

## PRESS RELEASE

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### **Hospice Cup Regatta Event Raises Big Funds for Area Hospices** *Despite Foul Weather and a Failing Economy*

[Annapolis, MD] Despite foul weather and failing economy the sun was shining brightly on the Hospice Cup XXVII fundraising regatta, held on Saturday, September 27, which raised over \$350,000 towards area participating hospices.

Over 80 sailboats and 360 sailors braved two hours of motoring around in hard rain and deteriorating visibility waiting for race committees to start or cancel the race. After it was finally called off at 12:30 pm, the boats headed back to their ports, and the sailors moved on to the Shore Party, held at the Atria Manresa overlooking the Severn River and the Naval Academy in Annapolis, Maryland.

The sun peeked through the clouds in time for the Shore Party, which was attended by over 350 donors, caregivers, hospice volunteers and sailors - proof that support of hospice care was the important mission of the day. The turn to fair weather also gave the annual live auction a lift, which raised over \$21,000.

“Just like life, the organizers and volunteers of the Hospice Cup XXVII overcame many challenges – from dealing with rain and mud and finding straw for the ground and additional parking in time for the event – to ensure all ran smoothly. Despite these issues, there was a huge turnout at the shore party, and the event sailed on,” stated Executive Director of Hospice Cup, Inc., Karma O’Neill.

Honorary Co-Chairs of the 2008 event were, Len and Dale Adler, on behalf of Capital Hospice; and Jim Mandrin and W. Dennis Gilligan on behalf of Hospice of the Chesapeake. At the party, Len Adler honored accomplished sailor, past Chair, and co-founder of the event Al Van Metre, who passed away in March of this year.

While trophies for racers were not awarded this year, top sailor and club fundraisers were well recognized, as a record amount of over \$13,500 was raised.

The Hank Lawton Trophy for Top Crew Fundraising, sponsored by Hospice of the Chesapeake, in honor the top fundraiser, was presented to Angelo Guarino of Severna Park, MD, of *Bella Donna* who raised over \$6,000.

The Club Fundraising Trophy, sponsored by Chuck and Cecelia Thompson, in honor of Charlette Jeunette, was presented to The Chesapeake Bay Sabre Association for the second year in a row, which raised over \$4,700.

“This celebration called Hospice Cup is an authentic celebration of life. What a feat to create a Brigadoon every year for one magical day, even on a soggy day. Everyone got into the action and enjoyed life and appreciated hospice,” stated Patty DeBuck, Director of Community and Corporate Support at Capital Hospice.

## **About Hospice Cup**

Hospice Cup funds help to pay 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-controlled 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 annual Hospice Cup regatta is a cooperative effort. It is organized by the all-volunteer Hospice Cup, Inc. (HCI) Board of Directors, an Executive Director, participating area hospices and hundreds of volunteers. The race is managed by Shearwater Sailing Club and assisted by Storm Trysail Club Chesapeake Station.

The 2008 participating hospices include: Hospice of the Chesapeake, Capital Hospice, Montgomery Hospice, and Community Hospices. Each hospice must meet the standards of the National Hospice and Palliative Care Organization.

The Hospice Cup race is sanctioned by the Chesapeake Bay Yacht Racing Association (CBYRA) and counts for CBYRA season-long High Point competition. Hospice Cup, Inc. is a 501(c)(3) 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. Hospice Cup, Inc. is also a proud member of the National Hospice Regatta Alliance.

Additional information about the race can be found online at the official Hospice Cup web site [www.hospicecup.org](http://www.hospicecup.org).

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