

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**HOSPICE'S MEMORY GARDEN TO BRING SERENITY, PEACE
WHILE SYMBOLIZING LIFE**

Sponsorships, donations accepted

July 6, 2006 – Hood River, Ore. – When Hospice of The Gorge planned its new facility in The Heights, a “Memory Garden” adjacent to the building was designed as a prominent feature. While city projects temporarily held up the ground-breaking of the walled garden, award-winning local landscape architect Marion McNew refined plans for the space. Now that construction is underway, sponsorships and donations for the garden will help to make it a reality.

McNew designed the garden to serve as a metaphor for life’s journey. The narrow space between the Hospice of The Gorge building and the parking area is divided into four “rooms,” each with a character of its own. The first room, the “Rose Garden,” will feature brilliant colors and a bubbling, birdbath fountain, which will convey the bright promise of early life. Curved benches will provide a place for quiet conversations. Providence Hood River Memorial Hospital is the primary sponsor of the Rose Garden.

A main sponsor is being sought for the second room, the Gallery Garden. The main feature of this garden is a mural that will signify life’s options and range of experiences. Tall garden vases will bring a sense of grace and balance to the room, and two “moon” windows will allow a peek into the room beyond.

The Discovery Garden will celebrate the depth and richness of life. Representing the middle portion of life, this will be the longest of the garden rooms. Benches will invite the visitor to tarry, while side paths will encourage exploration. Artist-made tiles, a Japanese-style stone pagoda lantern and a multi-level trough fountain will delight the senses. Maureen Higgins is the primary sponsor of the Discovery Garden, in memory of her parents, Kay and Joe Higgins.

The Zen Garden, symbolic of life’s final phase, is designed to be the most serene room. An intimate room with a circular fountain, the Zen Garden encourages quiet contemplation. The Zen Garden is sponsored by Clarice Knoll, in memory of her husband, Ron Knoll.

In addition to the remaining Gallery Garden primary sponsorship, a number of garden features including fountains, benches, vases, tiles and a pergola are available.

“Sponsoring a facet of the garden in the name of a loved one is a long-lasting and beautiful reminder of that person,” says Hospice of The Gorge executive director

Deborah Whiting Jaques. “We are happy to provide both a place for such memorials to be housed, and to provide a contemplative and healing place for our entire community.”

More information about the Memory Garden or its features available for sponsorship is available from Hospice of The Gorge at 387-6449 (toll-free 866-680-6449). Donations for the Memory Garden (donors should designate such) may be sent to Hospice of The Gorge; P.O. Box 36; Hood River, OR 97031. Please designate that a donation is for the Memory Garden.

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Hospice of The Gorge provides comprehensive care to those facing life-limiting illness. Hospice of The Gorge provides ethical, professional and compassionate care with respect for personal, cultural and spiritual values. From offices in Hood River and The Dalles, Hospice of The Gorge serves people in Hood River, Gilliam, Moro, Wasco and Wheeler counties in Oregon, and Klickitat and Skamania counties in Washington. Please visit the website for more information: www.hospiceofthegorge.org.