



## HI-DESERT MEDICAL CENTER

*Your Partner for Life*

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**For: Immediate Release**

**Date: June 12, 2009**

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### **HI-DESERT MEDICAL CENTER STRENGTHENS PARTNERSHIP WITH HOSPICE OF MORONGO BASIN**

*Joshua Tree, CA* – The Hi-Desert Medical Center (HDMC) today announced it has agreed to enter into a more formal partnership with the Hospice of Morongo Basin. HDMC, which operates Hi-Desert Hospice, has utilized the services of Hospice of Morongo Basin to supply volunteers for its hospice program. Medicare-certified hospice programs must utilize volunteers as an active component of the hospice interdisciplinary team.

“We are very excited with this renewed partnership,” said Kathy Aubin, Hospice of Morongo Basin board member. “This partnership validates our 27-year tradition of providing needed volunteer services for the communities of the Morongo Basin.”

Hospice of the Morongo Basin volunteers receive comprehensive training on the psychological, social, physical and spiritual care and support of dying patients, caregivers and people working through grief. Bereavement services, which include individual and group counseling to students in grades K-12, are also provided in schools throughout the Morongo Basin.

According to Hi-Desert Home Health and Hospice Director Suzanne Andreasen, this partnership means that Hospice of the Morongo Basin will continue providing volunteers that allow her program to operate. “They have done a lot for this community over the years. The volunteers provide a key component to the hospice experience and are like family to our patients. I am grateful for their services,” said Andreasen.

Hospice volunteers provide emotional support to patients and their families, making regular home visits for companionship and respite. They perform light duties such as errands, preparing meals and light housekeeping.

Hi-Desert Memorial Health Care District is comprised of 179 licensed beds: the Hi-Desert Medical Center, a modern, 59-bed primary care hospital and the Continuing Care Center, a 120-bed skilled nursing facility on the campus of Hi-Desert Medical Center. Along with a wide range of quality inpatient and outpatient diagnostic, treatment and rehabilitation services, the District operates the Airway Outpatient Center—a full-service surgery and diagnostic center, the Behavioral Health Centre—an intensive mental health outpatient program, and family health clinics providing medical specialists for Medi-Cal patients. Home health and hospice and a variety of community education and outreach services are also provided.