

# Media Release

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Contact: Jenni Williams

E-Mail: [jlwilliams@havenhospice.org](mailto:jlwilliams@havenhospice.org)

Phone: 352-271-4655

Fax: 352-379-6286



## **Camp Safe Haven helps children cope with loss in a unique way**

(Jacksonville)—Haven Hospice’s Healing Hearts program hosted Camp Safe Haven for kids on Fri., May 28 at Shepherd of the Woods Lutheran Church and School in Jacksonville. The day camp, which hosted 17 children, was designed for kids ages 6 to 12 who have experienced the loss of a loved one. The camp activities provided 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 kids 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 kids who came to the camp engaged in activities on how to deal with grief, as well as participated in a water balloon game and a bubble activity. There were smiles all around.

“Camp Safe Haven is designed to educate, encourage and empower young people to experience their grief in a healthy and safe environment,” said Levine.

At the close of the day, supported by parents, the children formed a circle in a field, joined hands, and sent messages to their lost loved ones via helium balloons.

For information about the next scheduled Camp Safe Haven, contact Vonceil Levine at 352-692-5105.

*Haven supports grieving families in a multitude of ways, including Camp Safe Haven and SASHA’s Friends for children who are anticipating a loss. The organization’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.*



*Photo captions:*  
A camper blows bubbles during an activity.



Children and parents release balloons into the sky.



Campers and volunteers gather for a photo.

### **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](http://www.havenhospice.org) or call 800-727-1889.

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