

# Settlement Reached Between Hospice Providers for Care Center in Clay County

## *Haven Hospice and Community Hospice of Northeast Florida Announce Settlement*

January 3, 2011 – (JACKSONVILLE)—Haven Hospice and Community Hospice of Northeast Florida today jointly announced the settlement of a Certificate of Need (CON) appeal regarding an 18-bed hospice care center proposed by Haven in northern Clay County.

Haven Hospice applied for approval of the project, and the Florida Agency for Healthcare Administration (AHCA) granted preliminary approval earlier this year.

Community Hospice requested a formal review of AHCA's preliminary action to clarify the scope of Haven's project. After collecting additional information about the proposal, Community Hospice has agreed to drop its appeal.

"As stewards of the investments made by our local community in existing hospice care centers, we are pleased that this process has helped clarify the scope and location of this new facility," said Susan Ponder-Stansel, President and CEO of Community Hospice. "We appreciate the trust and support of our donors, board members, volunteers, and the many patients and families we have served in Clay County and the Northeast Florida community over the past 30 years as we continue our focus on providing the best quality care to those living with advanced illness."

"Residents of Clay County and the surrounding areas are fortunate to have two high quality, not-for-profit community-based hospice organizations serving their needs. The development of this hospice inpatient care center will allow Haven Hospice to expand its services affording residents of Clay County and the surrounding areas greater choice in meeting their needs for end of life and palliative care," said Tim Bowen, President, Haven Hospice. "

The amicable settlement between the two hospice providers paves the way for Haven Hospice to move forward in obtaining final approval of the project by AHCA.

The timetable for building and opening the hospice care center has not yet been determined.

### **About Community Hospice of Northeast Florida**

Established in 1979, Community Hospice of Northeast Florida is the first and only community-based, nonprofit hospice provider to serve residents of the First Coast. Each day, through the support of nearly 850 employees and 800 volunteers, the organization helps approximately 1,100 patients and their families live better with advanced illness. During its more than 30-year history, Community Hospice has served more than 67,000 adults and children in Baker, Clay, Duval, Nassau and St. Johns counties—at home, in long term care and assisted living facilities, in hospitals and at its five inpatient care centers. No one is ever denied care due to an inability to pay. To learn more about the support and services of Community Hospice, visit [www.communityhospice.com](http://www.communityhospice.com).

**About Haven Hospice**

Haven Hospice is North Florida's expert in end-of-life and palliative care, receiving national recognition as a Circle of Life Award® recipient from the American Hospital Association for excellence and innovation in end-of-life and palliative care. Haven Hospice has also been recognized as a Florida Pacesetter for its leadership in promoting advance directives. Haven Hospice has had the honor and privilege to serve more than 50,000 patients and families since 1979 and has been licensed in Florida as a not-for-profit hospice since 1980. For more information, visit [www.havenhospice.org](http://www.havenhospice.org) or call 800-727-1889.

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