



***Hospice of Santa Barbara* Introduces New Work Environment: “The Compassionate Care Center”**

Bringing Healing to a Whole New Place...

Santa Barbara, CA, May 2, 2007--Hospice of Santa Barbara, a volunteer hospice organization and the second oldest hospice organization in the county, has relocated to a 6500 square foot office location at the Riviera business complex. The new Hospice of Santa Barbara location is named the *Compassionate Care Center* and, as the new space for Hospice of Santa Barbara work, all programs and services continue to be free of charge—therefore, Hospice of Santa Barbara’s *Compassionate Care center* is a gift to the entire community.

“The Compassionate Care Center is a resource for anyone who needs our services in Santa Barbara. We are thrilled that our new location will provide an opportunity to expand our level of service and create more healing opportunities for anyone experiencing the impact of a life-threatening illness, or grieving the death of a loved one,” said Gail Rink, Executive Director of Hospice of Santa Barbara.

Rink also emphasized that, in practical terms, Hospice of Santa Barbara is not necessarily a “place” but rather a philosophy of care and the delivery of programs and services wherever they are needed. “We work at bedsides in individual’s homes, in local hospitals, in schools, at churches, synagogues and nursing homes—and we also do a lot of work at our Center.”

Additional Healing Opportunities:

Because of the way Hospice of Santa Barbara is structured, there is a great deal of flexibility in bringing a variety of potential new programs and services to assist in the grief healing process. Current Hospice of Santa Barbara programs and services will not change as a result of the move to its new location, but it is possible that soon, other modalities for healing could join the repertoire of services. These might include massage therapy, reiki, yoga, meditation, art therapy for adults, among others. Hospice of Santa Barbara programs and services are a direct result of the needs and requests of the Santa Barbara community.

A Process of Love and Commitment – the genesis of the *Compassionate Care Center*

In 2005, the Hospice of Santa Barbara Board of Directors responded to the community’s growing need for the non-medical services that the organization provides. The time had come for *a unique healing place*; a place where life-threatening illness and the sorrow of death does not impair the meaning of life or the joy of living. Director, Kenny Slaughter, secured the perfect spot in Riviera Park. Developer, Mike Towbes, negotiated a long-term lease and the organization contracted with Frank Schipper Construction for the build-outs.

The innovative architectural design of Barry Berkus created this *unique healing place*.

“Barry understood the experience and emotion of our Hospice of Santa Barbara services. He took the passionate description of our work and turned it into bricks ‘n mortar,” explained Rink. “Keith Riviera, of Berkus Design Studios was the on-site architect; and Barry’s daughter in law, Dana Berkus handled the interior decorating. The collaborative work of the Berkus design team gifted the community with a true compassionate care center – a place where human interaction heals emotional, social and spiritual pain,” explained Rink.

“In gifting this project to Hospice of Santa Barbara, the Berkus family gave the entire Santa Barbara community a precious gift– they gave us all a place where we learn to live each moment, a place where dignity, strength and vitality heal hearts and lives. Their gift truly allows healing to move to a whole new place. Ultimately, it is the sharing of individual ideas and feelings that empowers us to face our fears, to heal our sorrow, and to have the comfort of a life well lived,” said Rink.

Hospice of Santa Barbara’s *Compassionate Care Center* was specifically designed with healing in mind. The environment translates directly to the needs of clients and patients. It conveys a feeling of comfort and privacy...away from downtown but only a five minute drive from the heart of Santa Barbara. The Santa Barbara community will benefit from the *Compassionate Care Center* and the talented and committed staff of Hospice of Santa Barbara for years to come.

###