



Media Contact

Hospice of the Valley

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Hospice of the Valley of Northern California Recognized as a *We Honor Veterans* Partner

For providing ongoing commitment to honor and serve Veterans at the end of life

San Jose, Calif., - November 19, 2012 – More than 25 percent of those who die every year in the U.S. are Veterans according to National Hospice and Palliative Care Organization. To help provide care and support that reflect the important contributions made by these men and women, Hospice of the Valley of Northern California has become a national partner of *We Honor Veterans*, a pioneering campaign developed by National Hospice and Palliative Care Organization in collaboration with the Department of Veterans Affairs. As a *We Honor Veterans* Partner, Hospice of the Valley is recognized for providing ongoing Veteran-centered education for their staff and volunteers to help enhance the care they provide to the Veterans they proudly serve.

"It has been our privilege to serve Veterans and their families in our community since 1979. We are proud to formalize our commitment to honor and serve our Veterans as a *We Honor Veterans* partner," said Sally Adelus, president and CEO of Hospice of the Valley. "This partnership is just one way we recognized Veterans for their duty and service to our country this past Veteran's Day, November 11."

"To further our commitment to serving Veterans at the end of life, we have unveiled a supportive Vet to Vet program linking volunteer Veterans to provide care and support to patients and their families who have served our country," said Victoria Wild, director of volunteer services and Transitions Program with Hospice of the Valley.

"All hospices are serving Veterans but often aren't aware of that person's service in the armed forces," said J. Donald Schumacher, NHPCO president and CEO. "Through *We Honor*

Veterans we are taking a giant step forward in helping hospice and palliative care providers understand and serve Veterans at the end of life and work more effectively with VA medical facilities in their communities.”

The *We Honor Veterans* campaign provides tiered recognition to organizations that demonstrate a systematic commitment to improving care for Veterans. “Partners” can assess their ability to serve Veterans and, using resources provided as part of the campaign, integrate best practices for providing end-of-life care to Veterans into their organization. By recognizing the unique needs of our nation’s Veterans who are facing a life-limiting illness, Hospice of the Valley is better able to accompany and guide Veterans and their families toward a more peaceful ending. And in cases where there might be some specific needs related to the Veteran’s military service, combat experience or other traumatic events, Hospice of the Valley will find tools to help support those they are caring for.

The resources of *We Honor Veterans* focus on respectful inquiry, compassionate listening, and grateful acknowledgment, coupled with Veteran-centric education of health care staff caring for Veterans. To learn more about *We Honor Veterans*, please visit www.wehonorveterans.org.

“America’s Veterans have done everything asked of them in their mission to serve our country and we believe it is never too late to give them a hero’s welcome home. Now it is time that we step up, acquire the necessary skills and fulfill our mission to serve these men and women with the dignity they deserve,” added Schumacher.

About Hospice of the Valley

Based in the heart of California’s Silicon Valley, Hospice of the Valley provides end-of-life care and services, including hospice, palliative care and counseling for adults and children. The Transitions Program offers emotional support, education, and practical assistance for families facing serious illness. Hospice of the Valley publishes a community website for caregivers and families at seriousillness.org/santaclaracounty. A nonprofit organization serving Santa Clara County since 1979, Hospice of the Valley honors all cultures, beliefs, values, and traditions and is committed to serving its diverse community and providing equitable access to care for all regardless of financial ability. For information, call 408.559.5600 or visit hospicevalley.org.

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