

Hospice to be part of nationwide workplace initiative

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Danvers - Hospice of the North Shore has been selected as a partner with the National Hospice and Palliative Care Organization's Caring Connections workplace outreach initiative, "It's About How You LIVE – At Work," funded by the Jacob & Valeria Langeloth Foundation. The LIVE – At Work initiative is striving to increase awareness about the needs of working caregivers who struggle with work-life balance while taking care of their ill, elderly or frail family members; and provide support for employers with working caregivers.

According a 2006 study from the National Alliance for Caregiving and MetLife, U.S. businesses lose from \$17.1 billion to \$33.6 billion per year in productivity for full-time employees with care-giving responsibilities.

"We are honored to be chosen as one of 35 hospice partners across the country and will be actively reaching out to employers throughout the North Shore over the next year," said Nancy Sherman, LICSW, director of bereavement services for Hospice of the North Shore.

Through this opportunity, Hospice of the North Shore said it would be able to provide support and resources for employees who are care giving for a loved one that is seriously ill, dealing with grief and loss issues or need more information about planning for future healthcare decisions and other end-of-life issues.

To support this initiative Hospice of the North Shore is prepared to offer the following:

- Consult and assist in development of policies and procedures related to bereavement, care giving, etc.
- Conduct supervisor and employee learning sessions on care giving, grief and loss and other end-of-life issues, such as caring for someone seriously ill, advance directives (healthcare proxies and living wills), etc.
- Consult and/or support regarding specific employee illness and/or death.
- Refer and provide resources related to end-of-life concerns.

To learn more about the resources available for employers, contact Nancy Sherman at 978-750-9311 or njsherman@hns.org. Information about the It's About How You LIVE – At Work can also be found at www.caringinfo.org/liveatwork or by calling the Caring Connections' HelpLine at 800-658-8898.