



For Immediate Release

March 15, 2011

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HOSPICE OF THE VALLEY AND SANTA CLARA UNIVERSITY DEPARTMENT OF COUNSELING PSYCHOLOGY PRESENT COMPASSION IN ACTION: ENHANCING THE ART OF END-OF-LIFE CARE

Conference brings together leading experts to examine the current state of end-of-life care

San Jose CA – Hospice of the Valley, a leading provider in advancing palliative end-of-life care and community grief support and education in Santa Clara County and the Santa Clara University Department of Counseling Psychology present 4th annual *Compassion in Action Conference: Enhancing the Art of End-of-Life Care* on Friday, March 25, 2011 at the Center of Performing Arts, Recital Hall, Santa Clara University. *Compassion in Action* brings together leading experts to examine the current state of end-of-life care and to offer a vision for improving it locally and nationally.

Hospice and palliative care in the US continues to expand, bringing improved quality of life for many. Patients and families are achieving the kinds of outcomes they say matter most—effective symptom management, clearer communication about their condition, greater sensitivity to spiritual and cultural issues, and respecting and honoring their goals at end of life. Yet many challenges remain: hospice reaches less than half the people it could serve in the US; many countries have no palliative care at all; and minority populations continue to be underserved.

“Conference presentations include: intimacy in palliative medicine; deepening empathy; what better words to say; finding meaning at life’s end; racial, cultural, and ethnic concerns and communication at the end of life,” said Sally Adelus, President & Chief Executive Officer of Hospice of the Valley. “These pragmatic experts will present ideas, models and programs that can enhance the art of end-of-life care.”

“Compassion in Action 2011 will highlight current challenges in the field and identify innovative ideas and strategies for meeting them,” said Dale G. Larson, PhD, Professor, Department of Counseling Psychology, Santa Clara University. “Attendees will be a second faculty as they network with other health care professionals to enhance care at the end of life,” continued Dr. Larson. “Our historic and scenic campus is an ideal setting for such a meeting of mind and spirit.”

The faculty and panel:

Sally Adelus, President & Chief Executive Officer, Hospice of the Valley

Dale G. Larson, PhD, Professor of Counseling Psychology, Santa Clara University Department of Counseling Psychology, Conference Chairperson and Panel Discussion Facilitator

LaVera Crawley, MD, MPH, Assistant Professor, Stanford University School of Medicine, Center for Biomedical Ethics

Kathy Egan-City, MA, BSN, President and Executive Director of Millennium Research Institute
Charles Garfield, PhD, Founder, Shanti Project; Professor of Clinical Psychology, University of California, San Francisco

Steve Pantilat, MD, FACP, Professor of Clinical Medicine, University of California, San Francisco

Linda Tavel, MD, MBA, FAAHPM, Physician, Symptom Management Consultants, LLC

Compassion in Action is endorsed by the California Hospice and Palliative Care Association and the Coalition for Compassionate Care of California, both of Sacramento and is generously supported by *Platinum Sponsor*: Alameda Family Funeral & Cremation, Inc. of Saratoga; *Silver Sponsor*: Mission Hospice & Home Care of San Mateo; *Bronze Sponsor*: Asian Network Pacific Home Care & Hospice of San Jose; Hospice of Santa Cruz County of Santa Cruz and Leiter's Pharmacy of San Jose; *Copper Sponsor*: Science Care of Phoenix.

Registration: \$95 includes Friday program, lunch and reception, plus CMEs/CEUs. Seven (7) continuing education hours/units are available to physicians, nurses, social workers, psychologists, marriage and family therapists, and other healthcare professionals.

To register online, visit compassioninaction2011.eventbrite.com or for information visit hospicevalley.org/professionalcia/html, or email Chelsea Mathis at cmathis@hospicevalley.org or call 408.559.5600, ext. 5464.

About Hospice of the Valley

Hospice of the Valley, a leading provider and educator in advancing palliative end-of-life and community grief-care, affirms dignity and hope for those facing serious illness. Hospice of the Valley's team, experts in palliative and hospice care, is comprised of physicians, nurses, social workers, chaplains, hospice aides, grief counselors, and volunteers who assist patients, their caregivers and families in their end-of-life care and goals. Founded in 1979, Hospice of the Valley is the first not-for-profit hospice and grief care organization to serve the community of Santa Clara County. Hospice of the Valley's Community Grief and Counseling Center provides individual and loss specific group grief care 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. The *Transitions Program*, a volunteer-based community service sponsored by Hospice of the Valley and funded by community grants and donations, is designed to enhance the quality of life for individuals and their families facing advanced-illness through emotional support, education, and practical assistance. Additionally, Hospice of the Valley sponsors a community resource website—seriousillness.org/santaclaracounty—for caregivers and families who are caring for someone with serious illness. Hospice of the Valley, a member of the California Hospice and Palliative Care Association and the National Hospice and Palliative Care Organization, is licensed by the State of California and is Medicare and Medi-Cal certified. Medicare, Medi-Cal and most private insurance plans cover services. Hospice of the Valley is committed to serving its diverse communities and honors all cultures, beliefs, values, and traditions, and provides equitable access to care for all patients and families—regardless of their financial ability. For information, call 408.559.5600 or visit hospicevalley.org.

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