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**Hospice of the Valley, in Collaboration with Campbell Community Center and the Bay Area News Group, presents its Two-Part Health Care Decisions Series: *Consider the Conversation* and *Advance Health Care Planning Forum* in honor of National Healthcare Decision Day**

**San Jose, Calif., –April 2, 2013** – In honor of National Healthcare Decision Day on April 16, Hospice of the Valley, a leading provider in advancing palliative, hospice care, community grief support and education in Northern California, in collaboration with the Campbell Community Center of Campbell and the Bay Area News Group, will present its two-part Health Care Decisions Series: *Consider the Conversation* on Friday, April 19 from 9:30 A.M. – 11:30 A.M. and *Advance Health Care Planning Forum* on May 10 from 9:30 A.M. – 11:30 A.M. at the Campbell Community Center, Orchard City Banquet Hall, located at 1 West Campbell Avenue in Campbell.

On April 19, Hospice of the Valley will screen *Consider the Conversation*, an illuminating and inspiring documentary that examines views on a taboo subject: discussions surrounding end of life. Panel Q&A and discussion immediately follows. Panel includes national award-winning *San Jose Mercury News* reporter Lisa Krieger of the *Cost of Dying* series; Gary Bertuccelli, MDiv, MSW, LCSW, manager of social work and spiritual care and Karen Nolan, RN, clinical outreach manager, both with Hospice of the Valley.

On May 10, Hospice of the Valley's *Advance Health Care Planning Forum* will feature national award-winning *San Jose Mercury News* science and medicine journalist Lisa Krieger of the *Cost of Dying* series and Gary Bertuccelli, MDiv, MSW, LCSW, manager of social work and spiritual care with Hospice of the Valley who will discuss the importance of advance health care planning to help you make informed choices about your medical care; choose your health care agent and more. Attendees will receive a complimentary copy of an advance health care directive as Lisa and Gary explain and discuss each section of the document, while sharing their respective insights and perspectives on advance planning and more.

According to the California HealthCare Foundation, while 82% of Californians say it is important to have end-of-life wishes in writing, only 23% have done so.

"As a leading provider in advancing palliative, hospice care, community grief support and education in Northern California, we encourage these invaluable conversations and are honored to collaborate with the Campbell Community Center and San Jose Mercury News to bring the conversation to our local community," said Sally Adelus, president and chief executive officer of Hospice of the Valley.

"The Campbell Adult Center is committed to bringing quality educational programs for older adults, their families, and caregivers on advance health care planning," said Tina Wong-Erling, senior services supervisor with the City of Campbell | Recreation & Community Services Department. "It's important to discuss and document our health care choices in advance of a medical event, so families are not making these decisions in times of crisis."

"An advance health care directive lets your physician, family and friends know what your health care preferences are," said Neal Slatkin, MD, vice president of medical services/chief medical officer with Hospice of the Valley and medical director of palliative care at El Camino Hospital, Mountain View. "This includes the special treatment you want or don't want at the end of life, your desire for diagnostic testing, surgical procedures, CPR and organ donation."

"By considering your options and having the conversations early, you can ensure your wishes are honored and avoid having your family make critical medical care decisions for you under extreme stress," added Adelus.

The general public is encouraged to attend these two free community events and bring a friend or family member. Donations to Hospice of the Valley are gratefully accepted. To

register, visit [hospicevalley.org/hcdseries](http://hospicevalley.org/hcdseries) or call Jeanne Wun at 1.408.559.5600 x5423 or email [jwun@hospicevalley.org](mailto:jwun@hospicevalley.org) or Campbell Adult Center 1.408.866.2146.

### **About Campbell Community Center**

The Campbell Community Center is a unique community service complex. The site, which used to house the city's only high school, was purchased by the City of Campbell from the Campbell Union High School District in August of 1985. The center is home to the majority of the recreation classes offered through the City's Recreation and Community Services Dept. The facility also offers a variety of rental opportunities. For more information, visit [ci.campbell.ca.us/Recreation/communitycenter](http://ci.campbell.ca.us/Recreation/communitycenter)

### **About Bay Area News Group**

The *San Jose Mercury News*, a part of the Bay Area News Group (BANG) is committed to the health and vitality of our local communities. BANG believes in social responsibility and community involvement and promotes these values not only in their coverage of the community, but also by their active support for organizations and causes which serve the public interest and well-being. For more information, visit [mercurynews.org](http://mercurynews.org) or [medianewsgroup.com](http://medianewsgroup.com).

### **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's Community Grief & Counseling Center provides individual counseling and loss-specific support groups to anyone who has experienced the loss of a loved one. Hospice of the Valley publishes a community website for caregivers and families at [seriousillness.org/santaclaracounty](http://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 1.408.559.5600 or visit [hospicevalley.org](http://hospicevalley.org).

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