

Media Release

4/1/10 - FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Camp Safe Haven to help children cope with loss in a unique way

(Gainesville)—Sadness, anger, confusion -- these are some of the feelings people experience when dealing with grief. However, children and adults do not grieve in the same way, so a different counseling approach is needed.

Haven Hospice's Healing Hearts program will host Camp Safe Haven for kids on Thurs., Apr. 8 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. at Camp Kulaqua in High Springs. The day camp is designed for kids 6 to 12 who have experienced the loss of a loved one. The camp activities will provide an opportunity for them to have a fun time among their peers as well as sharing experiences.

"Camp Safe Haven is designed to educate, encourage and empower young people to experience their grief in a healthy and safe environment. Pain is a real, natural emotional response to loss and teens are not immune. The goal is for the kids to have some fun while learning some tools to help them through the pain," said Vonceil Levine, bereavement specialist for Haven Hospice.

The camp is free and open to the public, but registration is required and space is limited. Lunch and snacks will be provided. For more information or to register for Camp Safe Haven, contact Vonceil Levine, MSW, at 352-692-5105 or 800-727-1889.

Haven Hospice's Healing Hearts program provides individual, family and group counseling to help anyone who is coping with grief, regardless of how the loss occurred. Skilled Haven Hospice social workers also assist in times of community crisis and tragedy, providing debriefing services for emergency personnel and caring for health professionals. We support grieving families in a multitude of ways.

About Haven Hospice

Haven Hospice is North Florida's expert in end-of-life and palliative care and is one of three 2008 Circle of Life Award® winners nationwide to be recognized as leaders in improving the care of patients near the end of life or with life-threatening conditions. Haven Hospice has also been recognized as a Florida Pacesetter for its leadership in promoting living wills. Haven Hospice has served nearly 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 or call 800-727-1889.

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