



# A Proclamation

## Honoring Homestead Hospice and National Hospice Palliative Care Month

- WHEREAS** The word “hospice” stems from the Latin word “hospitium” meaning guesthouse and was originally used to describe a place of shelter for weary and sick travelers ... a sanctuary. During the 1960’s Dr. Cicely Saunders, a British physician, began the modern hospice movement by establishing St. Christopher’s Hospice near London, and the first hospice in the United States was established in New Haven, Connecticut in 1974. Today there are more than 4,100 hospice programs in the United States, Puerto Rico and Guam that figuratively and quite literally serve as sanctuaries for patients and their families during end of life circumstances; and
- WHEREAS** Hospice is not a place but rather a concept of care; 80% of hospice care is provided in patients’ or family members’ homes and in nursing care facilities. Hospice and palliative care programs, such as Homestead Hospice, provide patients and families with the highest quality care during life-limiting illness and at the end of life, through expert pain management, symptom control, emotional support and spiritual care to patients and caregivers when a cure is not possible; and
- WHEREAS** Every year, more than 1.6 million Americans live with a serious, life-limiting illness, and they, along with their families, receive support from hospice palliative care provider programs in communities throughout the United States. Hospice care is most effective for patients and families in the final months of life when families can take full advantage of the range of services hospice provides; and
- WHEREAS** Professional and compassionate hospice administrators and palliative care staff, both skilled and volunteer – including physicians, nurses, health aides, sitters, social workers, therapists, counselors and spiritual care providers – offer comprehensive care that is focused on, responsive to and supports the wishes of each individual patient and family, assuring dignity and quality of life; and
- WHEREAS** The medical community has recognized hospice programs such as that of Homestead Hospice as a sub-specialty with an emerging group of health care providers who specialize in end of life care. More than 355,000 trained volunteers are essential members of hospice care teams and contributed over sixteen million hours of service to hospice programs last year; and
- WHEREAS** Providing high-quality hospice and palliative care reaffirms our belief in the essential dignity of every person, regardless of age, health, or social status, and further that every stage of human life deserves to be treated with the utmost respect and care; and
- WHEREAS** Local hospice and palliative care providers welcome all opportunities to be of service and encourage all people to learn more about the options of care available and to share their wishes with family, loved ones, and their healthcare professionals.
- THEREFORE** We, the Commissioners of the City of Griffin, of the State of Georgia, do hereby proclaim November 2015 to be National Hospice Palliative Care Month in the City of Griffin and encourage all our citizens to increase their understanding and awareness of care at the end of life;
- IN WITNESS WHEREOF**, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of the City of Griffin to be affixed this tenth day of November, in the year of our Lord two thousand and fifteen.

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Douglas S. Hollberg, Chairperson  
City of Griffin, Board of Commissioners

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Kenny L. Smith, City Manager