Woodland Hospice Plans to Affiliate with MidMichigan Health

MT. PLEASANT, Mich. – Woodland Hospice Morey Bereavement Center has signed a letter of intent to affiliate with MidMichigan Health. Both organizations are finalizing the details of the agreement and expect the affiliation to be finalized in summer 2015.

“This is great news for the communities we serve,” said Karen Langeland, executive director of Woodland Hospice. “Through our affiliation, our services will be stronger than ever. MidMichigan’s philosophy that health care is local was a key consideration in our decision. We will continue to provide quality hospice care coupled with best practices and a steadfast commitment to patient and family satisfaction.”

As part of the general agreement, MidMichigan will assume the day-to-day operations of Woodland Hospice. MidMichigan will provide the hospice care services for patients, as well as utilize the facility as a cornerstone location in Mt. Pleasant, leasing additional space as a base for its home care office support services. Woodland will continue to own and maintain the Woodland facility.

“This truly is an exciting opportunity for MidMichigan. The reputation of Woodland Hospice in the community is outstanding, which is demonstrated by both community and professional engagement,” said Christine Chesny, president of MidMichigan Home Care. “Not only are there many generous contributors to Woodland Hospice, the organization also enjoys a strong, seasoned volunteer program with more than 90 active volunteers. What’s more, the programming Woodland Hospice offers is robust and together our knowledge base will have a positive affect on all those we serve.”

As part of the proposed affiliation agreement, MidMichigan would also enhance its palliative care program in the Woodland service area through home visits and establishing a clinic at the Woodland facility. The interdisciplinary team would include a nurse practitioner, physician and spiritual care service.

Woodland Hospice Morey Bereavement Center provide in-home hospice services to individuals residing in Clare, Isabella, Gratiot, Mecosta, southwest Gladwin, northern Montcalm, southern Osceola and Midland Counties. Woodland Hospice was founded as Hospice of Central Michigan in 1983 by a volunteer community group. The program accepted its first patient in 1984, shortly after Michigan established licensing of hospice programs and the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services established a hospice benefit under the Medicare and Medicaid programs. In 2008, Hospice of Central Michigan constructed an eight bed hospice residence doing business as Woodland Hospice Morey Bereavement Center. The residence, organizational offices and Morey Bereavement Center are located on a 22-acre wooded parcel west of Mt. Pleasant. The facility was constructed through a community based capital campaign.

www.woodlandhospice.com
MidMichigan Health is a non-profit health system affiliated with the University of Michigan Health System. Headquartered in Midland, Mich., it covers a 14-county region with medical centers in Alma, Clare, Gladwin and Midland, as well as urgent care centers, home care, nursing homes, physicians, and other specialty services. MidMichigan has 5,980 employees, physicians and volunteers. During fiscal year 2014, MidMichigan provided $81 million in charity care and other benefits to improve the health of the communities MidMichigan serves.

www.midmichigan.org.

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