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National Healthcare Decisions Day Encourages Community to Plan Ahead

St. Francis Hospice to Provide Advance Care Planning Information April 16

(TITUSVILLE, Fla. March 31, 2026) – In observance of National Healthcare Decisions Day on Thursday, April 16, St. Francis Hospice, recently recognized with a 5-Star Rating from the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, will distribute advance care planning materials at local libraries in Brevard and two Parrish Healthcare locations. Staff and volunteers will offer information and tools for the public to talk about their wishes with loved ones, including Five Wishes, America’s most popular advance directive, at the following locations:

Brevard Libraries:

Catherine Schweinsberg Rood Central Library, Cocoa; 10:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

Cocoa Beach Public Library, Cocoa Beach; 12:30 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Melbourne Public Library, Melbourne; 12:30 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Suntree/Viera Public Library, Melbourne; 1:30 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Franklin T. DeGroot Memorial Library, Palm Bay; 10:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

Palm Bay Public Library, Palm Bay; 12:30 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Satellite Beach Public Library, Satellite Beach; 12:30 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Titusville Library, Titusville; 10:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

Parrish Healthcare:

Parrish Healthcare Center - Port St. John, Titusville; 9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

Parrish Healthcare Center - Titusville, Titusville; 9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

Founded in 2008, National Healthcare Decisions Day is observed annually on April 16. Its goal is to increase the number of Americans who have completed an advance directive (“living will”), in which they name the person who will make medical decisions for them in the event they are seriously ill and can’t speak for themselves. Experts say only about 20-30% of Americans have completed an advance directive even though all people age 18 and older should have one.

“Advance care planning empowers individuals to shape their future healthcare decisions and ensures their end-of-life wishes are honored with compassion and respect,” said St. Francis Hospice CEO Jackie Kendrick, CHPCA.

St. Francis Hospice staff and volunteers will encourage community members to prepare their advance directives by distributing copies of Five Wishes at participating area libraries. Five Wishes, a 12-page booklet that helps guide individuals in discussing personal, family and spiritual matters, in addition to medical and legal concerns, is a valuable tool for beginning difficult family discussions. When completed, it meets the legal requirements of 46 states and is useful in those states that still require state forms and mandatory notices.

“Five Wishes deals with the things people say matter most to them,” said Five Wishes President Paul Malley. “It allows them to clearly state what kind of treatment they want or don’t want so their families aren’t left to guess or second-guess. St. Francis Hospice is providing a helpful service to the whole community by offering Five Wishes, and it’s a sign of their commitment to understand and honor the wishes of those whom they serve.”

About St. Francis Hospice

A Treasure Health provider, Florida-based St. Francis Hospice, is Brevard County’s longest serving, and only independent, non-profit hospice and palliative care resource. Founded in 1977, St. Francis Hospice provides extraordinary care for patients and families to help them deal with the greatest medical, emotional, and spiritual challenges of their lives. Today, St. Francis Hospice cares for patients in their residences throughout Brevard County, wherever they call home. It offers two Inpatient Units: one 12-bed unit in Titusville and another 10-bed unit in Melbourne. St. Francis Hospice staff and volunteers work with dedication, compassion, and great respect for those they serve guided by the mission statement: Uplifting Lives. Uplifting Each Other. Uplifting Our Community.

About Aging with Dignity

Founded in 1996, Aging with Dignity is a national non-profit organization that seeks to protect the God-given human dignity of the most vulnerable among us. Five Wishes is an advance care planning program created with help from national legal experts, with initial development and distribution funded by a grant from the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation.

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