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CONTACT: Laura Owen, *Director of Communications & Development*
HOSPICE of Davidson County

PHONE: 1.336.474.2078

EMAIL: lowen@hospiceofdavidson.org

Hospice of Davidson County Celebrates 25 Years

Lexington, North Carolina, January 12, 2009 - Earlier this week, Hospice of Davidson County staff held the first of several special events to mark 25 years of serving terminally ill patients and their families with an unveiling of a 25th Anniversary print designed by artist David Clark Smith. Staff members were also gifted with a commemorative lapel pin.

Agency officials also announced that national Hospice and Palliative Care Organization president, Dr. J. Donald Schumacher, would be the guest speaker for a celebratory dinner and annual meeting scheduled for May 4, 2010. Dr. Schumacher is a globally recognized authority on hospice and palliative care and has led efforts to include end of life care in the health care continuum.

“We’re so excited to have reached this significant milestone as a specialized health care provider,” commented Lisa Hathaway, agency Chief Executive Officer. “We would not be celebrating our 25th year without the significant support of our community which has always reflected a strong connection to our mission,” she added.

In early spring of last year the agency moved to their new campus located off US Highway 64 East. The 31-acre campus houses the county’s first inpatient facility, *The Henry Etta and Bruce Hinkle Hospice House*, and a Home Care/ Administration office. In 2009, over 150 patients were cared for at the 12-bed facility and over 500 patients received care under the Home Care program. The agency also provided bereavement support services to an additional 200 families.

Board President, Barbara Smith, noted the role volunteers have played in the agency's development. "Our agency was founded by volunteers - Dr. Lee Jessup, Dr. Lee Dukes, Mrs. Lois Jean Query and Ms. Diane Crouse, RN. Their vision and commitment stand as a wonderful example of what a few thoughtful, caring minds working together can accomplish."

With the help of community support and volunteer efforts, Hospice of DC is able to provide an expansive number of medical, social, spiritual and bereavement services. Several fundraisers are held annually to raise both awareness and money so that patients and their families may receive services regardless of their ability to pay.

Hospice of Davidson County is a non-profit, United Way agency that offers specialized programs and services for terminally ill patients and their families. Each year the agency serves hundreds of Davidson County residents through their Home Care, In-patient, Volunteer and Bereavement programs.

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