

## IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**Contact:** 

Austin Mudd Media Relations Specialist Chapters Health System MuddA@chaptershealth.org

P: 813-871-8327; C: 813-310-4690

## Cornerstone Hospice & Palliative Care Named Volunteer Program of the Year By Pet Peace of Mind

Chapters Health Affiliate Wins Award

**POLK COUNTY, FL** (**July13, 2022**) – <u>Pet Peace of Mind</u>, a national program that enables hospice patients to keep their pets throughout their end-of-life journey, named <u>Cornerstone Hospice & Palliative Care</u> its National Program of the Year for 2022 and named Cornerstone volunteer Laurie Quigley it's National Volunteer of the year for 2022.

Pet Peace of Mind, created by the Banfield Charitable Trust, works through local hospice partners to provide food, veterinary care, and other pet care needs at no cost to patients. Specially trained Pet Peace of Mind volunteers offer in-home pet care assistance when patients struggle to care for their pet because of life-limiting illness.

"I feel so fortunate to be able to support our patients and their precious pets," said Laurie Quigley, volunteer for Cornerstone Hospice & Palliative Care. "I tell so many people to consider adopting or supporting the program. It's an easy way for anyone to become part of the solution."

"Pets are great medicine for the anxiety that comes from dealing with a serious medical condition," said Dianne McGill, president and founder of Pet Peace of Mind. "Countless patients say their pet is their lifeline. Keeping their beloved pets throughout their end-of-life journey—and finding homes for them after they pass—can be one of the most important pieces of unfinished business."

"It's a privilege to support our patients with Pet Peace of Mind," said Diane Anderson, volunteer services manager for Cornerstone Hospice & Palliative Care. "We've been participating in the program for 11 years now and we're the first hospice in Florida to join. It helps us fulfill our goal to provide individualized care based on the needs of each patient and family, including the four-legged family members."

## **About Cornerstone Hospice & Palliative Care**

Cornerstone Hospice & Palliative Care, an affiliate of Chapters Health System, is a community-based not-for-profit organization that provides care and support programs to families impacted by life-limiting illnesses. Nearly 7,000 people in Hardee, Highlands, Lake, Marion, Orange, Osceola, Polk and Sumter counties in Florida and Cherokee, Cobb, Fulton, and Gwinnett counties in Georgia benefit from Cornerstone programs each year. Enhanced patient and family care is made possible through the generous support of individuals and groups. For more information, visit <a href="https://www.cornerstonehospice.org">www.cornerstonehospice.org</a>.

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## **About Chapters Health System**

As a progressive leader and premier health system, Chapters Health System is dedicated to delivering innovative home health, palliative, and hospice care along with durable medical equipment and pharmacy services. Since 1983 as a community-based, not-for-profit organization, Chapters Health has provided choices, education, and guidance through its managed affiliates. All offerings are provided to improve the patient/family experience well in advance of end-of-life needs. In 2021, Chapters Health was named a Top Workplace by the *Tampa Bay Times* and certified for the fifth consecutive year as a great workplace in the Aging Services category by the independent analysts at the Great Place to Work® Institute. To learn more, visit www.chaptershealth.org, like us on Facebook or follow us on Twitter and LinkedIn.

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