HAVEN HOSPICE MARKETING AND COMMUNICATIONS DEPARTMENT

Media Release

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Camp Safe Haven in Williston helped teens cope with loss

(Williston)—Haven Hospice's Healing Hearts program hosted Camp Safe Haven for teens on Aug. 14 at First Baptist Church in Williston. The day camp hosted four teens that 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 teens who came to the camp engaged in activities on how to deal with grief, as well as participated in a water balloon activity on how to deal with anger and frustration and a bubble activity. Haven Hospice volunteer, Leslie Robinson and her pet therapy mule, Candy Mae, also stopped by for a visit.

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 in the Tri-county area. We support grieving families in a multitude of ways.

To learn more about Camp Safe Haven and future camp dates, please contact Vonceil Levine, MSW, at 352-692-5105.

Camp Safe Haven teens and volunteers pose with Leslie and Candy Mae.

A camper participates in a bubble activity.

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 more than 45,000 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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