

For Immediate Release
Talbot Hospice Foundation
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World Hospice Day to be Celebrated on October 11, 2008

World Hospice and Palliative Care Day, a unified day of action to celebrate and support hospice and palliative care around the world, will take place on October 11, 2008. The theme for World Hospice Day is "*Hospice and Palliative Care: A Human Right*".

World Hospice and Palliative Care Day takes place on the second Saturday of October every year. The mission of World Hospice and Palliative Care Day is to share the vision and increase the availability of hospice and palliative care throughout the world by creating opportunities to speak out about the issues; to raise awareness and understanding of the needs – medical, social, practical, spiritual – of people living with a life limiting illness; and to raise funds to support and develop hospice and palliative care services around the world.

World Hospice and Palliative Care Day is organized by a committee of the Worldwide Palliative Care Alliance, a network of hospice and palliative care national and regional organizations that support the development of hospice and palliative care worldwide. This 2008 theme focuses on the fact that millions of people who desperately need care at the end of life do not receive assistance.

“One of the main goals for World Day is to raise awareness of quality care at the end of life,” remarked J. Donald Schumacher, President of the National Hospice and Palliative Care Organization. “This is done by outreach activities at the local, national, and global level.”

“The support that Talbot Hospice offers to those in our community facing end –of-life issues is such a valuable resource. We are committed to increasing public awareness of the availability and importance of quality hospice care and services. World Hospice Day is one way in which individuals and families can help promote hospice by sharing their ‘stories’. In fact, the best advocates for hospice are those who have benefited from our services,” stated Talbot Hospice Foundation Executive Director Julie L. Crocker.

Every year approximately 70 countries take part in the celebrations. Activities include public awareness campaigns, advocacy with policy makers, and fundraising events with well known personalities.

Noted celebrities Bono and Sir Elton John have given their support to World Day efforts. Bono stated, “In the poorest countries, where so many people are fighting for their lives; the conditions of death don’t get much of a look. But how we care for the sick and dying is surely a litmus test of our humanity. Just as we fight for equality in life, we should

fight for equality in death.” Sir Elton John acknowledges that palliative care is a human right and calls on people around the world to “make their voices heard.”

For more information on World Hospice Day please go to: www.worldday.org. For more information on Talbot Hospice Foundation please go to: www.talbothospice.org.