

Southern California Hospice Foundation

November is National Hospice Month

November is National Hospice and Palliative Care Month and the Southern California Hospice Foundation (SCHF) aims to promote education and awareness of palliative care options for terminally ill residents in Southern California.

When a cure is not possible, hospice provides expert pain management, symptom control, psycho-social support and spiritual care to patients and families through an interdisciplinary team of medical professionals. All the necessary medicines and equipment needed to keep a patient comfortable can be brought right to the home, which is where most people would like to be if at all possible.

Palliative care brings these same skilled services earlier in the course of an illness and can be provided along with other treatments a patient may want to pursue, such as radiation or chemotherapy.

In fact, more than 1.5 million people with a life-limiting illness receive help from the nation's hospice and palliative care providers every single year.

"TIME OF DEATH" – A SHOWTIME Documentary

The great work of hospice and the patients we serve will be featured in the new six-part documentary series "TIME OF DEATH," which will premiere on Friday, November 1 at 9:00 PM ET/PT and run for six consecutive weeks.

This new documentary series was created for SHOWTIME Television by executive producers Dan Cutforth and Jane Lipsitz of the award-winning *Magical Elves* production team (*Top Chef*, *Fashion Star*, *The Real L Word*) spotlighting the "Remarkable People Facing the End Stage of Life."

The series will take an unflinching, in-depth look at some extraordinary individuals facing their own imminent mortality. Cameras will follow brave, terminally ill individuals as they live out their final days, supported by family, friends, healthcare teams and hospice workers, who gently help guide the process.

SCHF was instrumental in finding participants for the show. "The producers initially contacted us back in July of 2012 and we participated in filming the pilot. Once the show was picked up, we then worked closely with *Magical Elves* for over a year in order to



identify patients and families who would be willing to share their story on camera. Overall, we feel this partnership plays an important role in our community education program, highlighting the importance of hospice care," Executive Director Michelle Wulfestieg said.

According to SHOWTIME, "TIME OF DEATH" will weave together these complex, unforgettable stories into an affecting portrait: a single mother of three with Stage IV breast cancer; a grandmother with inoperable pancreatic cancer who is also a psychotherapist specializing in the field of death and dying; a veteran with a rare cancer facing the end with his parents beside him; and a young woman with Stage IV melanoma, among other profiles. Each unique, emotionally resonant tale will serve as a tangible reminder of the finite nature of time and mortality.

Many of the patients brought forth to *Magical Elves* by the Southern California Hospice Foundation were patients receiving care from Companion Hospice. In fact, episode one features Companion Hospice patient, Michael Muth, a proud Navy man who chose to publicly share his intimate family life from the time he came onto Companion Hospice services until the end. This episode will appear on SHOWTIME on Friday, November 1 at 9:00 PM ET/PT when the series premieres.

"We are proud to help with such an important series that will shed light on the on end-of-life. It's a topic that most people don't like to talk about, yet the number one comment we hear is, 'I wish I would have known about hospice sooner.' That's because the quality of care provided by the hospice team is such that each

patient is surrounded by a community of support, allowing them to die peacefully with closure, comfort, dignity and respect. The Muth family was incredibly open about the final chapter of Michael's life, creating compelling footage in this documentary," said Shaun Moss, Senior Vice President Program Development for Companion.

Be sure to tune in for this very special program and please know that SCHF is here to help with information about the benefits provided by the loving care of hospice. If you would like to know more about the hospice benefit, please contact 877.661.0087 or visit us on the web at www.socalhospicefoundation.org.

Leaving a Legacy of Compassion:

The Southern California Hospice Foundation Salutes Local Hospice Champions

The month of November is National Hospice & Palliative Care Month. It is a time to recognize and celebrate those who provide hospice and palliative care to patients and their families, and to help raise awareness about important care issues for people coping with a life-limiting illness. We would especially like to recognize those who have given of their time, talent and treasure to support hospice care in our community.



Hospice Champions in the Community

Hospice Champions in the Healthcare Industry



Dr. Ashley Mires MD
Chest & Critical Care Consultants
1211 W La Palma Ave., Ste. 207
Anaheim, CA 92801

Dr. Yourself Ireifej MD
Pathway Medical Group
12665 Garden Grove Blvd., Ste. 502
Garden Grove, CA 92640

Dr. Ali Tabatabai MD
23961 Calle De La Magdalena, Ste. 426
Laguna Hills, CA 92653

Nilesh Vora, MD
Coast hematology -oncology Associates
701 E. 28th St. Suite 418
Long Beach, CA 90806

Christian Lu, MD
Internal medicine
Long beach memorial Palliative care Program

Dr. Yasmeen Shaw
3330 Lomita Blvd
Torrance Memorial Hospital
Torrance, CA 90505

Dr. Jeffrey Steinberg
3330 Lomita Blvd.
Torrance, CA 90505

Dr. Joseph Lavi M MD
27420 Tourney Rd #200
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661-254-9950

Dr. Jeffrey Simons-Pulmonologist
Pacific Pulmonary Medical Group
4232 Riverwalk Pkwy, Ste. 230
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For more information, please contact us at (877) 661-0087 or visit us on the web at www.SoCalHospiceFoundation.org