

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

October 25, 2017



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Hospice Helps Patients and Families Focus on Quality of Life

Harbor Hospice Makes More Meaningful Moments Possible

(West Michigan) – November is National Hospice and Palliative Care Month and hospices across the country are reaching out to raise awareness about the highest quality care for people coping with life-limiting illness.

“Every year, nearly 1.6 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 ensure that patients and families find dignity, respect, and love during life’s most difficult journey.”

“Contrary to what most people consider, hospice and palliative care brings hope...hope for a better day, for making the most of the life that is left to live, in a manner that is the best it can be, emphasizing what actually matters the most to the patient and their family. Giving up is not the equivalent for hospice, but choosing hospice for support takes courage and strength to face ones uncertain, or even certain at times, future and doing so earlier allows for greater benefit and impact for all involved.” said Gerald Harriman, medical director of Harbor Hospice and Harbor Palliative Care.

Hospice is not a place. 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. Through this specialized quality care, we see many patients and their families experience more meaningful moments together. Hospice helps them focus on living despite a terminal diagnoses.

I am currently on Hospice after a long treatment course of chemotherapy. Once I learned that the chemotherapy was not helping, I stopped and decided to call Hospice. It was the best choice I could have made. For the past several weeks, I have enjoyed many quality days with my friends and family without feeling sick and run down. I have been on Hospice about 6 weeks now and I am so thankful to have their loving support which has helped me do the things I want to do and enjoy. I even took my car down the racetrack! Thank you – Harbor Hospice Patient

Throughout the month of November, Harbor Hospice and Harbor Palliative Care will be joining organizations across the nation hosting activities that will help the community understand how important hospice and palliative care can be.

More information about Harbor Hospice, palliative care, advance care planning and volunteering is available by calling 231.728.3442 or 1.800.497.9559. Stories showing the many ways hospice makes more special moments possible can be found at www.momentsoflife.org. See more Harbor Hospice moments at facebook.com/HarborHospice or www.HarborHospiceMI.org

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