



Hospice Life Care Recipient of Grant: “Reaching Out” to Rural and Homeless Veterans to Increase Access to Quality Hospice and Palliative Care .

The Hospice Life Care Program of the Holyoke Visiting Nurse Association, Inc., Holyoke Massachusetts was recently awarded a “Reaching Out” grant from the National Hospice and Palliative Care Organization (NHPCO) to improve end of life care for rural and homeless veterans. Funding will be provided by the Department of Veterans Affairs. Eighteen grants have been awarded to community-based organizations across the country. The grants will contribute funding to each grantee provider for nine months to not only support the success of individual programs, but to ultimately assist the VA in discovering new ways to reach homeless veterans and veterans living in rural areas.

Hospice Life Care and the Soldiers Home of Holyoke will work collaboratively on the project which will focus on methods to develop a coordinated network of resources that may identify and assist rural and homeless veterans in need of end of life care. Outreach efforts will be made to Veterans Agents, veteran service organizations, Councils on Aging, homeless agencies, community health clinics, hospitals and their emergency departments in Hampden and Hampshire Counties. “Ensuring that all veterans receive compassionate, quality care at the end-of-life is a priority of NHPCO and the Department of Veteran Affairs Hospice and Palliative Care Program,” commented J. Donald Schumacher, NHPCO president and CEO.

The partnership staff of Hospice Life Care and the Soldiers Home of Holyoke will provide educational programs to veterans, families, and veteran service providers about Palliative and Hospice care and work to provide improved access and streamlined entry to home care services, skilled nursing care and the Comfort Care Unit at the Soldiers Home. For further information, please contact Marie Deitz, Director of Hospice Life Care at 533-3923.