



## NEWS RELEASE

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**CBS 60 Minutes To Feature End of Life Care Story This Weekend**

**Local Angle: 10 Things Bay Area Families May Not Know**

### **About Hospice Care**

(DUBLIN, CA ) Over the past months, the CBS television news program 60 Minutes has been working on a story about care at the end of life. Inspired by correspondent Steve Kroft's personal experience, producers worked closely with the National Hospice and Palliative Care Organization to gather information and collect research on the topic. The segment is set to air on this Sunday, November 22, 2009. Hope Hospice in Dublin, CA has information on the family's need for hospice care information.

When Kathy Carson (not her real name) realized her mother's illness had reached the end stages she wasn't sure what to do next. The doctor had suggested hospice care but Kathy didn't think the time was right or that the family could afford it. And, she says, "My mother doesn't have cancer and wants to stay at home instead of going to the hospital."

Kathy's case is typical of many Bay Area families who love someone with a life limiting illness and could benefit from the many aspects of hospice care. But misinformation is often a road block to comfort and compassion. Many people think hospice care is just about dying. Hospice care is more than that...bringing comfort and support to people at a time when it's needed most.

Last year, 1.4 million Americans were served by the nation's hospice providers, reports the National Hospice and Palliative Care Organization. Yet there are many facts about hospice that people across the country and here in the Bay Area are not aware of and that keep people from getting the care they need and deserve. There are 10 key things most families don't know about hospice care and Hope Hospice, in Dublin, is working hard to change that. Those points include:

1. Hospice is not a place but is a kind of special care that brings a team of professionals to address every need: physical, emotional and spiritual.
2. The cost is covered by Medicare and most health plans and no one is denied care due to lack of insurance.
3. Many of the patients cared for by Hope Hospice remain in their home where the patient is surrounded by family and friends. Other times, the care is provided in nursing homes or other care facilities.

4. Hospice patients and their families can receive care for six months or longer and Hope Hospice has cared for some patients for over a year or more. The greater benefits are gained by being in hospice care for more than just a few days or weeks.
5. All costs for equipment and medications is covered by hospice.
6. Choosing hospice is not about giving up. Hospice is about living each day to its fullest – a gift people can give themselves and those they love to ease your mind and provide comfort.
7. The hospice team will provide training and resources to help family members and other caregivers.
8. Research shows that the majority of Americans do not want to die in a hospital; Hope Hospice treats pain and manages symptoms while allowing most patients to be at home
9. The care Hope Hospice provides extends beyond the life of the patient; Grief Support for adults, teens, and children can be provided for up to 13 months
10. Hospice serves anyone facing a life-limiting illness including lung and heart disease, dementia and other non-cancer illnesses such as ALS and multiple sclerosis.

Making the patient part of the hospice process is important as well. According to Helen Meier, Executive Director at Hope Hospice “Throughout our history at Hope Hospice, we have kept our eye on one idea: to make our patient’s wishes the cornerstone of our care philosophy. The team at Hope Hospice works to affirm life and to help patients live each day to the fullest.

For more information and resources on our compassionate care, grief support for adults and children, or resources for learning more about end of life care, visit our web site at [www.hopehospice.com](http://www.hopehospice.com)

Hospice care has come a long way in the past four decades and Hope Hospice has been at the forefront of much of the movement. Recent trends show that many Medicare recipients with advanced illnesses are choosing to remain at home with hospice care instead of going to the hospital and for 30 years, the team at Hope Hospice has helped local families achieve that goal.

### **About Hope Hospice**

Hope Hospice, a 501 ( c ) 3 non-profit organization since 1980, provides compassionate care, insight, and guidance as families navigate through the end-of-life process. The team of professionals, many with hospice and palliative care certification, provides emotional and spiritual support and state-of-the art methods of pain and symptom control to maximize quality of life. Hope Hospice serves families in Alamo, Blackhawk, Castro Valley, Diablo, Danville, Dublin, Livermore, Pleasanton, San Ramon, Sunol and the surrounding communities in the East Bay of San Francisco.