

Family Hospice celebrates 30 years at Phipps

2010 marks the 30th anniversary of Family Hospice and Palliative Care – and the 30th year of hospice in western Pennsylvania. Hospice provides comfort, compassion, dignity and quality of life for those with a life-limiting illness.

Family Hospice will commemorate its 30th anniversary with a special celebration on Aug. 5.

“A Tropical Tribute to Thirty Years” will take place from 6 to 9 p.m. at Phipps Conservatory in Oakland. The event, to be held in the Tropical Room and Special Events Hall, will feature live entertainment, wine, hors d’oeuvres, a brief program and great companionship. WTAE-TV news anchor Andrew Stockey will serve as master of ceremonies.

“The last three decades have been witness to many enhancements in end-of-life care,” said Rafael Sciuillo, president and CEO of Family Hospice and Palliative Care. “We at Family Hospice are proud to continue to serve as an innovator in the field and grateful for the opportunity to help all of those we touch make the most of every day.”

From humble beginnings in Pittsburgh’s South Hills, to extension of service throughout nine counties in western Pennsylvania, Family Hospice and Palliative Care has been at the forefront of innovative hospice care since 1980:

Among the first in western Pennsylvania to offer an inpatient unit—The Center for Compassionate Care (12 private rooms) opened in 2007.

One of the first nationally to offer a Caregiver Training Program. This personalized program, offered at no cost to caregivers of Family Hospice patients, is designed to meet physical and psychological concerns of persons charged with tending to a patient at home. Training takes place at The Center for Compassionate Care.

Among the first in this region to incorporate a comprehensive program of complementary services (art and music expression, massage, pet therapy and therapeutic touch) to end-of-life care.

The Quality of Life Program provides patients and families with an opportunity to enrich their lives through programs such as video, audio or pictorial life stories.

More than half of the palliative care certified physicians in the organization’s nine-county service area are affiliated with Family Hospice and Palliative Care.

Family Hospice provides hospice care to more patients in Allegheny County than any other hospice and is the third leading hospice provider in Pennsylvania.