



LIFEPATH H O S P I C E

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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LifePath Hospice Accepting Applications for 25th Annual Camp Circle of Love

Weekend Retreat for Hillsborough County Children Assists with Grief Process

TAMPA, FL (March 31, 2017): The weekend of April 28 through April 30, 2017 marks the 25th annual Camp Circle of Love hosted by LifePath Hospice, an affiliate of Chapters Health System. Any child living in Hillsborough County, ages six to 16, who experienced the death of a loved one, can attend the camp taking place at the Lakewood Retreat in Brooksville.

“Over the last 24 years, approximately 2,250 campers attended the camp where for close to 48 hours they were able to reconnect and enjoy life again,” said Allyson Moskowitz, Director of Social Services, Bereavement and Volunteers for Chapters Health System. “Any child can attend the camp, even if the loved one was not a patient under our care.”

Throughout the camp weekend, trained LifePath Hospice bereavement counselors are present along with three full-time registered nurses, and other staff and dedicated community volunteers. In fact, anyone that volunteers at the camp comes away from the weekend with a total sense of accomplishment for the supportive healing provided to the campers. Attendees participate in traditional camp activities such as swimming, arts and crafts and team sports. However, there are specific exercises built into the weekend that help the campers cope with grief and re-build trust and self-awareness. For instance, fireside on Saturday evening, there is a moving memorial service designed to provide healing and closure opportunities for the campers.

“Although on the surface our camping challenges may seem recreational, all have a therapeutic component that helps kids develop coping skills to manage their grief. In addition, we have found that peer-to-peer interaction with others of the same age who have experienced the loss of a loved one assist the children with the grieving process, i.e. they don’t feel alone in their sorrow,” added Moskowitz.

Based on family income, there is a sliding registration fee from \$1 to \$25, but otherwise the weekend is free of charge. Round-trip bus transportation to the camp leaves from the LifePath Hospice office at 3010 W. Azele Street. Space is limited and fills on a first-come, first-serve basis. The deadline to submit camp applications is April 18 and can be downloaded from:

bit.ly/CampCircleOL

For more information, please call 813/877-2200.

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About LifePath Hospice

LifePath Hospice is part of the Chapters Health System and is a community-based, not-for-profit organization that supports nearly 1,300 patients each day in Hillsborough County as they face the challenges of advancing age and illness. Healthcare professionals and trained volunteers embrace the LifePath Hospice mission to make the most of life by relieving the suffering of patients and their families affected by serious health issues. LifePath Hospice is accredited by the Joint Commission, the nation's premier healthcare accrediting agency and the National Jewish Institute of Jewish Hospice.

About Chapters Health System

Founded in 1983 as a compassionate not-for-profit organization, Chapters Health System provides choices, education and guidance for those affected by advancing age or advancing illness through its managed affiliates: Good Shepherd Hospice, HPH Hospice, LifePath Hospice, and Chapters Health Palliative Care, located in Citrus, Hardee, Hernando, Highlands, Hillsborough, Pasco and Polk counties. In addition, Chapters Health now operates HPH Home Health, which serves the needs of patients in Pasco and Pinellas counties. To learn more, visit www.chaptershealth.org, like us on [Facebook](#) or follow us on [Twitter](#).

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