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Show celebrates 25 years of Hospice's care

Author(s): JOCELYN ALLISON - jallison@nwherald.com **Date:**
February 7, 2007 **Section:** News

CRYSTAL LAKE - In 1982, five women joined together to form a volunteer organization to help **care** for McHenry County patients at the end **of** their lives. Now, **25 years** later, Hospice **of** Northeastern Illinois, which merged with Hospice for McHenry County in 1984, is celebrating that effort and service to the county with a two-hour **show** Sunday at the Raue Center for Performing Arts in Crystal Lake.

The **show**, titled "A Hand to Hold," will feature storyteller and author Jim May, a Spring Grove native who has performed on WGN's Roy Leonard **Show** and the Studs Terkel radio **show** on WFMT-FM, and several musical groups.

"We are thrilled to celebrate this milestone in McHenry County," said Carolyn Handler, CEO and president **of** Hospice **of** Northeastern Illinois. "And we're thankful for the level **of** support from the McHenry County communities and organizations."

Nine groups or individuals are donating their time for the event, including the Celtic American folk music group Arranmore, 2005 American Idol contestant Brooke Barrettsmith, mimes from DeVar Creative Inc., ballet dancers from Svalander Concert Dancers, step dancers from the McNulty School **of** Irish Dance, Sinful Saints Dixieland jazz band, TownSquare Players Inc., and My Musical Mind.

Since 1993, more than 11,000 people from McHenry County have contributed almost \$3 million to Hospice, and nearly 200 McHenry County churches or faith communities partner with the agency in some way, said Jackie Rachev, public relations and communications manager for Hospice.

The organization **cares** for about 500 patients from McHenry County

annually, Rachev said.

Tickets to the event are **\$25** and \$30 for general seating or \$75 for VIP seating, which includes a pre-**show** reception and preview **of** the photography exhibit "The Gift **of** Knowing."

The exhibit, a collection **of** photos featuring Hospice volunteers and patients from the region, goes on display at the Raue Center on Friday and will be up through March 5.

Proceeds from the event will help support a new 4,000-square-foot in-patient Hospice center under construction at Memorial Medical Center's South Street Campus in Woodstock, Rachev said.

Major sponsors **of** Sunday's event include Harris Banks **of** McHenry County and Centegra Health System.

If you go:

What: "A Hand to Hold," a 25th anniversary celebration for Hospice **of** Northeastern Illinois

Where: Raue Center for the Performing Arts, 26 N. Williams St., Crystal Lake

When: Sunday. 2:30 to 3:30 p.m. VIP reception; 4 to 6 p.m. **show**

Information: (847) 381-5599, ext. 246, or jwilliams@HospiceAnswers.org

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