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New Partnership Enhances Hospice Care for West Virginians
Innovations will Improve Care and Contribute to Reduce Healthcare Expenses

WASHINGTON, DC (May 10, 2016) – Capital Caring, the oldest and most experienced hospice provider in the capitol region, is thrilled to announce a new joint operating agreement with Hospice Care Corporation (HCC) of West Virginia that will expand Capital Caring’s innovative programming and improve quality of care and patient outcomes for the hundreds of families HCC serves every day. With nearly 75 years of combined experience in their regions, this new agreement formalizes a 10-year-old collaboration between the two organizations that enhances direct patient care programs, expands employee training opportunities, and creates additional efficiencies in administrative processes.

HCC will introduce a TeleCaring program modeled on a successful Capital Caring pilot this month, creating an added layer of care to help caregivers and patients in their homes. Capital Caring’s TeleCaring program is a proactive daily phone call that provides an extra point of contact between the care provider and patients and their families, ultimately providing additional support to those whose loved ones are living with advanced illnesses. Perhaps most importantly, the TeleCaring calls improve continuity of care and reduce overall healthcare expenses by quickly identifying patient needs, even when a hospice representative is not at the home.

“At the end of the day, our priority is to make sure everyone who is eligible for hospice services has access to those services,” said Malene Davis, Capital Caring’s President and CEO. “Our concern is for the moms and dads who rely on the services we provide, and we are thrilled to work more closely with Hospice Care Corporation to make sure their patients receive the same world-class services we provide to our patients.”

“As it has been since our founding, HCC’s priority is to care for our neighbors in North Central West Virginia,” said Ron Hicks, HCC’s Executive Vice President. “The joint operating agreement we are now entering into with Capital Caring gives us the ability to improve our patients’ care outcomes by utilizing greater economies of scale. Speaking personally, I believe HCC is exceedingly fortunate to reconnect with Malene Davis, who was our president and CEO before taking the helm at Capital Caring 10 years ago.”

In a majority of cases, Medicare’s Hospice Benefit or commercial insurance plans make advanced illness care available at no cost, but West Virginia currently ranks 42nd in hospice utilization rates nationwide. Recent studies show that improving hospice access by one percent would save Medicare more than \$500 million annually.

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About Capital Caring: Since 1977, Capital Caring has simply improved care for those facing life-limiting illness through direct support of patients and their families, public education and advocacy. Since its inception, Capital Caring has provided hospice, palliative care and counseling to more than 84,000 patients and their families. Nearly 800 employees and 1,000 volunteers have traveled more than 1.8 million miles to provide these services to nearly 1,200 patients each day. As one of the nation's oldest and largest non-profit providers of hospice and palliative care, Capital Caring is proud to provide nearly \$3 million in charitable care to families in need annually. To learn more about Capital Caring, visit www.capitalcaring.org.

About HCC: Hospice Care Corporation, a 501 (c) (3), non-profit organization, is dedicated to serving the terminally ill and their families individuals transitioning through life-limiting illness while providing outreach, education and expertise in grief support to the entire community. Hospice Care Corporation serves 12 counties in West Virginia since 1983. It is owned by the communities it serves in North Central West Virginia. In fact, Hospice Care is one of a few not for profit, stand-alone hospices serving this area. For more information on what we do, please visit our web site at hospicecarecorp.org or call us at 1-800-350-1161.