

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Light Up a Life Provides Way to Say, 'Thank you,' 'I Remember'

Dec. 12, 2006 – Hood River, Ore. – Hospice of The Gorge is offering a public memorial opportunity in January as its 17th annual Light Up a Life event. Light Up a Life, a program that is celebrated in December by hospices across the United States and United Kingdom, gives communities an opportunity to celebrate the lives of individuals who are missed and/or admired. Hospice of The Gorge offers inclusion in a full-page memorial that will appear the week of January 15, 2007, on the Hospice website and in the following newspapers:

- Goldendale Sentinel
- Hood River News
- Skamania Pioneer
- The Dalles Chronicle
- White Salmon Enterprise

Saying “Thank you”

When 89-year-old Betty Thouvenel’s cancer debilitated her to the point that she couldn’t get around anymore, she went to spend her last months with son Bob Thouvenel and daughter-in-law Mary Beth, of The Dalles. The family contacted Hospice of The Gorge to help.

“I’m not sure we could have gotten through all of that without them,” says Bob. “The big thing was that my mom considered the Hospice people as friends—kind of like they were part of the family for that year.” Betty, who had spent most of her life in The Dalles, died on Halloween Day 2005, just two months shy of her 91st birthday.

To honor his mother, and Hospice for their care of her, Bob and Mary Beth submitted Betty’s name for this year’s Light Up a Life Public Memorial.

“Hospice was a real blessing for us.”

Saying “I remember”

White Salmon resident Josie Salka is contributing to the memorial to honor her son and her cousin, both of whom have died recently.

“It’s a way to include him during the holidays,” Salka says of her son, Darren, who was killed in an accident. “A light has gone out in our family, and this is a good way to remember him.”

Hospice has helped many people in her family, she says, but she’s most grateful for the Hospice bereavement groups that are lead by chaplain Stephen Lusk. “He’s really been a lifesaver.”

Making a memorial request is open to anyone in the public and free of charge, although Hospice does appreciate a donation; those who send \$50 or more will receive a keepsake crystal ornament etched with a dove. The submission deadline is December 29, 2006. For more information or to request a donation envelope, phone the Hood River Hospice office: 541-387-6449 or 1-866-680-6449.

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Hospice of The Gorge provides comprehensive care to those who face life-limiting illness. Hospice of The Gorge is a nonprofit organization that provides ethical, professional and compassionate care while respecting personal, cultural and spiritual values. From offices in Hood River and The Dalles, Hospice of The Gorge serves seven counties: Skamania and Klickitat in Washington, and Hood River, Wasco, Sherman, Gilliam and Morrow in Oregon. Please visit the website for more information:
www.hospiceofthegorge.org.