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Release: December 2, 2008

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Holy Redeemer Home Care and Hospice offers key points to help understand hospice care

(MEADOWBROOK, PA) – Caring for a loved one who is terminally ill is one of the most stressful and emotionally draining tasks a family member can ever face. Taking on this challenge alone can be overwhelming, but it is not necessary, according to Terre Mirsch, vice president, Holy Redeemer Home Care and Hospice.

“Hospice compassionately provides essential services and support for patients, their families and caregivers during this difficult time,” explains Mirsch. Here are eight key messages from Holy Redeemer about hospice care that everyone – from healthcare professionals to the public – should know:

- 1.) Hospice is not a place – Instead, hospice is a special kind of care focusing on relief of pain, symptom control and spiritual and emotional support.
- 2.) Hospice is not “giving up” – Hospice focuses on quality of life, making the wishes of the patient and family caregivers a priority.
- 3.) Patients stay at home – The majority of hospice care takes place in the home, where patients can be surrounded by family and familiar settings. Inpatient services are available if symptoms cannot be properly attended to at home.
- 4.) Hospice is affordable – Hospice costs are covered by Medicare, Medicaid in most states and by most insurance programs and HMOs.
- 5.) Medicine is covered – The expenses of all medicines related to life-limiting illnesses are covered under the Medicare Hospice Benefit.
- 6.) Hospice is not just for patients – Care goes out to the patient and their family caregivers. Hospice provides support and caregiving training to family caregivers in the home.
- 7.) Care continues after the illness – Bereavement support is available to families for a year after the death of a loved one.
- 8.) Hospice is not just for patients at the end – The most common statement made by families who chose hospice for their loved ones is, “We wish we had known about hospice sooner.”

“Hospice care not only enhances the quality of life for patients with serious progressive illnesses, but also relieves some of the burden family members and caregivers have shouldered for so long,” says Mirsch. “It truly enables patients and their families to cherish their time together, creating special memories that never fade away.”

Holy Redeemer Home Care and Hospice, the largest nonprofit provider of home health and hospice services in southeastern Pennsylvania, offers a continuum of services throughout Philadelphia, Bucks and Montgomery counties as well as 11 counties in New Jersey. Some of its services include a wide range of therapies, hospice and palliative care, and unique programs for the elderly. It is part of Holy Redeemer Health System, which was founded by the Congregation of the Sisters of the Holy Redeemer. For more information call 1-888-678-8678 or visit us on the web at www.holyredeemer.com.

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