For Immediate Release

Hospice of Marion County Highlights National Healthcare Decisions Day

(Ocala, FL – April 6, 2022) Each year Hospice of Marion County (HMC), your hometown hospice™, along with many health organizations, provides increased education during April on National Healthcare Decisions Day (NHDD) which is recognized annually on April 16. This is a national program designed to inspire, educate and empower the public about the importance of advance care planning.

“Our organization knows the importance of planning ahead for the unexpected medical crisis and appreciates that the Marion County Board of Commissioners and the Ocala City Council issued proclamations yesterday recognizing National Healthcare Decisions Day,” said Hospice of Marion County CEO Rick Bourne.

To help celebrate NHDD throughout the month of April, Hospice of Marion County has partnered with the Marion Theatre in downtown Ocala to show two movies about grief and loss at no charge to the community. Additionally, several other activities are planned as follows:

- Apr. 12: Marion Theatre Movie: “Ordinary People” at 5:30 p.m.
- Apr. 13: Presentation by Community Awareness Manager Jessica McCune at On Top of the World, Master the Possibilities at 10:00 a.m.
- Apr. 16: Marion Theatre Movie: “We Bought a Zoo” at 11:30 a.m.
- Apr. 26: Presentation by Chief Medical Officer Mery Lossada, MD, at the Frank DeLuca YMCA Family Center at 9:00 a.m.

Those planning to attend the movies just need to visit www.mariontheatre.org and type in the code HOMC22 at the checkout screen to redeem their passes. A brief discussion about the importance of having advance directives will be provided either before or following each movie, along with providing advance directive forms attendees can take home to complete.

“Talking with your loved ones about what you want to happen should you not be able to speak for yourself and identifying who you want to speak for you is a gift,” said Hospice of Marion County Community Awareness Manager Jessica McCune. “Advance Directives provide peace of mind and avoids burdening families with wondering what loved ones would have wanted.”

Hospice of Marion County provides advance care planning forms at no charge to Marion County residents which can be downloaded from its website www.hospiceofmarion.com, call 352-873-7400 to pick up a copy or request assistance completing forms from the Monarch Center for Hope and Healing at (352) 873-7456.

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About Hospice of Marion County (HMC): A not-for-profit locally operated hospice, HMC has provided compassionate end-of-life care for patients and their families since 1983. Patients may receive services in their own home, assisted living facility, nursing home or in one of our three hospice houses. A comprehensive hospice model, HMC is one of the county’s largest healthcare companies and has earned Deemed Status designation from the Joint Commission, the national gold standard for quality healthcare.