

Contact: Melinda Graham
Hospice at Home
4025 Health Park Lane
St. Joseph, MI 49085
Phone 269-429-7100
Fax 269-429-1307

**PRESS
RELEASE**

**FOR IMMEDIATE
RELEASE**



Hospice Care Provides Families Financial Relief and Saves Medicare Money

(Southwest, MI) – At a time when many families in Michigan are finding it difficult to pay for medications and health care, hospice care provides financial relief to its patients and families. Medications and equipment related to the terminal illness, visits by medical and nursing professionals, home health aides, short-term inpatient care, and bereavement support for the family following death are all provided by hospice care. Hospice care is covered by Medicare, Medicaid and private insurance, providing a tremendous financial relief to families with seriously ill loved ones.

Findings of a major study of hospice care in America show that hospice services save money for Medicare and bring quality care to patients with life-limiting illness and their families. The study from Duke University found:

- Hospice reduced Medicare costs by an average of \$2,309 per hospice patient.
- Increasing length of hospice use by just three days would increase savings due to hospice by nearly 10 percent, from around \$2,300 to \$2,500 per hospice user.
- Medicare costs would be reduced for seven out of ten hospice recipients if hospice has been used for a longer period of time the study found.

“Hospice helps people live with dignity, comfort, and compassion and brings needed support to family caregivers. To know definitively that it provides a cost savings to Medicare is an additional benefit,” states Jeff Towns, President/CEO, Michigan Hospice and Palliative Care Organization.

Hospice is not a place but a philosophy of care that provides pain management, symptom control, psychosocial support, and spiritual care to patients and their families. To learn more about the hospice providers in your area go to www.mihospice.org.

####