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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Hospice of the Valley Unites with Sutter Care at Home

Not-for-profit organizations to expand palliative care, hospice and grief support services in Santa Clara County community and beyond

SAN JOSE, Calif., April 24, 2015 — Not-for-profit Hospice of the Valley and Sutter Care at Home approved a formal agreement to join forces, continuing a legacy of high-quality programs and services dedicated to those with serious illness or needing end-of-life care. We anticipate that the agreement will go into effect this August – pending approval from the California Department of Public Health.

Under terms of the agreement, Hospice of the Valley will maintain its name, not-for-profit status, programs, philosophy of care and broad outreach to diverse communities. Celebrating 35 years of community service, Hospice of the Valley will continue its full spectrum of high-quality programs and services dedicated to those with serious illnesses needing end-of-life and palliative care in the greater Santa Clara County community.

“Hospice of the Valley and Sutter Care at Home share a strong commitment to delivering compassionate, high-caliber care,” said Sally Adelus, president and CEO of Hospice of the Valley. “Current demand for our services is rapidly growing. Aligning with Sutter Care at Home allows us to address this growth, further expand and strengthen our services – all the while maintaining our core values and unique, community focused programs.”

“This is an exciting time for healthcare as two quality not-for-profit organizations with long histories start a new chapter together,” said Marcia Reissig, CEO of Sutter Care at Home. “Both Sutter Health and Hospice of the Valley believe it is always our duty to enhance the health and well-being of our patients and their families. Our care teams work together to provide timely, affordable and high-quality healthcare and services. Our organizations’ new partnership will only strengthen that tradition.”

“As a not-for-profit organization, re-investing in our community is a top priority,” added Adelus. “In today’s dynamic healthcare environment, this commitment to our local community is now more important than ever.”

As the healthcare landscape continues to evolve, the specialized areas of palliative and hospice care and support are elevated and better integrated throughout the care continuum. Patients also help drive improvements in quality of care through increased involvement and engagement in the healthcare process. Sutter Care at Home and Hospice of the Valley are working together with an eye toward this vision. The combined clinical workforce will share innovative best practices in caring for all patients, including Hospice of the Valley’s Palliative Care Center Silicon Valley and Sutter Care at Home’s Advanced Illness Management (AIM) program.

The Palliative Care Center Silicon Valley provides expertise in pain and symptom management along with emotional and spiritual support for patients and caregivers. According to a 2004 *Journal of Palliative Medicine* report, homebound patients in palliative care showed greater satisfaction and a 45 percent decrease in cost, less use of emergency rooms, fewer doctor visits and reduced hospital days. The AIM program provides comprehensive care and coordinated support to more than 4,300 chronically ill patients annually. In 2014, staff made nearly 73,600 visits and more than 17,900 phone visits to provide AIM patients with care coordination and symptom management. As a result, preliminary estimates suggest AIM reduced hospitalizations over just one 90-day period by 56 percent — and saved government payers and commercial health plans an estimated \$60 million in avoided reimbursement.

About Hospice of the Valley

Celebrating 35 years of service to our community, Hospice of the Valley is a non-profit organization that exists to support patients and their families during one of life’s most challenging – yet most meaningful – times. Hospice of the Valley provides serious illness and end-of-life care programs and services, including palliative and hospice care, grief counseling for adults, children and families, and emotional support, education and practical assistance. Since 1979, more than 35,000 friends and neighbors in Santa Clara County have received compassionate care and grief support from Hospice of the Valley. In 2014, Hospice of the Valley staff made nearly 40,000 visits to patients and families. Established in July 2013, the Palliative Care Center Silicon Valley, the first independent, community-based, licensed outpatient center of its kind in California for seriously ill patients and their families, is a division of Hospice of the Valley. Hospice of the Valley also provides a community resource website for patients and families at seriousillness.org/santaclaracounty. 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 more information, call 408-559-5600 or visit www.hospicevalley.org.

About Sutter Care at Home

Founded in 1906, Sutter Care at Home is part of the not-for-profit Sutter Health network and delivers personalized care to more than 150,000 patients in 23 Northern California counties each year. Sutter Care at Home’s dedicated teams of health-care providers support patients and their families through skilled home healthcare, hospice, home medical equipment, respiratory therapy and home infusion. Sutter Care at Home offers local service at branch offices and is the leading transformation of home care to achieve the highest levels of quality, access and affordability. Its best practices have earned nationwide recognition — most notably for their Advanced Illness Management (AIM) program. Additionally, eight Sutter Care at Home centers recently received Top Agency awards from the 2014 HomeCare Elite™, which identifies the top 25 percent of Medicare-certified home health agencies in the country. Please visit www.suttercareathome.org for more information.