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Transitions Program Coordinator Rev. De Neice Welch Honored with Racial Justice Award

The YWCA Greater Pittsburgh has named **Rev. B. De Neice Welch**, coordinator of the Transitions hospice program, as a recipient of the 2011 Racial Justice Award in the category of Faith. In honoring Rev. Welch, the award committee cited her efforts to eliminate racism and promote equity among her peers.

Rev. Welch, who is pastor of Bidwell United Presbyterian Church in Pittsburgh's Manchester neighborhood, has been Transitions program coordinator since its launch in January.

Transitions is a collaborative effort among Family Hospice & Palliative Care, Bidwell United Presbyterian Church and the North Side Christian Health Center, to increase understanding of and access to hospice care among African Americans living in Pittsburgh's Greater North Side community.

Rev. Welch and other 2011 YWCA honorees were recognized at the 20th Annual Racial Justice Awards on Wednesday, Nov. 16, 2011, at the Westin Hotel and Convention Center, Downtown.

As pastor of Bidwell Presbyterian Church, Rev. Welch's roots in the community run deep. She is part of an initiative to rehabilitate homes in the Manchester neighborhood and she founded the "Shalom Project," an anti-violence program. Additionally, Rev. Welch serves on the board for Pittsburgh Interfaith Impact Network, and is an advisory board member for the Metro Urban Institute. She is a former board member for Urban Youth Action.

A winner of the American Hospital Association's Circle of Life award for innovative care programs, Family Hospice and Palliative Care has been providing compassionate care to our area since 1980. As the region's largest non-profit hospice provider, Family Hospice serves nine counties in Western Pennsylvania, helping patients make choices about their care, supporting family and friends who are grieving and educating both professionals and the community about end-of-life issues. Family Hospice is accredited by The Joint Commission for meeting specific high-level performance standards and recognized nationally as pioneer in programs such as Caregiver Training, and Transitions, a specialized hospice program for the African-American community. Through a commitment to quality services, Family Hospice provides a complete continuum of care to patients and families.

For more information, visit www.familyhospice.com.