

## **Community Support Vital to Keep Local Hospice Care in Alexander County**

Hospice & Home Care of Alexander County, Inc. has announced it will submit a Certificate of Need (CON) application to the North Carolina Division of Health Services Regulation by May 17, 2010, for approval of three (3) inpatient hospice beds in Alexander County. Hospice of Alexander County has consistently excelled in providing the highest caliber of quality hospice care in the home since its inception in 1985. At that time the North Carolina Medical Care Commission (NCMCC) determined that Alexander County was eligible for only one inpatient bed, which was contracted to Caldwell County Hospice with a provision for use. Since that determination, Hospice of Alexander County has periodically inquired about any change in status for inpatient hospice beds for our county. It has recently been determined that due to a rapidly aging population and high hospice utilization statistics, Alexander County now shows the capacity for three (3) inpatient hospice beds. Hospice of Alexander County would like to be able to provide an inpatient facility here at home...in Alexander County. In addition to providing a more comprehensive health care resource for the residents of Alexander County, an inpatient hospice facility in Alexander County keeps financial revenue currently going out of the county in the local economy.

At the present time, Hospice of Alexander County is in the process of filing an application to obtain a CON for three (3) inpatient beds in our county. Hospice of Catawba County (Palliative CareCenter & Hospice of Catawba Valley, Inc.) is also in the process of filing a CON application for these three beds in Alexander County. Public hearings are held on every contested application for a CON. Once the application period is closed in mid-May, a public hearing will be scheduled. Following the public hearing, a decision will be made by the State Health Coordinating Council on any contested applications. A party who is not awarded a CON may appeal the Council's decision to an administrative law judge in an administrative proceeding. The CON will be awarded to only one hospice organization (Alexander or Catawba), and any additional beds available in the future will most likely go to the recipient of these first three beds. Therefore, it is vital that citizens take action now to retain local hospice care in Alexander County.

**Your signature can help keep quality end of life care and services here at home...in**

**Alexander County.** Hospice of Alexander County needs the public support to be successful in

efforts to have an inpatient facility in our county. The State requires that **Letters of Support** be submitted with CON applications. These letters, along with statistical information from the applicant, are considered in determination of CON approval. Please consider submitting a **signed** letter on behalf of Hospice of Alexander County. Feel free to share your personal experience with Hospice of Alexander County. Letters from individuals, as well as corporate letters from businesses and community or civic organizations on official letterhead, will be very beneficial in showing the range of community desire and support for CON approval to the local hospice organization. A **sample Letter of Support** is available at the local Hospice office or online at [www.hospiceandhomecarealexander.org](http://www.hospiceandhomecarealexander.org). Those without internet access are welcome to come to the Hospice office at 50 Lucy Echerd Lane, Taylorsville, NC for assistance in printing out a letter. **Submit letters to Hospice & Home Care of Alexander County, Inc. 50 Lucy Echerd Lane, Taylorsville, NC 28681 by April 30, 2010. Hospice of Alexander County will submit the letters to the State Certificate of Need section on your behalf.**

Receive updates and discuss the issues by joining the Hospice & Home Care of Alexander County facebook group. For more information about hospice, transitions care, and advance care planning in Alexander County, contact us as 828.632.5026 or visit [www.hospiceandhomecarealexander.org](http://www.hospiceandhomecarealexander.org).

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