

Eastern Maine HomeCare

Contact: Peggy at 973-8269
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For Immediate Release

Cancer and End-of-Life Care
HOSPICE OF EASTERN MAINE TO HOST
HOSPICE FOUNDATION OF AMERICA'S
17th ANNUAL *LIVING WITH GRIEF*[®] TELECONFERENCE

Hospice of Eastern Maine (HOEM), a program of Bangor Area Visiting Nurses (BAVN), is pleased to be the local host for Hospice Foundation of America's (HFA) nationally recognized distance learning program, live via satellite and webcast, to more than 125,000 people in 2,000 communities. For more than a decade, this annual educational program has been instrumental in educating health care professionals and families on issues affecting end-of-life care. The program provides an opportunity for a wide variety of professionals – including doctors, nurses, funeral directors, psychologists, educators, social workers and bereavement counselors – to share and exchange ideas and obtain continuing education credits.

This year HFA's 17th Annual National Bereavement Teleconference focuses on "**Cancer and End-of-Life Care.**" The teleconference will address care options related to cancer diagnoses as well as loss and grief reactions for patients, families and professional care-givers. The teleconference will also examine psychosocial aspects of cancer, pain management, and ethical issues related to the disease. Moderated by Frank Sesno, Director of the School of Media and Public Affairs at The George Washington University, the program will be broadcast Wednesday, March 24, 2010 from 1:30pm to 4:00pm ET, with a local panel discussion from 4:00pm to 4:30pm at the Richard E. Dyke Center for Family Business located at One College Circle, Husson University, Bangor. A reservation is preferred so for more information or to RSVP please contact Peg Elmer at BAVN/HOEM at 973-8269 or 1-800-350-8269.

Mr. Sesno will lead the panel of noted authorities that includes: **Yvette Colón**, Director of Education & Support at American Pain Foundation; **Malene Davis**, President & CEO at Capital Hospice; **Kenneth J. Doka**, Professor of Gerontology at The College of New Rochelle; **Richard Payne**, Director, Institute on Care at the End of Life, Duke University; **Sherry R Schachter**, Director Bereavement Services at Calvary Hospital/Hospice; and **Brad Stuart**, Medical Director at Sutter VNA & Hospice.

"We're pleased to host this national teleconference again this year," says Carol Carew, Chief Nursing Officer. "For those of us involved in cancer and/or end-of-life care, training is so important. This particular conference allows us access to national experts, but we attend locally, making it accessible and affordable. When the teleconference is completed, we'll have an opportunity to explore this topic and how it relates to our local community."

Each year this award-winning, televised broadcast is seen in more than 2,000 communities across North America, reaching an estimated live audience of 125,000 people. The teleconference is produced by Hospice Foundation of America, a not-for-profit organization, which acts as an advocate for the hospice concept of care through ongoing programs of professional education, public information and research on issues relating to illness, loss, grief and bereavement.

Bangor Area Visiting Nurses is the 2008, 2 Those Who Care *Agency of Distinction*. It has received recognition as a HomeCare Elite agency 4 years in a row. Founded in 1913 and celebrating 97 years of service to the community, last year BAVN's caring staff drove 230,322 miles to provide 17,998 visits to 1,022 home care and hospice patients and their families. Home care and hospice services are paid for by public and private sources, or directly by patients and their families. Generous donations from individuals, businesses and towns allow for continued high quality service. A part of the Eastern Maine HomeCare Family, and a member of EMHS, Bangor Area Visiting Nurses, and its hospice program, Hospice of Eastern Maine, works to ensure the highest quality home care and hospice is available to all who need it in its 40 town coverage area. For more information about its home care and hospice services, please visit Bangor Area Visiting Nurses at www.bavn.org or call 973-6550.

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NOTE: News media are encouraged to attend. For more information, call Peggy at 207-973-8269.

TOGETHER We're Stronger
EMHS MEMBER