

The National Consensus Project Announces 2008 Quality in Palliative Care Leadership Award Recipients

PITTSBURGH, PA, September 25, 2008 – The National Consensus Project (NCP) has announced the first recipients of the Quality in Palliative Care Leadership Award. This award is presented annually to recognize organizations which have enhanced their palliative care services by implementing the palliative care principles espoused by the National Consensus Project for Quality Palliative Care and the National Quality Forum. The award is supported by the Mayday Fund, based in New York City.

The following nine organizations are the 2008 Quality in Palliative Care Leadership Award winners:

- Center for Comprehensive Palliative Care - Ocala, Florida
- Community PedsCare - Jacksonville, Florida
- Hope Hospice and Community Services – Fort Myers, Florida
- Hospice of the Western Reserve – Cleveland, Ohio
- Motion Picture and Television Fund - Woodland Hills, California
- Our Lady of Lourdes Memorial Hospital - Binghamton, New York
- Stony Brook University Medical Center- Stony Brook, New York
- St. Rose Dominican Hospitals Palliative Care Acute Care Program - Henderson, Nevada
- Thomas Palliative Care Program - Richmond, Virginia

“Through this award, we are delighted to spotlight the innovative palliative care programs of our winning organizations,” said **Betty Ferrell**, Ph.D, RN, FAAN, Chairperson of the National Consensus Project. “The award winners have a commitment to excellence and should serve as an inspiration to all those striving to enhance the quality of palliative care.”

Each of these nine programs will receive organizational recognition and a \$2,500 monetary award. A representative from each winning organization will also be invited to officially receive their award during the 2009 American Academy of Hospice and Palliative Medicine/Hospice and Palliative Nurses Association

Annual Assembly in Austin, Texas or the 2009 National Hospice and Palliative Care Organization's Management and Leadership Conference in Washington D.C.

All organizations or groups in the United States that provide palliative care are eligible for the Quality in Palliative Care Leadership Award, including but not restricted to hospices, hospitals, long-term care facilities, and other health care providers. The award winning palliative care programs were considered to be outstanding in the effectiveness of implementing the eight domains of palliative care described in the NCP's *Clinical Practice Guidelines for Quality Palliative Care* and the 38 preferred palliative care practices defined in the NQF's *A National Framework and Preferred Practices for Palliative and Hospice Care Quality: A Consensus Report*. The award winners also demonstrated significantly improved care through application of the *Guidelines* and *Preferred Practices*.

"As the field of palliative care is becoming an integral part of America's health care system, it is essential that we monitor the quality of care and identify exemplars of excellence," said **Judi Lund Person**, MPH, Vice President of Regulatory and State Leadership for the National Hospice and Palliative Care Organization.

About the National Consensus Project (NCP)

The National Consensus Project, based in Pittsburgh, PA, is a task force of the Hospice and Palliative Care Coalition, a consortium of four national palliative care organizations: the American Academy of Hospice and Palliative Medicine (AAHPM), the Center to Advance Palliative Care (CAPC), the Hospice and Palliative Nurses Association (HPNA), and the National Hospice and Palliative Care Organization (NHPCO). The NCP represents a groundbreaking initiative to further define and underscore the value of palliative care and to improve upon the delivery of palliative care in the United States. A major objective of the NCP is to heighten awareness of palliative care as an option in treating those with a life-limiting or chronic debilitating illness, condition or injury, and to raise public understanding of the growing need for such care. Detailed information about the NCP is available at <http://www.nationalconsensusproject.org>. For more information about the *Guidelines* or the NCP, contact Vikki Newton, NCP Project Coordinator, at 412/787-1002, or email vikkin@hpna.org.

About the National Quality Forum (NQF)

The NQF is a broad-based non-profit "organization of organizations" tasked with the mission of developing ways to improve the quality of American health care. The NQF effects this goal through endorsement of consensus-based national standards for measurement and public reporting of health care performance data that provide meaningful information about whether care is safe, timely, beneficial, patient-centered, equitable and efficient. Established as a public-private partnership, the NQF has broad participation from all parts of the

health care system, including national, state, regional, and local groups representing consumers, public and private purchasers, employers, health care professionals, provider organizations, health plans, accrediting bodies, labor unions, supporting industries, and organizations involved in health care research or quality improvement. More information can be found at <http://www.qualityforum.org>.

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