



Celebrating **35** *years*

For Immediate Release

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Harbor Hospice Celebrates 35 Years of Compassionate Care With a Community-Wide Open House

Muskegon, MI, March 27, 2018 -- Thirty-five years ago, patients had few options at the end of their lives for getting much-needed emotional support and relief from pain and other difficulties when curative treatments were no longer effective. Along with their families, they often struggled with unspoken fears, unanswered questions and untreated distress.

Hospice care changed all that.

Since the first patient was accepted into Hospice of Muskegon County in 1983, more than 14,000 patients have received skilled, compassionate care in their homes, in nursing facilities, and at the Leila and Cyrus Poppen Hospice Residence. As the organization grew, its name was changed to better describe its region, and in 2006, it became Harbor Hospice. It now encompasses Muskegon, Oceana, Ottawa, Newago and Mason Counties.

The public is invited to join in celebrating 35 years of providing hospice care to children, adults and their families throughout West Michigan at an open house May 3, 2018 hosted by the Harbor Hospice board of directors, volunteers and staff.

The event will be held from 3:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. at the headquarters of Harbor Hospice and the Scolnik Healing Center in the Fricano Building, 1050 W. Western Avenue in Muskegon.

“Every day, we are reminded of how hospice care makes an immediate difference in the quality of life for patients facing an incurable diagnosis,” said Lisa McMichael, president and CEO of Harbor Hospice. “Our volunteers and staff love their work and are grateful they can use their specialized skills, their deep compassion and their joyful presence to support and comfort hospice patients and their families.”

In addition to end-of-life-care, Harbor Hospice provides palliative care, which helps patients adapt to life-changing conditions brought on by a new diagnosis such as heart disease or dementia, and manage symptoms such as nausea and pain that sometimes accompany diseases and treatments. Staff and volunteers also provide grief support for children and adults and run a three-day summer camp for children who are grieving the death of someone close to them.

For more information about Harbor Hospice and the open house, or to RSVP by April 20, please call 231.728.3442 or 1.800.497.9559 or email RSVP@HarborHospiceMI.org. The Harbor Hospice website is HarborHospiceMI.org.

HarborHospiceMI.org

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