



WE HONOR VETERANS

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

**April 4, 2017**



**HOSPICE**  
of Northwest Michigan

In partnership with  
Health Department of Northwest Michigan

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### **Free Screening of “Being Mortal” a Film that Explores End-of-Life Care**

Hospice of Northwest Michigan is holding a free, community screening of the documentary “Being Mortal” on May 4, 2017 beginning at 6p at the Charlevoix American House located at 615 Petoskey Avenue, Charlevoix, MI. After the screening, audience members can participate in a guided conversation on how to take concrete steps to identify and communicate wishes about end-of-life goals and preferences.

“Being Mortal” delves into the hopes of patients and families facing terminal illness. The film investigates the practice of caring for the dying and explores the relationships between patients and their doctors. It follows a surgeon, Dr. Atul Gawande, as he shares stories from the people and families he encounters. When Dr. Gawande’s own father gets cancer, his search for answers about how best to care for the dying becomes a personal quest. The film sheds light on how a medical system focused on a cure often leaves out the sensitive conversations that need to happen so a patient’s true wishes can be known and honored at the end.

“Being Mortal” underscores the importance of people planning ahead and talking with family members about end-of-life decisions.

Seventy percent of Americans say they would prefer to die at home, but nearly 70 percent die in hospitals and institutions. Ninety percent of Americans know they should have conversations about end-of-life care, yet only 30 percent have done so.

In February 2015, “Being Mortal” aired nationally on the PBS program “Frontline.” For more information about the film, visit <http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/pages/frontline/being-mortal/>. The film is adapted from Dr. Gawande’s 2014 nationally best selling book of the same name. More information about the book is at <http://atulgawande.com/book/being-mortal/>.

The free screening is made possible by a grant from The John and Wauna Harman Foundation in partnership with the Hospice Foundation of America. For more information about the free screening, contact Amy Wieland, Executive Director of Hospice of Northwest Michigan at 231-547-7659 or [a.wieland@nwhealth.org](mailto:a.wieland@nwhealth.org).

Hospice of Northwest Michigan is a 501(c)3 non-profit, community based hospice, serving Antrim, Charlevoix, Emmet and Otsego Counties. Call (800) 551-4140 toll-free for more information on hospice services, or visit our website at [www.hospicenwm.org](http://www.hospicenwm.org).