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**PRESS  
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### **Over 600 Run, Walk, and Rock to Support Lory's Place**

**St. Joseph, MI** – On Saturday, May 17, over 600 people gathered in the Edgewater Area of St. Joseph to take part in the Fourth Annual Run, Walk, and Rock event to support Lory's Place, the grief healing and education center of Hospice at Home.

“It was a picture perfect day – with many families and friends coming to Lory's Place for the first time,” states Lisa Bartoszek, Hospice at Home, Director of Bereavement and Lory's Place. “The event was a wonderful success. Our participation increased by over 50% and we received approximately \$35,000 in generous donations and gifts from our community.” According to Bartoszek these donations are important because there is no charge for the services that Lory's Place provides.

New this year was the Champions for Children Challenge award; a traveling trophy presented to the school with the most participation from students and faculty. Lake Michigan Catholic was the winner of this award with 37 participants. Stewart Elementary and Lincoln Elementary Schools tied for second place and there were 40 educational institutions represented overall. Additionally, Printek had 73 employees participate as the culminating event for their Biggest Loser wellness program.

Under the direction of event chair Christine Borah and race director Jon Veersma, the Lory's Place Fourth Annual Run, Walk, and Rock began with a Hope Run for children. Twenty-three children ran the half mile fun run. It was followed by the timed 5 km run/walk course which took 604 runners and walkers through the old and new areas of the Edgewater Development - past the sailboats in the marina, along the river, past Lake Michigan and its sandy beaches, down the historical brick streets of Ridgeway, and into parts of St. Joseph's newest development. Those that did not run or walk used comfortable rocking chairs as they cheered at the finish line. Tours of Lory's Place took place throughout the morning and race results were given at the end of the event. Winners of the 5K Run were Jessie Armstrong, a Stewart Elementary 5<sup>th</sup> grader, and Jeff Borah, a three year defending champion of this event. Winners of the 5K Walk were Dr. Karen Clister and Ed Zimmerman.

Lory's Place was created to help children and their families work through their grief so they can become capable, healthy, and optimistic about the future. The center was established in memory of Dr. Lory Schults, local physician, who tragically died in an auto accident in January 2004. "Hundreds of children and families participate in Lory's Place programs. The children and families of Lory's Place learn to cope with their loss in healthy ways and avoid the pitfalls of risky behaviors that can be associated with unresolved grief," continues Bartoszek. "From helping at the scene of an accident; to holding a child's hand as they say good-bye at a funeral; to teaching friends and relatives how to provide support; it is only through the generosity of individuals, foundations, and companies that Lory's Place can continue to operate and provide services."

To receive more information about Lory's Place or the Run, Walk, and Rock call 269-983-2707 or 1-800-717-3812, or go to [www.lorysplace.org](http://www.lorysplace.org).

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