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PRESS RELEASE

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Hinds Hospice Home Celebrates 21st Anniversary

For Immediate Release - Fresno, CA, April 1, 2008 – Hinds Hospice is pleased to announce it has celebrated the 21st anniversary of the Hospice Home on Twain Avenue in Fresno. Founder Nancy Hinds celebrated by preparing a meal for the staff and family members at the Hospice Home on March 16.

Nancy Hinds began caring for terminally ill patients in Africa in 1969. It was here that her passion for hospice care grew and in 1981, she began caring for terminally ill patients in her own home in Fresno with the help of volunteers. This was the first hospice home in the state of California. The current Hospice Home opened on March 16, 1987 and has been meeting the physical, emotional and spiritual needs of its patients and families ever since.

To date, the 6 bed home has cared for over 3,674 patients and is the only inpatient Hospice Home in Fresno, Madera and Merced counties. "The total number of patients include infants, children, teens and adults as well as families that have had multiple relatives with us. We ARE the community and we want to support, love, encourage and empower you until you happen to end this earthly journey. It has been an honor with each day to carry out the work and support those doing the work. It is the financial support of the communities and prayers that keeps us present. Everyday is a gift" says Nancy Hinds.

In 1991, Hinds Hospice in Fresno County added outpatient services to the organization which allows terminally ill patients to remain at home while receiving hospice care. Hinds Hospice has since added outpatient services to all of Madera and Merced counties. Within the three-county service area, Hinds Hospice has 140 employees, both full and part time, and over 300 volunteers providing over 69,000 hours of service throughout the organization.

The Hinds Hospice Home has 75 volunteers providing pool/house maintenance, cleaning, gardening, grocery shopping and office assistance. "We are incredibly blessed to have the support of so many volunteers, all graciously donating their time to help at the Hospice Home" said Ann Guerrero, Director of the Hinds Hospice Home.

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Currently, Hinds Hospice maintains the only inpatient Hospice Home (a model used by other hospices) serving Fresno, Madera and Merced counties; provides an extensive pediatric hospice program for infants and children; offers numerous grief support groups and counseling through the Hinds Hospice Center for Grief and Loss; provides services for families experiencing pregnancy loss and infant death (termed Angel Babies/Bebitos Angelitos); formally educates Family Practice and Pediatric Residents from the University of California, San Francisco and the University of California, Davis on end-of-life care as well as educating staff from Children's Hospital Central California and nursing students throughout the valley; and is the only hospice organization offering this wide array of services in the San Joaquin Valley.

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