

# Media Release

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## **Camp Safe Haven helped teens cope with loss**

(GAINESVILLE, Fla.)— Ten teens who experienced the recent loss of a loved one worked through their grief at Camp Safe Haven, a day camp held December 19 at Camp Kulaqua in High Springs. Offered through Haven's Healing Hearts program, the session was tailored to youth ages 13 to 17.

"Camp Safe Haven is designed to give grieving children the peer support they need in a safe environment," said Vonceil Levine, bereavement specialist for Haven Hospice. "Bringing them together with their peers who have also lost someone helps them to know that it's okay to grieve. The goal is to have fun while learning some tools to help them through the pain."

The teens participated in a variety of activities, including counseling sessions and a ropes course to teach team-building.

Camp Safe Haven has served more than 130 children and adults this year. 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.

For information about camps offered in 2011, please contact Vonceil Levine at 352.392.5105.



*The teens participated in a log-balancing exercise as part of a ropes course at Camp Safe Haven.*



*The teens participated in a wall climb as part of a ropes course at Camp Safe Haven.*

#### **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 advance directives. Haven Hospice has served 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.