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Tuesday, November 14, 2006

Press Release- Employer of the Year Award 2006

COLUMBUS, GA HOSPICE WINS EMPLOYER OF THE YEAR AWARD

PITTSBURGH, PA, November 8, 2006—The National Board for Certification of Hospice and Palliative Nurses (NBCHPN®) has announced that **Columbus Hospice** is the 2006 recipient of the Employer of the Year Award.

The NBCHPN® Employer of the Year Award recognizes the work of an employer who has provided exemplary, sustained support of the certification programs for hospice and palliative caregivers. The recipient is selected from eligible organizations and facilities within NBCHPN's Employer Support Program.

"Columbus Hospice serves as a model for hospices everywhere," said **Bonnie Morgan, RN, CHPN®,** President of NBCHPN®. "The quality care they provide their patients, and their continued efforts to improve palliative nursing through certification and other means, demonstrates their ongoing commitment to superlative palliative care."

Established in 1979 to provide loving, compassionate care to persons of all ages with life-limiting illnesses and their families, Columbus Hospice is the only community-based, non-profit hospice serving ten Georgia and two Alabama counties. Columbus Hospice is located in Columbus, Georgia, with a branch located in Phenix City, Alabama.

Columbus Hospice's primary focus is to provide coordinated care enabling end-of-life patients to spend their final days at home with family and friends. Hospice services are provided in nursing homes, personal care homes and retirement communities. Care is also provided in the Hospice's 18-bed inpatient Columbus Hospice House. Whenever a patient has special needs that cannot be met at home, they may be admitted to Columbus Hospice.

Services provided by Columbus Hospice include: social services, medication, medical supplies and equipment, respite care symptom management, spiritual care, bereavement counseling and support groups, home health aide services, dietary assessment, physical, occupational and speech therapy, and others.

"Through this award, we are delighted to spotlight Columbus Hospice's outstanding work," said **Judy Lentz, RN, MSN, NHA,** Executive Director of NBCHPN®. "The Hospice's commitment to excellence should serve as an inspiration to all those striving to enhance the quality of palliative care."

About NBCHPN

Based in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, the National Board for Certification of Hospice

and Palliative Nurses (NBCHPN®) is the only organization of its kind that promotes the delivery of comprehensive pain management and end-of-life nursing care through the certification of qualified practitioners.

NBCHPN® is part of the Alliance for Excellence in Hospice and Palliative Nursing which includes the Hospice and Palliative Nurses Association and the Hospice and Palliative Nurses Foundation. Together, the organizations are working to lead the way in the advancement of the rapidly growing and increasingly important hospice and palliative care nursing specialty. Visit the website at <http://www.nbchpn.org>.

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