

HOSPICE



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SECU Members Pledge Support for Hospice of Rutherford County Hospice House

Forest City, NC - Hospice of Rutherford County announced today that the State Employees' Credit Union members, via the SECU Foundation, pledged \$300,000 to assist with construction of the six-suite Hospice House addition. The entire facility will now be referred to as the SECU Hospice House. This addition, to be completed by May 2009, will enable Hospice of Rutherford County to care for a total of eighteen patients, ten at the inpatient level and eight at the residential level of care. The addition will contain the patient suites, a spa room, children's play room, chapel, vending area, and family room. In 2008, there were 167 patients served at the inpatient level and 79 at the residential level of care. The occupancy rate has consistently achieved more than 100% many months since the facility opened in September 2004 resulting in the need for this addition.

Rita Burch, Executive Director for Hospice of Rutherford County stated, "This generous pledge by SECU members will ensure that Hospice can complete construction of this much-needed addition. These new suites will hopefully alleviate the problems families face because our current facility is almost always at capacity. The SECU Foundation and its members are partners in our vision to provide the highest level of care for patients and their families at the end of life. We can now truly help people live life to the fullest."

The SECU gift completes the portion of the "Hospice Hands of Hope" capital campaign to construct the Hospice House addition. The campaign will continue to raise funds for the conference center which will be attached to the Annette Cash Whitaker Center of Living. The Center of Living is a grief counseling center, and the new conference center will be utilized by the 300 hospice volunteers, as well as by businesses, groups and individuals for events and conferences.

SECU is a non-profit financial cooperative owned by its members. SECU has been providing the employees of the State of North Carolina and their families with consumer financial services for more than 70 years. Currently serving 1.5 million members, SECU provides services through 223 branches, over 1,000 ATMs, 24/7 call centers and a website- www.ncsecu.org. The SECU Foundation, a 501c(3) charitable organization funded

solely by the contributions of SECU members, promotes local community development in North Carolina primarily through high impact projects in the areas of education, health and human services.

Hospice of Rutherford County is a non-profit organization providing physical, emotional and spiritual care for terminally ill patients and their families since 1982. Hospice has consistently been one of the most highest utilized in the state serving over 50% of all deaths in Rutherford County. Hospice cared for 638 hospice patients and their families in 2008 in the Hospice House, skilled and assisted living facilities, Rutherford Hospital and individual homes. Hospice also provides grief counseling at no cost for any adult, child or teen in the community who has lost a loved one.