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**PRESS RELEASE**

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## Hospice at Home Hires Nine New Professionals and Expands Physician Resources In Response to 2008 Record Growth

(Southwest Michigan) January 16, 2009 – At a time when many organizations are downsizing or laying off employees, the local non-profit hospice provider, Hospice at Home, experienced record growth in 2008, recently hired nine new employees in 2009, and expanded its physician staff. “Our organization has grown, we are caring for many more people with life limiting illnesses and their families,” states Linda Beushausen, Hospice at Home President and CEO. “It is our philosophy to go beyond expectations for patients and families, and we are proud to introduce new staff that will add to our excellent care,” continued Beushausen.

In 2008, Hospice at Home had a 23% increase in the average number of patients and their families in their care each day and added 44 new staff members.

Already this year, the twenty-seven year-old organization has hired nine new employees and secured a new physician to assist with the increase in hospice care and non-hospice palliative care physician visits. “We have 150 employees that care for approximately 200 hospice patients and their families each day.

Additionally, we provide palliative care physician visits to non-hospice patients, and serve hundreds of families through our community bereavement programs including our family bereavement center, Lory's Place," states Beushausen.

Dr. Chris Strayhorn joined Hospice at Home in January 2009 to provide expanded physician care to hospice patients and non-hospice palliative care visits to the growing number of patients and families that Hospice at Home serves. Dr. Ramon Urrea increased the number of hours that he works with the organization for the same purpose. Dr. Urrea is also the Associate Medical Director for the South Haven Hospice at Home Team and will continue to serve in that capacity. The organization's Medical Director, Dr. George Drake, will continue his work to ensure excellent care and will work closely with Drs. Strayhorn and Urrea.

The new Hospice at Home staff include Susan Dearing-Bond as the Major Gifts and Planned Giving Officer, Amber Fryman as the Transitions Program Coordinator, Mary Gilliam as a Family Services Coordinator at Lory's Place, Sharon Hainer as a Social Worker, Bonnie Katlun as the Patient Accounts Coordinator, Nancy Patterson as a Family Services Coordinator at Lory's Place, Tammy Pliley as the Accounts Payable Clerk, Laurie Timmer as a Spiritual Care Coordinator at the South Haven office, and Karen Walker as the Human Resources Generalist.

Hospice at Home is the non-profit community hospice focusing on the patient and family regardless of the patients' diagnosis, treatment choices, life expectancy, or ability to pay. It provides quality care to people adjusting to living with a serious illness, facing death, anticipating the death of a loved one, or 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, home health 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 our new employees or Hospice at Home, call 269-429-7100 or 1-800-717-3811; or go to [www.hospiceathomecares.org](http://www.hospiceathomecares.org).

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