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Contact: Meredith Michelson or Meg Meo

512-472-9599

mmichelson@christianpr.com or mmeo@christianpr.com

The Lighthouse at Altenheim to Celebrate World Hospice Day, Oct. 8

*Studies show patients in hospice care not only have
a better quality of life but may live longer*

AUSTIN, Texas—The Lighthouse at Altenheim, an in-patient hospice provider in Round Rock, will celebrate World Hospice and Palliative Care Day on Saturday, Oct. 8. Annually, events and activities take place in more than 70 countries around the world, bringing together patients, families, health professionals, policy makers and funders to support hospice and palliative care.

According to a recent study published in *The New England Journal of Medicine*, doctors have found that patients with terminal lung cancer who began receiving palliative care immediately upon diagnosis not only were happier, more mobile and in less pain as the end neared, but they also lived nearly three months longer.

“Hospice provides a unique blend of clinical, social and spiritual support services for patients and their families,” Lighthouse Hospice regional director of business development, Celeste McCraw said. “The care we provide adds quality and dignity to the lives of patients facing end-of-life illnesses and provides support for families. This allows them to focus on spending quality time with friends and family making memories rather than on care-giving details during this difficult time. Hospice is also there to support the family after the loss of a loved one.”

To commemorate World Hospice and Palliative Care Day, The Lighthouse at Altenheim, located at 100 N. College Street, Round Rock, TX, will host an open house from 10 a.m. until 2 p.m. on Saturday, Oct. 8. and members of the community are invited to attend.

Attendees will enjoy the tunes from a folk band, a mariachi band, and Czech and Celtic musicians. Girling Health Care will offer free blood pressure checks and chair massages.

Attendees will enjoy hamburgers and hotdogs courtesy of National Hospice Medical Equipment, bottles of water from Cook-Walden Funeral Home and Italian Ice from TRISUN Healthcare. Event participants will be able to make donations to Faith in Action Senior Access, an organization that offers transportation for the elderly. In addition, tours of The Lighthouse at Altenheim will be offered.

The Lighthouse at Altenheim, which opened in June 2009, is one of only two inpatient hospice care facilities in Central Texas, and is part of Lighthouse Hospice, a Harden Healthcare company. It has 12 private suites, as well as family accommodations, and visitors are welcome 24 hours a day. Physical, emotional and spiritual care is provided by professional, caring hospice specialists and palliative care-certified physicians.

The Lighthouse at Altenheim thanks the following sponsors who will make this event possible— Acadian Ambulance, Cook-Walden Funeral Home, Harden Healthcare National Hospice Medical Equipment, Novitá Spa on the Square and TRISUN Healthcare.

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About Lighthouse Hospice

Lighthouse Hospice is dedicated to providing comprehensive and compassionate hospice care. The company strives to add to the quality of life and dignity of its patients and their families. Lighthouse offers palliative care in nearly 90 counties in Texas. Lighthouse Hospice provides care in the comfort and privacy of the patient's home or in a clinical setting. For more information, visit www.lighthouse-hospice.com.

About Harden Healthcare

Based in Austin, Texas, Harden Healthcare is a leading senior healthcare services provider. With services including home health, hospice care, assisted living, skilled nursing and rehabilitation, Harden serves the entire post-acute continuum of care. The company strives to provide the best care for its patients and a sense of pride and purpose for its associates. Today, Harden's family of companies serves almost 40,000 patients a day in 14 states.