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PRESS RELEASE

IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Adoray Home Health and Hospice Receives Land Donation for a Hospice House

Adoray Home Health and Hospice, located in Baldwin, Wisconsin, has received a donation of land to build a hospice residential facility. The 8 to 10 bed facility, also known as a “hospice house”, is a home-like facility intended for terminally ill people who do not have loved ones available to care for them in their last days. Dick Pearson, long-time Hudson resident made the gift to Adoray in memory of his dear wife, Jean Marie Pearson, who died in 2013. “Jean had a gentle soul and a heart of gold,” said Mr. Pearson. “Our family feels so incredibly blessed to know that our Wife, Mother and Grandmother, met her Heavenly Father surrounded by her Loved Ones and Jean would want nothing less for anyone else. That’s how she lived her life, always...for the good of others. The Hospice House will provide that same personal, end-of-life care and that is why we chose to support this endeavor.”

Adoray has had conversations for several years about building a hospice house. “We did a feasibility study a few years ago to look at the need for such a facility in this region. The study confirmed that the need exists and is growing,” said Mary Troftgruben, Adoray’s Executive Director. “This is the largest geographic region in Wisconsin without a hospice house,” Troftgruben continued, “and Mr. Pearson’s gift gives this project the huge boost it needs to become a reality. We are so appreciative of the generosity shown by him and his family.”

Hospice is a program that provides expert care for patients in the last months of their lives. Staff are specially trained in end-of life care. Hospice ensures the patient receives the services needed as their condition deteriorates. These services include intermittent nursing, nurses’ aide services, spiritual and emotional care, medications for symptom management, and medical equipment and supplies. In addition, Adoray Hospice provides thirteen months of grief support for loved ones after the death. Hospice care is provided in the patient’s place of residence, which could be their own home, a skilled nursing facility, an assisted living facility or a group home.

Sometimes, for those living in their own home, patients’ caregivers can no longer keep up with the physical and emotional demands of caring for someone who is dying. In these cases, patients will often go to a nursing home or will be transferred to a hospice house outside this geographic area. “This can be very difficult for the patient as well as their family,” said Troftgruben. “The hospice house will provide a local alternative. It will be a home-like environment, surrounded by nature and staffed with experts trained in end-of-life care.”



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Adoray's board of directors approved moving forward with the idea of building a hospice house in 2014. "The need is there. With Adoray's excellent reputation and 21-year history of serving residents of this area, it was evident that it was the right thing to do and the right time to do it," said Alison Page, Chairman of Adoray's Board of Directors and CEO of Western Wisconsin Health.

The three-acre land donation is located off Exit 4 on East I-94. "We are indebted to Mr. Pearson and his family—the location is perfect," said Roberta Braml, Adoray Hospice Director. "The St. Croix Valley has always been very supportive of Adoray and has a population base that we believe will help us sustain the house." Braml went on to explain that, besides ongoing financial support, volunteers will be needed. "Volunteers are already a vital part of providing care to hospice patients, but with the addition of the hospice house, there will be an additional need for volunteers. "We hope to recruit volunteers to help keep up the grounds, do some cooking and baking for patients or visitors, play cards or games with patients, or just visit with them." Adoray Hospice also has a special Eleventh Hour program in which specially trained volunteers sit with patients in their last hours. "Most patients don't want to die alone, so this program helps to ensure that," said Braml.

Adoray is continuing to plan and lay groundwork for the hospice house and a date has not yet been set to break ground, "but we will definitely keep the surrounding communities posted," said Troftgruben.

Adoray Home Health and Hospice is a not-for-profit corporation established in 1995, serving patients in St. Croix, Pierce, Polk, Burnett, and western Barron and Dunn Counties. The organization has deeply touched the lives of over 12,000 patients and their loved ones in its 21-year history.

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