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HOSPICE CARE HELPS PATIENTS & FAMILIES FOCUS ON LIVING
Hospice of Davidson County Celebrates National Hospice/Palliative Care Month

Lexington, North Carolina, November 5, 2010 - Hospice care helps patients and families focus on living when faced with a terminal illness. This is the message that Hospice of Davidson County (HODC) is sharing with the community during National Hospice and Palliative Care Month.

Although November is the designated as national awareness month, HODC believes this important message lasts beyond a thirty day period. "November is a valuable time to raise awareness throughout our community about care at the end of life," said Lisa T. Hathaway, Chief Executive Officer. "But the time a family might need us doesn't follow a calendar so we are constantly sharing our message in the hopes of making an impression that stays with our community all year long."

The Hospice of DC care team believes that life's final seasons can be some of the most fulfilling, especially when patients and families look to hospice care for help. "With the help of hospice, patients and families alike can focus on what's most important - enjoying life together and living their final season to the fullest," shared Laura Owen, Director of Communications and Development. "Hospice care is focused on enhancing the quality of life, one that is free from pain and where symptoms are well managed."

"There's an inaccurate perception among the American public that hospice means you've given up," said J. Donald Schumacher, president and CEO of the National Hospice and Palliative Care Organization. "Those of us who have worked in the field have seen firsthand how hospice and palliative care can improve the quality of life and there's a growing body of research showing that hospice and palliative care may prolong the lives of some people who receive care."

Every November hospices across the country reach out to raise awareness for hospice and palliative care services. On Sunday, November 14, more than a dozen churches will observe Hospice Sabbath and welcome speakers from Hospice of Davidson County as they share information regarding faith, spirituality and the importance of quality care at end of life. On November 18, a workshop entitled, "Handling the Holidays" will be offered to members of the community at no charge. The class will offer support strategies and healthy coping skills for those dealing with the loss of a loved one.

Hospice of Davidson County is a nonprofit, United Way agency providing medical, psychosocial, spiritual, bereavement and volunteer services for the terminally ill. 2010 marks the 25th anniversary for the nonprofit, United Way agency. Annually, over 500 Davidson County patients and their caregivers receive services. The agency's inpatient unit, *The Henry Etta and Bruce Hinkle Hospice House*, has served over 250 patients this year. An additional 200 families are currently receiving bereavement, grief support and counseling services free of charge.

For more information about hospice services, Hospice Sabbath or upcoming bereavement workshops, contact Hospice of Davidson County at 336.475.5444. More information is also available online at www.hospiceofdavidson.org.

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