

**Headline: Clyde's Hope Receives Nonprofit Designation**

**Summary:** After receiving nonprofit status, Clyde's Hope needs volunteers in order to remain sustainable and to continue educating the public on hospice while meeting the needs of hospice patients outside of Medicare/Medicaid benefits.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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(Brandon, MS) May 12, 2008 – The word “hospice” makes many of us uncomfortable as it shades our thoughts gray with images of death and dying. The negative stigma attached to this word is quickly dissolved when one gains a true understanding of hospice, which most people don't experience until they or their loved ones are faced with a terminal illness. A person should agree to hospice only when the patient and the family clearly understand the terminal illness and come to realize that death is imminent if the illness runs its natural course. During this time, the focus should be placed on providing the best palliative care for the patient. Once a terminal illness has been diagnosed, however, there is often little time for research and education, which underscores the importance of becoming familiar with the hospice services available to each of us. The mandate of Clyde's Hope is to educate the public about hospice while meeting the needs of hospice patients outside Medicare and Medicaid benefits.

“Hospice should not be a horrible experience about death,” remarks Susan Verucchi, founder of Clyde's Hope. She goes on to say, “A good hospice provider can make a huge difference in a loved one's final days while helping family and friends cope during an impossibly difficult time. We provide information to individuals, groups and organizations that would like to receive general hospice information, and we're happy to give presentations or mail information to anyone who is interested.”

Because many patients are admitted to hospice with precious few days left, patients and families do not have sufficient time to experience the true benefits of hospice services. Hospice can actually be a blessing when one considers the alternative. Rather than continually enduring numerous rounds of painful tests when there is no possible cure, hospice patients often find themselves at peace.

Clyde's Hope provides relief and assistance for patients who need items that Medicare and Medicaid do not cover, such as clothing, air conditioners, and heating. The organization also assists with transportation for caregivers; alternatively, volunteers are available to stay with patients while caregivers run errands. The needs of patients are unique and unlimited, and Clyde's Hope endeavors to meet as many of these needs as possible through fundraisers, memberships and kind donations.

Verucchi says, “There is no cost to patients or families for assistance provided by Clyde's Hope. Our goal is to contribute to grief-stricken families in a positive way.”

Having just received nonprofit status in late 2007, Clyde's Hope is entirely dependent upon the public's support in order to remain sustainable. For more information on Clyde's Hope or to learn how you can become a volunteer, donate funds, or purchase a membership, visit the web site at [www.ClydesHope.org](http://www.ClydesHope.org).

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