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“FRIENDS OF HOSPICE” GALA FEATURES TUSCAN THEME

Lexington, North Carolina, August 2, 2010 - Hospice of Davidson County will hold their annual, “*Friends of Hospice*” Gala on Friday, August 27, at Childress Vineyards. The theme for this year’s benefit is, “*An Evening in Tuscany*” and will feature Italian food, wines from Yadkin Valley vineyards and music presented by members of Opera Carolina.

Guests will also have an opportunity to bid on art, jewelry, pottery, premier tickets and destination packages during a silent and live auction. A tour for two of Tuscany, Italy, is just one of the featured auction packages. A selection of signed lithographs and prints by noted southern realist artists, donated by art collector Frankie Sowers, will also be up for bids.

The menu will feature a number of Mediterranean favorites as well as traditional Italian dishes. In addition to heavy hors d’oeuvres, food stations featuring pastas, fine cheeses, cold salads and sweet pastries will offer a wide range of culinary delicacies. Summer refreshments, including Childress wines and mango bellinis, will also be served.

Members of Opera Carolina, under the direction of Artistic Director, James Meena, will entertain guests on their arrival. Two additional short performances will include selections that range from noted Italian operas to familiar American classics.

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Guests will receive a commemorative 25th anniversary Woozie© and have an opportunity to purchase a private label chardonnay produced by Weathervane Winery of Welcome. All proceeds will benefit Davidson County residents facing terminal illness.

Hospice of Davidson County is a nonprofit, United Way agency whose mission is to help terminal patients and their families face their illness with strength, courage and dignity. This year over 360 patients have received hospice services and an additional 165 families have received support through the agency's bereavement program.

Tickets are \$75 per person and are available by contacting Hospice of Davidson County, 336.475.5444. More information regarding the event is available on-line at www.hospiceofdavidson.org.

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