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## **PALLIATIVE CARE PIONEER**

*Hospice of The Gorge brings  
palliative care nurse practitioner to the region*

*July 26, 2006 – Hood River, Ore.* – Hospice of The Gorge is proud to announce the addition of the region’s only Palliative Care Nurse Practitioner to its medical team. Jennifer Stager recently completed a nine-month palliative care fellowship at the Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Center (VAMC) in Portland. Stager will support the Hospice of The Gorge teams by consulting on patient-care issues, and will also be available to the greater medical community throughout the Columbia Gorge region by conducting home visits, as requested by local physicians.

Stager has been with Hospice of The Gorge since 2004. “I’ve enjoyed being a family nurse practitioner and I’ve enjoyed my hospice work,” she says. “To be able to combine these interests and get specialty training was a really good fit.” Stager’s VAMC fellowship included rotations in the pain/anesthesia and heart failure clinics. She also did rotations with the palliative care clinical nurse specialist at Oregon Health Sciences University, and at the Vancouver Skilled Care facility’s palliative care/hospice unit. Her primary clinical responsibilities at the VAMC included completion of both inpatient and outpatient palliative care consultations.

“This fellowship provides Jennifer the most up-to-date information about palliative care,” says Dr. Tina Castañares, Hospice of The Gorge medical director. “And, in turn, she will share this knowledge with all of us.”

“We co-sponsored this fellowship because we are always interested in expanding the ‘service basket’ that Hospice of The Gorge offers,” adds executive director Deborah Whiting Jaques. “But the credit should go to Jennifer for being accepted into, and completing, this rigorous and prestigious program. We are so proud of her.”

Stager joins medical director Castañares as well as assistant medical directors, Drs. Linda DeSitter and Kimberly Stutzman, and will consider cases in all seven counties in Oregon and Washington that are served by Hospice of The Gorge.

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**Hospice of The Gorge** provides comprehensive care to those who are 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 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](http://www.hospiceofthegorge.org).