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**Hospice of Davidson County Celebrates
National Hospice & Palliative Care Month**

Lexington, North Carolina, November 3, 2009 - November is National Hospice and Palliative Care Month and hospices across the country are reaching out to raise awareness about important care issues for people coping with life-limiting illness.

“Every year, more than 1.4 million people living with a life-limiting illness receive care from hospice and palliative care providers in this country,” said J. Donald Schumacher, president and CEO of the National Hospice and Palliative Care Organization. “These highly-trained professionals don’t only provide quality medical care. They work to make sure patients and families find dignity, respect and love during life’s most difficult journey.”

Hospice is more than traditional healthcare. Hospice and palliative care programs provide pain management, symptom control, psychosocial support and spiritual care to patients and their families when a cure is not possible. Hospice and palliative care combines the highest level of quality medical care with the emotional and spiritual support that families need most when facing the end of life.

Joy English, a family member who recently relied on the services offered at the Hinkle Hospice House shared, “Thank you all so much for all

you do ... the staff are to be praised ... the compassion, the understanding and the caring is real.”

Throughout the month of November Hospice of Davidson County will host several activities that focus on this unique system of support and specialized care.

- A “*Service of Remembrance*” will be held at First United Methodist Church on Thursday, November 5, at 11:30 am. The community is invited to attend.
- On Sunday, November 15, Hospice Sabbath will be observed by many congregations in Davidson County.
- A “Handling the Holidays” Workshop will be offered on Thursday, November 19, by Hospice of DC Support Services.

Also this month, and in recognition of the special role that hospice care provides to citizens, Mayor John T. Walser, Jr. and members of the Lexington City Council will recognize Home and Hospice Care Month during the November 9 City Council meeting.

For information regarding these events or hospice services contact Laura Owen, *Director of Communications and Development*, at: 336-474-2078 or via email at: lowen@hospiceofdavidson.org.

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 Home Care programs and in-patient facility, *The Henry Etta and Bruce Hinkle Hospice House*.

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