



## **PRESS RELEASE**

December 10, 2007

Contact: Julie Phillips-Turner

Phone: 410-490-0033

E-mail: jbpturner@aol.com

## **Hospice Cup XXVII – America’s Largest Charity Regatta – to be Held September 27, 2008, in Annapolis, Maryland**

*The race marks twenty-seven years of racing to raise funds to support Hospice programs in local communities around the Maryland, Virginia and Washington, DC areas.*

[Annapolis, MD] The Hospice Cup XXVII – America's largest charity regatta – will be on Saturday, September 27, 2008. Entering its 27<sup>th</sup> year of racing on the Chesapeake Bay, to date the Hospice Cup has raised over \$7 million to support Hospice programs in local communities around the Maryland, Virginia and Washington, DC areas.

In 2007, over \$440,000 was raised by Hospice Cup XXVI sponsors, donors and participating fundraising sailing teams. Fundraising for the Hospice Cup is structured to ensure that funds are generated on behalf of each of the participating Hospices. The annual Hospice Cup race is a cooperative effort of Shearwater Sailing Club – an organization created in 1982 specifically for the race – the Hospice Cup, Inc. (HCI) Board and Executive Director, volunteers, and area hospices.

Hospice Cup Executive Director Karma O'Neill states, "Plans for this year's Hospice Cup are underway. For 2008 we are planning new activities that promote awareness of Hospice Care and celebrate the Regatta's fundraising efforts. Additionally, we are hoping to attract new participants from the many Chesapeake Bay boat and social clubs to join in the Regatta"

Hospice Cup President Cullen Murray states, "We are grateful to the sailors, our donors, our board members, the participating hospices, and the many volunteers that help to make this event possible. With the dedicated support of every individual, the funds we've raised during the past 27 years have infinitely helped area hospices to give their patients, and their caregivers, the support and comfort they need to ensure quality end-of-life care."

The Hospice Cup race serves as the local qualifying race for the National Hospice Regatta Championship. Winners from each of the twenty-four hospice regattas from around the United States compete annually and are all members of the National Hospice Regatta Alliance. The championship race for the 2007 qualifiers will be held May 9-11, 2008, in Annapolis, Maryland.

Supporting Hospice Cup means that there will continue to be no out-of-pocket expenses for any patient or family seeking the services of one of the participating hospices. Hospice Cup funds help pay the 25 to 30 percent of the expenses not covered by Medicare or private insurance. These dollars enable the hospices to provide skilled compassionate care, comfort and dignity to the terminally ill, their families and friends, regardless of their ability to pay. Hospice enables patients to carry on alert, pain-free lives so their last days may be spent in comfort, at home or in home-like settings. Hospice care concentrates on care, not cure. Bereavement counseling and support groups are part of hospice services after the loss of a loved one.

The 2008 participating hospices which include: Hospice of the Chesapeake, Capital Hospice, Montgomery Hospice, Calvert Hospice, and Community Hospices, must meet the standards of the National Hospice and Palliative Care Organization. Hospice Cup, Inc. is a proud member of the National Hospice Regatta Alliance, [www.hospiceregattas.org](http://www.hospiceregattas.org).

The Hospice Cup is sanctioned by the Chesapeake Bay Yacht Racing Association (CBYRA) and counts for CBYRA season-long High Point competition. Hospice Cup, Inc. is a non-profit organization chartered under the laws of the Commonwealth of Virginia, Maryland and the District of Columbia for the purposes of conducting a benefit yacht race and related events. Net proceeds are disbursed to the participating hospices on a pro-rated basis.

###