



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Hospice Savannah, Inc.'s Pet Peace of Mind® Program awarded one-year grant from Amie's Place Foundation.

Savannah, GA., and New York, NY. June 3, 2014

Amie's Place Foundation, dedicated to preventing unnecessary forced separation of people from their pets simply because no one is there to help them, has awarded not-for-profit Hospice Savannah, Inc.'s Pet Peace of Mind® Program a one-year 2014 grant of \$2,000 as partial support for program expenses which are not all covered by current donations. The mission of the Foundation almost perfectly mirrors the work of Hospice Savannah's Pet Peace of Mind® program begun three years ago with a start-up grant from the Banfield Charitable Trust to help keep terminally ill people and their pets together during the end of life and when needed, to assist in finding forever homes for pets after patients' death.

Medical evidence supports the positive impact of pets on emotional, physical and spiritual well being, and the love and companionship of pets for our hospice patients seem especially important. Many patients would be unable to physically or financially care for their pets without the help of our Pet Peace of Mind® program and its dedicated volunteers. Volunteers help provide pet food, litter, walking, routine and emergency veterinary care, grooming, transportation to appointments and sometimes to nursing facilities to visit owners, as well as temporary boarding for day care when owners come to our inpatient Hospice House for respite care. Volunteers also assist in finding short term foster care when needed and "forever homes" if a family cannot keep the pet after the patient's death. Our Pet Peace of Mind® program allows hospice patients and their pets to remain together without the stress and anxiety of wondering if and how their pet will receive continued care.

Hospice Savannah has a long tradition of serving all those who need our help without regard to ability to pay, and our Pet Peace of Mind® program is offered to all patients who need it at no cost. In addition to being unable physically to care for their pets due to advanced medical conditions, many of our patients also can no longer afford essential pet care expenses. Through the generosity of local veterinarians and other donors, Hospice Savannah, is sometimes able to access pet food and supplies, veterinary care, and grooming at reduced cost. Individual donations and calendar fundraising sales help to offset remaining expenses and most out-of-pocket costs. This grant from Amie's Place Foundation will help

Hospice Savannah ensure its patients will experience improved emotional and physical well being as a result of the loving presence of their pet companions and special relationship they share.

More information on Hospice Savannah's Pet Peace of Mind® program may be found at www.HospiceSavannah.org/PetPeaceofMind

About Amie's Place Foundation:

It all began in 1982 in Long Beach, Long Island, with the exceptional work of Lewis Gelfand, DVM who provides pet care treatment and assistance for people too ill to care for their pets. Based on Dr. Gelfand's work, Amie's Place Foundation was established in New York City to fund organizations providing programs for people who need assistance caring for their pets, risk losing them during times of crisis, or face barriers limiting access to their pets when they most need each other. In light of the profound healing effect that pets have on individuals who are encountering a difficult, sometimes life-changing event, the Foundation works to provide necessary pet-care assistance and to promote public awareness of the unique relationship a beloved pet and its human companion share. Grants have funded the first Senior Center and hospital-based programs at The Caring Community/1998 and St. Vincent's Hospital/2003 in Greenwich Village, New York City. Amie's Place Foundation has funded programs that include Beth Israel Hospital, FACES (Finding a Cure for Epilepsy and Seizures) at NYU Langone Medical Center, JASA, Mayor's Alliance for NYC's Animals, MedicAlert Foundation International, PAWS NY, Purdue University College of Veterinary Medicine, RedRover Domestic Violence Safe Housing Program, Schervier Nursing Care Center, Search and Care, and Sunnyside Community Services. The Foundation encourages national replication of programs that help prevent the unnecessary forced separation of people from their pets simply because no one is there to help them.

www.amiesplacefoundation.org/

Beth Logan, Director of Marketing, Hospice Savannah, Inc.

w.912.355.2289 c. 912.351.9586 blogan@HospiceSavannahHelps.org

END###