



Community Home Health
& Hospice

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Local healthcare agency announces expansion plans and new construction jobs

LONGVIEW, Wash, February 2, 2011 – Community Home Health & Hospice (CHHH), a community-based nonprofit, announces plans to build new administrative offices and a 10-bed inpatient hospice care facility at 136th Circle and Salmon Creek Avenue near Legacy Salmon Creek Hospital in Vancouver. CHHH selected local contractor JH Kelly to design and construct the buildings on its recently-purchased 6-acre property. It was important to CHHH to consider a Cowlitz County based general contractor due to their origin in the community. The lead architect will be Craig Collins from Collins Architectural Group in association with Tom Mullinax, a nationwide architectural expert in the design of hospice care centers. The project will include shelled space to allow for future expansion as the community's needs grow. CHHH's site is conveniently located near major medical facilities in northern Clark County and has easy access to I-5 and 205. The property features beautiful natural surroundings edged by wetlands which will provide a tranquil setting for hospice patients and their families. A memorial garden and grief support center is planned which will be open to anyone in the community who is bereaved, especially children.

Since 1988, CHHH has delivered home care, home health and hospice services to Clark County patients and families. This new development allows CHHH to expand its mission of providing southwest Washington residents with compassionate skilled inpatient hospice care in addition to the array of skilled services already provided throughout Clark County. The facility will provide space for nurses, therapists, social workers and aides who visit patients at home, as well as for administrative staff. The inpatient facility will provide homelike surroundings with thoughtful touches where families and friends will find comfort and peace.

CHHH selected JH Kelly because of its stellar local reputation as well as accessing an architect for this project who has built more than 40 hospice care centers nationwide. It also has a highly successful track record in Clark County with a Vancouver office of 250 employees. JH Kelly is a fourth generation, family-owned construction company serving the greater Pacific Northwest for more than 80 years. In awarding the project, CHHH CEO Greg Pang said, "Our Board was impressed by JH Kelly's excellent understanding of our requirements and their sterling recommendations from community members. We are excited about our partnership to create a modern medical facility with a home-like design in a beautiful natural setting edged by wetlands. Our mutual goal is to provide a patient and family experience that is filled with peace, comfort, dignity and excellent care." The projected completion date of the project is December 2012.

The \$10 million project demonstrates CHHH's long-term commitment to southwest Washington. It will provide family-wage jobs and contribute to the local economy. Significant population growth is forecasted for Clark County in the coming years, particularly in the age 70+ population. This growth plus the desire of baby boomers to "age in place" will dramatically increase demand for CHHH services. Over the past six years, CHHH has grown by 500% in services provided to Clark County residents.

Pang cited a number of considerations for investing in the project including favorable commercial real estate prices and interest rates. He also thanked Clark County Commissioners for approving a "fee holiday" for qualifying commercial building projects. Pang indicated the fee holiday was a critical factor for the Board to move forward with the project. The fee holiday was enacted to spur private sector, job-producing economic development by waiving certain construction development fees. The project was also made possible in part by a generous property donation by Ronald and Wendy Wilson and Jan Quann of Vancouver. The CHHH Board of Directors unanimously approved moving forward with the project.

About Community Home Health & Hospice

A community-based nonprofit organization, Community Home Health & Hospice (CHHH) has served the healthcare needs of Washington and Oregon families with care, comfort and love since 1977. Every day, we care for 600 people at home through home care personal services, home health, hospice and bereavement services in the following four counties: Clark, Cowlitz, and Wahkiakum in Washington and Columbia in Oregon. We foster clinical excellence, innovation and agility as recognized by our 2010, 2009 and 2008 top agency ranking among 9,500 Medicare-certified home health agencies nationwide. Community Home Health & Hospice (CHHH) supports the healthcare and independent living goals of each patient and their loved ones by delivering the highest quality, compassionate and dignified care to individuals in their chosen place of residence. Visit CHHH on the web at www.chhh.org.