

PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

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Providence Health System Opens Inpatient Hospice Unit with Partner Capital Caring

Inpatient Hospice Unit in D.C.'s Ward 5 Better Serves the Needs of Patients and the Community

(Washington, D.C.) March 15, 2016 – Providence Health System, the longest continually serving system in Washington, D.C., -- and a part of Ascension, the nation's largest Catholic and non-profit health system -- announced today that in partnership with Capital Caring, it will fill a critical need for coordinated advanced illness care in the region with the opening of an inpatient hospice unit. Only the second in the District of Columbia, this new hospice unit will serve an aging and seriously ill population with compassionate personalized care at the end of life.

The 14-bed capacity, inpatient, hospice unit will be operated by Capital Caring. The unit will include private rooms, family kitchen, nursing station and waiting area all within a comfortable, home-like setting. In addition to improving care for some of the region's most underserved families, it will also serve as a teaching site for physician fellows who Capital Caring trains in hospice care. "Capital Caring is proud to partner with Providence Health System to provide access to high-quality care to residents of Washington, D.C. who are living with a serious, advanced illness," said Malene Smith Davis, Capital Caring's President and Chief Executive Officer, "Our team of skilled professionals look forward to working with Providence to bring comfort, access, relief, and excellent care to those who need it most."

The inpatient hospice unit is the result of a multi-year study on regional health care resources and services for seniors, undertaken by a collaborative workgroup of more than 40 members including Providence, community leaders and D.C. Government officials. The research illustrated that while Wards 4 and 5 have the highest population of seniors -- the only inpatient hospice unit service offered only 15 beds and is located in the city's northwest quadrant.

"There is a critical need for another inpatient hospice unit in the District and Providence which is located in Ward 5 is an excellent option for such a service," said Mourine Evans, SVP, patient care services and chief nursing officer at Providence. "The inpatient hospice unit will help Providence ensure access in our community to the most suitable services and an integrated continuum of care."

Over the years, Providence has developed a well-recognized senior services and palliative care program. In 2012, Providence ranked second in D.C. for senior services and geriatric care. The inpatient hospice unit will be a further milestone in the continuum of care which Providence can offer our community, and will be especially welcome for those who are too ill for outpatient services but who are not suitable for acute or surgical units.

“Providence seeks to ensure that the community it serves has access to the right level of care, at the right place, and at the right time,” said Duane Erwin, interim president and CEO. “The Capital Caring inpatient hospice unit at Providence will be beneficial to patients and their families, serving those patients who are hospitalized but would be better served in a hospice setting.”

About Providence

Providence Health System (www.provhosp.org) is a 408-bed hospital in Washington, D.C., with expert medical staff of more than 500 providers. Founded by the Daughters of Charity in 1861 with its charter signed by President Abraham Lincoln, Providence is the longest continually serving hospital in the District. Located near the Shrine of the Immaculate Conception, Providence is situated on a 36-acre campus within the vibrant Brookland community in northeast D.C. Our Catholic health ministry improves the health of individuals and of our community with compassion and justice and we are mission driven to serve all persons with joy, care and respect. Providence is proud to be member of Ascension, the nation’s largest Catholic and largest nonprofit health system.

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.

About Ascension

Ascension (www.ascension.org) is a faith-based healthcare organization dedicated to transformation through innovation across the continuum of care. As the largest non-profit health system in the U.S. and the world’s largest Catholic health system, Ascension is committed to delivering compassionate, personalized care to all persons with special attention to persons in poverty and struggling the most. In FY2015, Ascension provided nearly \$2 billion in care of persons living in poverty and other community benefit programs. Approximately 150,000 associates and 35,000 aligned providers serve in 1,900 sites of care – including 129 hospitals and more than 30 senior living facilities – in 24 states and the District of Columbia. In addition to healthcare delivery, Ascension subsidiaries provide a variety of services and solutions including physician practice management, venture capital investing, investment management, biomedical engineering, clinical care management, information services, risk management, and contracting through Ascension’s own group purchasing organization.

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