

For Immediate Release  
Talbot Hospice Foundation  
Contact Peg Fitzgerald- 410-822-6681

October 27, 2008

### **Understanding Hospice Care**

November is National Hospice /Palliative Care month in America. One of the main goals of this country wide organization and the Talbot Hospice Foundation is to educate the public about the benefits of hospice care.

Far too many people wait until they are in the midst of a health care crisis before thinking about what options are available or what care they or their loved ones would have wanted. The professionals at Talbot Hospice deal with these challenging situations every day – that’s what they are trained to do.

When a family is coping with a serious illness and a cure is no longer possible, hospice provides the type of care most people say they want at the end of life: comfort and dignity. Considered to be the model for high-quality, compassionate care for people with a life-limiting illness, Talbot Hospice care includes expert medical care, pain management, and emotional and spiritual support. Care is provided by an inter-disciplinary team of professionals and trained volunteers. The wishes of the patient and family are always at the center of care.

Here are nine key points about Talbot Hospice care that everyone, healthcare professionals and the public alike, should understand.

1. Hospice is not a place but a philosophy of care that focuses on relief of pain, symptom control, and spiritual and emotional support. Care goes out to the patient and family caregivers.
2. Hospice is not about “giving up” but instead focuses on quality of life, making the wishes of the patient and family caregivers a priority.
3. The majority of hospice care takes place in the home, where the person can be surrounded by family and familiar settings
4. The Guest Wing at Talbot Hospice House is available to all of those in the community who choose not to stay in their home.
5. Bereavement support is available to families after the death of their loved one. There are various bereavement programs available to family members of all ages.
6. The most common statement made by families who chose hospice for their loved one is, “we wish we had known about hospice sooner.”
7. The ‘Friends of Hospice’ produce and organize the Festival of Trees, which is the largest single contributor to Talbot Hospice Foundation.
8. Over 300 dedicated volunteers in the community contribute to the success and superior care offered by Talbot Hospice.
9. The Talbot Hospice Foundation is solely supported by the generous outpouring from the residents of the community. It is through this support that The Talbot Hospice Foundation offers hope, compassionate support and services to all members of our community facing end-of-life issues without charge.

More than 1.4 million people were served by the nation's hospice programs in 2007. Yet for every person that received hospice care, it is estimated that another individual would have benefited from the services of hospice but didn't get this compassionate care at the end of their life.

For more information or to make a contribution to Talbot Hospice Foundation please visit the web site at [www.talbothospice.org](http://www.talbothospice.org) or call 410-822-6681.

For Immediate Release  
Talbot Hospice Foundation  
410-822-6681

October 27, 2008  
Peg Fitzgerald

Dear Editor:

November is National Hospice/Palliative Care month. At this time, hospice providers across the country work to inform the community about quality end-of-life care options. At the Talbot Hospice Foundation, we are fortunate to have experienced staff and well trained volunteers offering care and support during one of life's most challenging journeys.

Hospice is not just a place but a philosophy of care that addresses all of the needs of the individual and family including pain management, symptom control, psychosocial support, and spiritual care. For more than twenty seven years, the Talbot Hospice Foundation has brought hope, compassionate support and services to all members of our community facing end-of-life issues.

National Hospice/Palliative Care month provides an opportunity to raise the awareness of hospice options available to the Talbot community. Families often comment that they wish they had known about hospice earlier. For those of you, who have been touched by hospice, please share your stories so that others can benefit from this valuable community resource.

I encourage our community to thank the dedicated individuals, staff and volunteers, who provide hope, dignity and love when they are needed most and to support the ongoing work of the Talbot Hospice Foundation.

For more information please visit [www.talbothospice.org](http://www.talbothospice.org).

Sincerely,

Julie L. Crocker, MSN, RN  
Executive Director  
Talbot Hospice Foundation