

Media Release

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Haven Hospice leads local initiative to promote third annual National Healthcare Decisions Day

Haven Hospice, joined by national, state and community organizations, will lead the local effort to highlight the importance of advance health-care planning by recognizing April 16, 2010 as the third annual National Healthcare Decisions Day.

National Healthcare Decisions Day is a nationwide initiative to encourage you to make your health-care choices known to family, friends and health-care providers in case you are ever unable to speak for yourself. Haven Hospice will promote community awareness of the campaign throughout its 18-county service area through partnerships with local banks and libraries.

“An advance directive is one of the best gifts you can give your loved ones,” said Haven Hospice President Tim Bowen. “When you think you don’t need an advance directive is when you need it most. Haven Hospice is a proud supporter of National Healthcare Decisions Day and continues endorsing advance directives in all the communities we serve.”

As part of the campaign, Haven Hospice offers a free, easy-to-use advance directive booklet called *Five Wishes*. *Five Wishes* is the first living will that gives you an opportunity to say how you want to be treated if you are unable to speak for yourself. It enables you to specify your wishes in detail as well as designate a health-care surrogate to make health-care decisions for you with respect for your personal, emotional and spiritual values.

Click on the “*Five Wishes*” link on the upper right hand corner of Haven’s homepage at www.havenhospice.org and request one for yourself, a family member or a friend. You can also find a list of participating banks where you can pick up a copy of *Five Wishes*—available in English, Spanish or both. Or you can also request one by calling 800.727.1889.

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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