



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**GULFSIDE HOSPICE & PASCO PALLIATIVE CARE AWARDED JOINT
COMMISSION ACCREDITATION**

PASCO COUNTY, Fla. (October 26, 2015) – Gulfside Hospice & Pasco Palliative Care has earned The Joint Commission’s Gold Seal of Approval® Accreditation by demonstrating continuous compliance with its performance standards. The Gold Seal of Approval® is a symbol of quality that reflects an organization’s commitment to providing safe and effective care.

“We are proud to be the first hospice in Pasco County to achieve The Joint Commission’s Gold Seal of Approval®. As a team, we underwent an intense survey process, resulting in a rare deficiency-free conclusion and full accreditation,” said Linda Ward, President and CEO of Gulfside. “Hospices are not mandated to be accredited by The Joint Commission. However, Gulfside strives for excellence in their levels of standards and chose to be inspected by the highest federal regulatory agency.”

Gulfside Hospice & Pasco Palliative Care underwent a rigorous on-site survey in October 2015. During the survey, compliance with patient care standards reflecting key organization areas was evaluated, including the provision of care, treatment and services, emergency management, human resources, individual rights and responsibilities, and leadership. The accreditation process also provided Gulfside with education and guidance to help staff continue to improve its program’s performance.

The Joint Commission’s home care standards are developed in consultation with health care experts, home care providers and researchers, as well as industry experts, purchasers and

consumers. The standards are informed by scientific literature and expert consensus to help organizations measure, assess and improve performance.

Gulfside Hospice, initially licensed in 1989, serves more than 350 patients daily. Gulfside employs over 250 professionals and has more than 500 volunteers, and is the only hospice that serves Pasco County exclusively. Pasco Palliative Care, initially licensed in 2009, serves Pasco County residents facing chronic illness, who are not hospice appropriate or still seeking curative treatment. For more information about GHPPC, call 800-561-4883 or visit www.ghppc.org.

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