



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**Contact:**

Michelle Cardinal, Public Relations

Community Hospice & Palliative Care

Cell: 904.477.4103

E-Mail: [mcardinal@communityhospice.com](mailto:mcardinal@communityhospice.com)

**COMMUNITY HOSPICE & PALLIATIVE CARE EXPANDS SERVICES,  
HONORING COMMITMENT TO CARE FOR THEIR ALACHUA COMMUNITY**

**August 24, 2020 (Gainesville, FL)** - Community Hospice & Palliative Care began serving the people of North Central Florida in 2017 with the commitment to care for people of Alachua living with life-limiting and life-threatening illnesses. That commitment meant opening an office in Gainesville, holding career fairs to hire local employees to care for their community, coordinating free life-enhancing educational opportunities for caregivers, providing best in class hospice care that surpasses national rankings and all competitors, and now adding palliative care services to help people earlier in their disease progression. No other hospice provider in Alachua County offers palliative care.

The people of Community Hospice & Palliative Care are experts when it comes to caring for people with advanced illness (Alzheimer's/Dementia, cancer, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease- COPD, congestive heart failure, etc.). Community Palliative Consultants, a longstanding division of Community Hospice & Palliative Care, partners with hospitals and physicians to palliate or manage the symptoms associated with advanced illness, thereby allowing patients to be at home instead of in the hospital.

One recent example of how the people of Community go above and beyond to care for and honor the wishes of their palliative care patients involves wedding vows. Mary Mack, a Community Advanced Practice Registered Nurse (APRN), learned that her palliative care patient Bruce Cook wanted to renew his wedding vows. Bruce and wife Dottie have been married for 19 years, but have known each other for 40 years. Mary coordinated a vow renewal service with Community's Alachua Chaplain, Tom Tyer, and Bruce's social worker, Pamela Way, and his nurse Theresa Felkins both attended the service.

A surprise visit by a gospel singer is another example of how the palliative care team goes above and beyond. Betty Daniels, who is diagnosed with dementia and is in the care of Community Hospice & Palliative Care, religiously watches the 24-hour gospel video channel. One particular singer, Brian Courtney Wilson an award-winning gospel and contemporary Christian singer, caught Betty's attention and became his biggest fan. Recently while visiting to check on Betty, Mary Mack, an advanced practice registered nurse along with Betty's daughter and son, Robert, came up with an idea to connect her with the famous performer. On Wednesday, June 24th, Brian Courtney Wilson gave a beautiful performance for Betty, virtually. The kind performer also chatted and prayed with his number one fan. Wilson plans to check on his biggest supporter often.

At Community, we are the people who care, and are thankful for the opportunity to provide palliative care to help the people of Alachua live better.

**###**



*Established in 1979, Community Hospice & Palliative Care is an innovative national leader in palliative and hospice care, as well as providing programs and services to meet the diverse needs of the communities it serves. During its 41-year history, through the support of more than 1,000 employees and 1,000 volunteers, the organization helps approximately 1,600 patients per day to live better with advanced illness – at home, in long-term care and assisted living facilities, in hospitals and at its eight inpatient care centers. No one is ever denied care due to an inability to pay. To learn more about the support and services of Community Hospice & Palliative Care, visit [CommunityHospice.com](http://CommunityHospice.com).*