

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Hospice of The Gorge Hosts Hospice Foundation of America Teleconference *“Living With Grief: Before and After the Death” Open to the Public*

February 19, 2007 – Hood River, Ore. – Hospice of The Gorge is sponsoring the 14th annual Hospice Foundation of America (HFA) teleconference in the Education Room at Providence Hood River Memorial Hospital, 811 13th St., on Thursday, March 22 at 10:30 a.m. The video presentation which is broadcast across the United States, will explore the most current theoretical perspectives on loss and grief, as experienced by patients throughout a life-limiting illness and by survivors after the patients’ deaths. Following the teleconference (at approximately 1 p.m.), Hospice of The Gorge chaplain Stephen Lusk, Ph.D., will facilitate a half-hour discussion.

A panel of experts will examine and discuss the following topics:

- Anticipatory grief and anticipatory mourning: approaches that professional caregivers can use to assist patients and families struggling with loss in life-threatening illness
- Strategies and interventional approaches that professional caregivers can use at the moment of death and in funeral rituals to help survivors cope with loss
- Ways that our understanding of grief has changed over the last 20 years and how changes have influenced practice
- Research on the effectiveness of grief interventions
- Current debate over a new *Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders* (DSM) diagnostic category for complicated grief
- Current research and theory on grief reactions of professional caregivers, and ways that individuals and organizations can effectively support grieving staff and volunteers

“This teleconference is a tremendous resource for area health care providers, and for the general public as well,” says Hospice of The Gorge executive director Deborah Whiting Jaques. “Some of the best minds in end-of-life care participate in this teleconference. And while we can’t be there in person, the technology available at Providence Hood River Memorial Hospital allows us to participate.”

Hospice of The Gorge sponsors this event each spring as part of its mission as a community partner to support educational opportunities regarding end-of-life issues.

This is a free event, although space is limited and registration is required. Continuing Education Credit Units are available to health care professionals. A companion book will be available for purchase. For more information or to register, please call the Hospice of The Gorge Hood River office: 541-387-6449 or 1-866-680-6449.

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Hospice of The Gorge has for 25 years provided comprehensive care to those who face life-limiting illness. Hospice of The Gorge is a nonprofit, Medicare-certified 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. Hospice of The Gorge receives support from the United Way. Please visit the website for more information: www.hospiceofthegorge.org.

More information about the Hospice Foundation of America is available at www.hospicefoundation.org.