



Community Home Care & Hospice Releases Original Documentary On End of Life Care

More than one million Americans die every year without receiving the support of hospice care. Yet, according to the National Hospice and Palliative Care Organization, earlier access to hospice brings superior end-of-life care to both patients and their families.

“This lack of access to hospice care is something we continue to witness,” said Sandy Roberson, president, Community Home Care & Hospice (CHC&H), a leading provider of hospice care in North and South Carolina. “Because we believe in how profoundly hospice improves the quality of life for those facing a life limiting illness, our goal became to change those numbers. Our strategy became to develop a media vehicle that would tell the real story of hospice.”

This November, CHC&H launched an original 20-minute documentary, *Voices of Hospice*. *Voices of Hospice* tells the stories of three families and their reflective experiences with hospice. Each of these families share very real insights on how hospice touched their lives and the life of their loved one. Poignant, emotional and moving, *Voices of Hospice*, is an unscripted, real life view of families who have faced a life limiting illness and the hospice decision. The documentary took over two years to complete and more than 800 hours to produce.

“This was an immense project for us. Since it was real, slice of life stories, it was important that we approached families who were at a place they could revisit a very emotionally charged and tender time in their lives. We also wanted to represent different perspectives, from a patient’s first hand experiences, to someone who’s loved one had passed, to a grieving daughter’s first experience with death,” said Cindy Hale, director of marketing, CHC&H. “Finding families who were at the place they could share their stories was challenging yet, in the end, being featured in the documentary became almost cathartic for our families.”

The documentary will be showed at select theatre’s through out North Carolina follow by a reception where the audience has the opportunity to learn more about the role of hospice. The film is also being distributed free of charge to physicians, churches, discharge planners, as well as being made available to families facing the hospice decision.

“By sharing these stories we hope to give a personal snapshot into hospice’s role. We want this documentary to open dialogue among families considering hospice, between patients and their physicians, for individuals searching for options and to anyone in need of reassurance, support, comfort and courage” said Roberson.

Hospice comforts the dying through expert pain control and sophisticated symptom relief enabling patients to live as alert and pain free as possible. Yet, hospice care goes beyond the patient to include the family, offering spiritual and emotional support both before and following a loved one’s passing. For an increasing number of patients and families, hospice has been embraced as an answer of hope.

The ‘Voices of Hospice’ is part of Community Home Care & Hospice’s Understanding Hospice series. Understanding Hospice is a community based initiative to improve end of life care by enhancing the understanding of how hospice profoundly enriches the quality of life for those facing a terminal illness and their families.

Community Home Care and Hospice provides palliative physical, emotional and spiritual care to those living with life-limiting illness. Services encompass patient and family, empowering patients to live each day as fully as possible, with dignity, choices, and control. CHC&H has 49 offices serving more than 50 counties in North and South Carolina. For more information on *Voices of Hospice* or how to receive a free copy, call 1-800-569-1348 or visit their Web site at www.communityhch.com