



NEWS RELEASE

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Hospice Director Retires After Years of Non-Profit Service in Bay Area

(Dublin, CA) — Helen Meier, executive director of Hope Hospice for the past nine years, has announced her decision to retire in June 2011. During her tenure, Hope Hospice tripled in size and became the preferred leader in hospice services within their service area.

“Helen has provided outstanding leadership to Hope Hospice. A woman of great character and integrity, she has been a skillful, dedicated, leader who has championed the local hospice effort and ensured that local hospice families receive the very best the field has to offer,” stated Charles Crohare, president of the Hope Hospice Board of Directors. He adds, “Helen has been an exceptional leader with extraordinary vision, heart and grace.”

“With her keen intelligence, drive and dedication, Helen has led our organization through a period of major growth and helped to establish Hope Hospice as the Tri-Valley community resource on end-of-life Care and grief support. We will miss her guidance and wish for her many happy years of retirement,” says Ann Noll, RN, CPHN, Director of Patient Care.

Working closely with the Hope Hospice board of directors, Meier has helped assemble a transition team to identify her successor and to ensure that the organization continues to manage its significant growth in a responsible, sustainable manner during the transition and beyond.

Helen Meier has been a champion for children and families throughout her career. She has nurtured and developed several non-profit organizations and earned the respect of her staff, board of directors, and colleagues for her integrity and her drive to provide the best in services and care to those who need it most. She recalls, “Each job brought joy, opportunities to learn, and challenges that were sometimes daunting. For over three decades, I have had the responsibility and the privilege to lead organizations working with and for those who are less fortunate or face significant challenges. I have also been blessed with the opportunity to work with supportive civic leaders, dedicated board members, extraordinary volunteers, generous donors, and committed staff,” stated Meier. “Together, we have helped our communities to better serve those in need and to make the world a better place. She concluded by

saying, “Hope Hospice will forever be dear to me. “More than just a job, my tenure at Hope Hospice was a calling, and the organization will remain very close to my heart.”

In addition to the expansion of Hope Hospice services and programs, Helen Meier’s other accomplishments include:

- Expanding services to twice the capacity during her twelve year tenure as executive director at Tri-Valley Haven including the construction of a shelter and community services building to better serve battered women and sexual assault victims
- Constructing a daycare center for 72 homeless and low-income children and constructed an addition to a transitional housing apartment complex in the San Francisco Tenderloin area while serving as Executive Director
- Directing a Cal-Tans research project to improve disabled access to full-sized city buses resulting in published study on development of Para transit systems for disabled across the US
- Overseeing the House at San Quentin, a visiting center for prison families; assisting in the replicating the model statewide and worked to improve medical services to prisoners
- Working as a community organizer and educator for the Latin America Mission in San Jose, Costa Rica, to improve conditions for poor and orphaned children and single mothers

“When someone like Helen, who has been with our organization for many years, and has done so much for us, mentions retirement, that’s not welcome news. Though her daily leadership will be missed, we hope she will enjoy a wonderful retirement, which she has so richly earned,” replied Peter Wong, MD, Medical Director at Hope Hospice.

Helen followed her announcement with a commitment to remain in place through June 10, 2011 while the board of directors selects her replacement. “When Helen advised us of her intention, Crohare said, “We began implementing a previously developed succession plan. We are mindful of the magnitude of the task before us and are confident that we will find the ideal person to build upon the legacy Helen is leaving to all of us.” Over the past several weeks, a selection committee comprised of Hope Hospice staff and board of directors has been working to select a new CEO for the organization.

About Hope Hospice

Hope Hospice, a 501 (c)(3) nonprofit 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.