



Contact: Cynthia Nordt
Telephone: 713-677-7123
Email: cnordt@houstonhospice.org
Website: www.houstonhospice.org

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
July 18, 2014

HOUSTON HOSPICE RECEIVES GRANT FROM SUSAN G. KOMEN FOR THE CURE®

Susan G. Komen for the Cure® Houston has awarded Texas Medical Center based non-profit Houston Hospice a \$35,000 grant. Houston Hospice estimates that within their service area which includes Austin, Brazoria, Colorado, Fort Bend, Harris, Jackson, Matagorda, Montgomery, Waller and Wharton counties, they will provide comprehensive hospice care services to 110 breast cancer patients in 2014.

Funding from the Komen Houston affiliate will provide Houston Hospice with a dedicated source of funds for breast cancer patients. These funds will allow Houston Hospice to serve unfunded patients with a care team, available to patients and their families 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, comprised of specially-trained health care professionals. Hospice staff physicians will work with patients and families to determine and direct the best plan of medical care. The grant will also help provide equipment, medication and other items that are not covered by insurance, but are necessary to ensure that these women are comfortable and able to live their final days to the fullest.

Houston Hospice will also address psychological and emotional needs of breast cancer patients and family members. Hospice aides will assist with personal care for patients, non-denominational chaplains will provide spiritual support, and experienced volunteers will provide respite for caregivers and help the family. Additionally, Houston Hospice will provide bereavement services to families for 13 months after the death of their loved one.

According to the Texas Department of Health Services Texas Cancer Registry, 488 breast cancer deaths are expected in Harris County, 96 in Fort Bend County, and 42 in Brazoria County in 2014. Throughout the grant period, Houston Hospice will continue to provide end-of-life services to breast cancer patients while reaching out to hospitals and other organizations serving breast cancer patients to raise awareness of its services. What makes Houston Hospice different from other local hospice providers is that it is a nonprofit organization and reserves 5 percent of its patient census for patients who cannot afford to pay.

Founded in 1980, Houston Hospice has evolved from an alternative, grass roots concept to a leader in hospice care for people of all ages and walks of life. Houston's oldest, largest, independent hospice is a 501 (c) (3) organization that is community-based, community-supported and not-for-profit. For more information about Houston Hospice's services, call 713-467-7423 (713-HOSPICE) or visit www.houstonhospice.org.