

PRESS RELEASE

From: Laura Hunt, Director of Marketing
336.621.2500
lhunt@hospicegso.org



HOSPICE *and* PALLIATIVE CARE of GREENSBORO

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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National Healthcare Decisions Day Set for April 16, 2008

Greensboro, NC – Hospice and Palliative Care of Greensboro (HPCG), along with other national, state and community organizations, are leading a massive effort to highlight the importance of advance healthcare decision-making—an effort that has culminated in the formal designation of April 16, 2008 as National Healthcare Decisions Day (NHDD). As a participating organization, Hospice and Palliative Care of Greensboro is providing information and tools for the public to talk about their wishes with family, friends and healthcare providers, and execute written advance directives (healthcare power of attorney and living will) in accordance with North Carolina state laws. These resources are available at www.hospicegso.org and www.nationalhealthcaredecisionsday.org.

Specifically, on April 16, from 1:00pm to 5:00pm, Hospice and Palliative Care of Greensboro is welcoming the public throughout the day at 2500 Summit Avenue, with free information about advance care planning and advance directive forms. Counselors will be available to explain these documents and encourage individuals to have meaningful conversations with family and friends to clarify their wishes for medical care, should there ever be a time when they could not speak for themselves.

“As a result of National Healthcare Decisions Day, many more people in our community can be expected to have thoughtful conversations about their healthcare decisions and complete reliable advance directives to make their wishes known,” said Diane McLaughlin, LCSW, Director of the Counseling and Education Center at Hospice and Palliative Care of Greensboro. “Fewer families and healthcare providers will have to struggle with making difficult healthcare decisions in the absence of guidance from the patient. Healthcare providers and facilities will be better equipped to address advance healthcare planning issues before a crisis and will be better able to honor patient wishes when the time comes to do so.”

For more information about National Healthcare Decision Day, please visit www.nationalhealthcaredecisionsday.org.

Hospice and Palliative Care of Greensboro (HPCG), a non-profit agency serving Greater Greensboro for 28 years, is situated on an eight-acre campus at 2500 Summit Avenue. HPCG provides physical, emotional and spiritual support for children and adults faced with a life-limiting illness as well as their caregivers and families. For more information, contact HPCG at (336) 621-2500 or www.hospicegso.org.