and a commitment to service to not-for-profit organizations. They have agreed to uphold *Accountability Standards* and the *Donor Bill of Rights*. Initially, candidates must pass a rigorous written examination testing the knowledge, skills, and abilities required of a fundraising executive.

“The CFRE process was developed as a way to identify for the public and employers those individuals who possess the knowledge, skills and commitment to perform fundraising duties in an effective, conscientious, ethical and professional manner,” states Susan Davies Goepp, CFRE; Chair of CFRE International. “Achievement of the Certified Fund Raising Executive (CFRE) credential demonstrates the level of commitment on the part of Melinda Graham to herself and the profession as a whole.”

“Melinda’s perseverance during the time of intense study and her dedication to the completion of the requirements necessary to successfully achieve the CFRE credential is further evidence of her strong development and leadership skills,” states Linda Beushausen, President and CEO of Hospice at Home. “Melinda is a multi-talented leader and adds tremendous value to our team. We are very

grateful for Melinda's expertise, knowing this expertise is one of the critical success factors to achieving our strategic initiatives focused on continued expansion of programs and services for all of those we are privileged to serve."

CFRE International is an independent organization whose sole mission is dedicated to the certification of fundraising executives by setting standards in philanthropy. This single, universal, baseline organization works in cooperation with leading philanthropic associations. More information about CFRE can be found on their website, www.cfre.org.

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

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Photo: Melinda Graham, MBA, CFRE