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PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE



20th Annual Hospice Homes Tour

(South Haven, Michigan) November 13, 2007 - The 20th Annual Hospice Homes Tour is on Sunday, December 2, 2007. All proceeds are used by the South Haven Area Hospice Foundation to provide hospice and bereavement care in the South Haven area.

“This year we will be featuring a variety of homes from historic homes to recently built homes,” states Melanie Ruppert, event co-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 family,” continues Ruppert.

From 1pm to 5pm on December 2, the public will have the opportunity to tour the following premier homes:

Olsen Home – 77252 Pinewood Lane

This 8 year old post and beam house welcomes visitors through an airy, high-ceilinged main room. The glass north wall reveals pine woods where wildlife congregates. Simplicity is the keynote, making entertaining of family (including a new grandson) and friends easy. A new master suite was added this year. Among the many works of art on display are several by the owner’s father.

Stephens Home – 409 Pearl Street

This century-old house was designed as a combination home and after-hours clinic for Dr. George Young and his bride Harriet Hale Bradley. Retaining its original hardwood doors and trim, it provides the perfect setting for the Stephens' antiques (including an old pump organ) and their collections of miniature rocking horses, unique bottle stoppers and Roseville pottery. Santa Claus may be there to welcome visitors.

Gerencser Home – 613 Erie Street

Known each summer as "the little house with all the flowers," the Gerencser Dutch colonial home is just as colorful inside as out. Built in 1871, it is filled with unique items collected and arranged in new and colorful ways. A new roof, new kitchen, floors and upgraded electrical system were all required before the current owner could take possession in 1993.

The Arundel House - 56 North Shore Drive

Part of South Haven's historic tourist hotel district, this former B and B has seen many changes. Constructed in 1899 it began life as the Marsland, became the Kenilworth in 1902, was renamed Steuben's Resort in 1919 and finally became Arundel House in 1988. When current owners Pat and Kristin Beyer bought it, much reconstruction - including digging a new foundation - was required, but the original white lions still guard the front door.

Smith Home – 09831 Kassian Court

A mini forest of theme-decorated Christmas trees greets holiday visitors to Nancy and Gary Smith's home. Located on a secluded court one block from Lake Michigan, the entire house is "kid-friendly" with a playroom, theater and game room in the basement, plus a large back yard and

swimming pool outside. The Smith's eleven grand-children each have a stocking hanging on the fireplace awaiting Santa's arrival.

Hixson Home – 66641 16th Avenue

Classic car fans will find much to enjoy at Don and Marion Hixson's rural home on the banks of the Black River. In their four decades there the Hixsons have gradually changed the property from a summer home to a weekend hideaway, and since 1999, their full time residence. The house, three 2 1/2 car garages, gazebo, bunk house, barn and landscaping were all family projects.

Goodrich Home – 35 North Shore Drive

Ron and Donna Goodrich's three story "painted lady" - designed and built by Ron - overlooks the Black River from the Monroe Park area of South Haven's north side. It features a wrap-around deck, three season porch and beautiful hardwood floors. Upper level bedrooms - reminiscent of an earlier era - and a third floor "crows nest" make this a truly wonderful holiday home.

Refreshments will be served throughout the day at the Shoreline Wellness and Rehabilitation Center. Tickets are \$15 per person and may be purchased 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.

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 disease through the Palliative Care program, to people facing life-limiting illness, to people anticipating the death of a loved one, or to people healing their grief

after the death of someone significant. Hospice at Home places an emphasis on the emotional, social, and spiritual needs of those needing 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.

For more information about the Hospice Homes Tour or Hospice at Home contact Beth Fones at 269-637-3825 or 1-800-637-3820; or go to www.hospiceathomecares.org.

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