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HOSPICE OF THE VALLEY AWARDED GRANT FROM THE VALLEY FOUNDATION
*Grant will support palliative programs, facilitate expansion of core services and promote early access
for underserved families in Santa Clara County*

October 11, 2006 – San Jose CA – Hospice of the Valley (HOV) was awarded a grant from The Valley Foundation to further support and develop their palliative programs, facilitate expansion of core services, and promote early access to end-of-life care for underserved, low income families in Santa Clara County. This grant enables the organization to continue advancing their leadership role in the delivery of transitional support and end-of-life care.

Hospice care is a specialized form of palliative care that meets the physical, emotional and spiritual needs of both an individual facing a life-limiting illness and his or her loved ones. The focus is to enhance the quality of life while relieving suffering. With palliative care, treating physical, emotional and spiritual suffering is as essential as treating the underlying disease. When the physical, emotional and spiritual needs of the patient are met, the journey towards life's end becomes an enriching experience providing meaning and completeness to life. By helping people to make choices about what services they need and where they want to be cared for, they retain control and dignity at a time when they need it most. Anyone who has been seriously ill or has had a loved one who has been hospitalized with a life-limiting illness, knows how traumatic and devastating this experience can be. Anxiety, shock, depression, denial and pain can become major barriers to a person's care and comfort.

"We're pleased to fund Hospice of the Valley's program," said Ervie L. Smith, executive director of The Valley Foundation. "Collaborating with local community health services providers and resources, Hospice of the Valley will focus on the palliative end-of-life care needs of low income families facing life-limiting illnesses which will make a significant impact in the lives of the underserved in our community."

"The Valley Foundation's financial support will help promote early access to palliative end-of-life care, where patients facing life-limiting illnesses can benefit from this type of program by providing quality of life treatment options, including symptom management, and relief of suffering," said Sally Adelus, executive director of Hospice of the Valley. "It's about enhancing and affirming quality of life."

About Hospice of the Valley

Hospice of the Valley (HOV), the oldest community-based hospice in Santa Clara County, has provided compassionate end-of-life care and bereavement support to over 23,000 people since 1979. Affirming life, embracing comfort, dignity and quality of life, HOV provides the patient and family an interdisciplinary team approach to end-of-life care, which includes medical, social, psychological, spiritual, volunteer and bereavement support. HOV's Community Grief Center provides individual and group grief support and is available to anyone experiencing a loss. A Children's Grief Counseling program specializes in age-appropriate counseling for children and teenagers from ages 4 through 18. *Transitions*, a volunteer-based community service program designed to enhance the quality of life for individuals and their families facing life-limiting illness, provides clients with emotional support, education and practical assistance, is sponsored by Hospice of the Valley and funded by community grants and donations. HOV is a member of the California Hospice and Palliative Care Association and the National Hospice and Palliative Care Organization and is a United Way agency. Call Hospice of the Valley at (408) 559-5600 and for *Transitions*, call (408) 559-5610 or visit www.hospicevalley.org

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