

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Kristy Athens, Community Relations Coordinator  
541-308-2114 or kathens@hospiceofthegorge.org

## **Hospice of The Gorge Celebrates Future Permanent Home in The Dalles**

*Schultens family gifts ensure presence of Hospice  
in eastern Columbia Gorge counties*

*January 22, 2007 – Hood River, Ore.* – After more than 25 years of service—15 of it serving The Dalles area—Hospice of The Gorge will finally have a permanent home in Wasco County. Gloria Schultens, widow of the founder of Ray Schultens Motors, has offered a donation/purchase of the building and property located at 751 Myrtle St.; her nephew, Bob Schultens, has donated an adjacent parcel of land.

Hospice of The Gorge has leased the Schultens building since the early 1990s, and has outgrown the building's meeting and work space. The board is considering plans to renovate the existing building and to construct an adjacent two-story community conference center on the donated near-acre parcel. Other upgrades will include expanded staff space, a private patient consulting room, a catering-ready kitchen and a garden.

"I was so excited after I realized they wanted that building," says Mrs. Schultens. "It's perfect for them." The process was set in motion when Hospice representatives inquired in early 2006 about the possibility of purchasing the parcel, which has been in her possession for more than 40 years. "I didn't donate it outright, but I gave them a really good deal on it."

Bob Schultens, who has served on the Hospice of The Gorge board of directors since 2005, recognized the organization's need for a larger, permanent home on the eastern end of its seven-county service area. "I think the people at Hospice of The Gorge have done a good job in our community," he says. Schultens's donation is especially gracious, as the Myrtle St. building is in the middle of his growing car dealership, on the west end of town. "We needed to make sure [Ray Schultens Motors] had room, too," he says, "but being on the [Hospice] board, it was clear that we needed more room, and I was the one who had it."

"We are so pleased to be able to solidify this community partnership in The Dalles," says executive director Deborah Whiting Jaques. "We are dedicated to our Gorge-wide presence, and this gift will help us to meet the needs of our ever-increasing patient census in Wasco, Sherman, Gilliam and Morrow counties in Oregon and eastern Klickitat County in Washington."

This as-yet-unnamed facility will join the Hood River Hospice Center, which opened in 2004 at 1630 Woods Court on the Heights. Hospice is currently in the process of hiring an architect, and meeting with staff and community members to determine how The

Dalles building can best support the ongoing needs of its patients and their care circles, and continue its mission as a community partner. The design and fundraising efforts are slated for 2007; Hospice of The Gorge plans to request funds from foundations as well as support from the community. Renovation and construction is expected to begin in 2008.

Gloria Schultens plans to stay out of the limelight as much as possible regarding this generous gift. "I like to do things quietly," she says. "My Ray was like that, too."

# # #

**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](http://www.hospiceofthegorge.org).