



**For Immediate Release: April 9, 2010**  
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**Compassion to Action: Hospice Volunteers Recognized  
During National Volunteer Week - April 18 – 24, 2010**

DUBLIN, CA – (April 13, 2010) In honor of National Volunteer Week, April 18 – April 24, 2010, Hope Hospice appreciates the important and live affirming work of hospice volunteers in adding quality of life to those they serve. When Lanser Hutchinson’s friend lost her husband, he helped her through her loss. He wanted to be there for her but didn’t realize his hidden talents for compassion, good listening skills, and patience. In the months that followed, he was encouraged to volunteer for a local hospice to bring his gifts to others in need. He did not expect the surprising results. Now, as a home care volunteer for Hope Hospice he says, “I realize how helpful it is for patients to be able to talk about their illnesses and how being there for them can lessen the family’s sense of helplessness. I am grateful to be able to ease their burden. The end of life is something we will all experience and people have told me it’s a comfort just to know others are there when one has to face that reality.”

Lanser is one of many, volunteers whose tireless efforts deserve recognition during National Volunteer Week April 18-24, 2010. The week is about inspiring, recognizing and encouraging people to engage in their community...to demonstrate ways to meet challenges not as isolated individuals but as members of a true community with everyone working together and discovering their power to make a difference.

National Volunteer Week began in 1974 when an executive order was signed establishing it as an annual celebration of volunteering. Every president since then has signed a proclamation promoting National Volunteer Week. The theme of this year’s campaign, “Compassion to Action” especially reflects the inspiration of hospice volunteers who have been fundamental to the hospice movement since its establishment in the 1960’s. Local volunteer support was one of the resources that allowed each hospice to respond to the needs of its patients and community and their help is even more vital today as hospice organizations continue to serve families with limited resources. As part of the Medicare conditions of participation, hospices are required to document the use of volunteers. And, as in Lanser Hutchinson’s case, studies have shown the positive impact of volunteering on hospice volunteers.

This year, National Volunteer Week coincides with the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Hope Hospice. Volunteers have contributed over 100,000 hours of service to hospice patients and families since Hope Hospice was founded in 1980. *(Current volunteers and the Hope Hospice Volunteer Coordinator are available for interviews)*

## **About Hope Hospice Volunteer Services**

Currently, 135 Hope Hospice volunteers have the unique opportunity to help individuals during one of their greatest times of need. They become members of a team dedicated to surrounding patients and their families with care. There are many ways a volunteer can help: home care to give family caregivers a break, friendly visiting, art at the bedside, videography, cosmetology, pet visits, healing touch (a caring science to restore balance) and vigil volunteers who bring a quiet presence at the bedside of someone who is transitioning from this life. For information on hospice care or hospice volunteer opportunities visit [www. HopeHospice.com](http://www.HopeHospice.com).