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Oregon Cancer Ski Out to Support Hospice of The Gorge

March 4 and 5 at Mt. Hood Meadows

February 5, 2007 – Hood River, Ore. – Oregon Cancer Ski Out has announced that they are adding Hospice of The Gorge to their list of beneficiaries. The nonprofit has donated the proceeds from its popular fundraiser to Willamette Falls Hospice, OHSU Cancer Institute and Candlelighters for nearly two decades.

“Kathleen O’Connor McNew at the Hood River Inn encouraged us to consider including Hospice of The Gorge,” says Nancy Chinn, executive director of Oregon Cancer Ski Out. Most of the event’s participants come from the Portland metropolitan area and stay at the Hood River Inn. The skiing competition takes place March 4 and 5 at Mt. Hood Meadows. “We agreed that it was a good idea, especially since there are a lot of locals who help out on the slopes as volunteers.”

McNew has helped to host the event since its first years, and is captain of the hotel-sponsored team, the Hood River Hellcats. “I just felt that if all of this activity was happening within our community, then maybe some of the proceeds should benefit a local nonprofit. I am definitely a supporter of Hospice of The Gorge and what it does, so I suggested that organization,” says McNew. “I also hoped that if some of [the proceeds] went locally, we could get some more local teams to participate.”

Oregon Cancer Ski Out was founded in 1989 by Larry (Chad) Chadwick and a small group of friends as a way to positively channel their sadness and frustration over the loss of loved ones to cancer. The event has a number of fundraising elements, from personal and team fundraising goals to silent and oral auctions at the Cowboy Up for Cancer party on Sunday, March 4, at 6:30 p.m. at the Hood River Inn.

“We were thrilled to learn of our inclusion in Oregon Cancer Ski Out,” says Hospice of The Gorge executive director Deborah Whiting Jaques. “I applaud the Ski Out board of directors for supporting the hospice that serves the area in which their event takes place.”

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Hospice of The Gorge provides comprehensive care to those who face life-limiting illness. Hospice of The Gorge is a Medicare-certified 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. Hospice of The Gorge receives funding from the United Way. Please visit the website for more information: www.hospiceofthegorge.org.

More information about Oregon Cancer Ski Out is available at www.cancerskiout.org.