

PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CONTACT:

Alison Jones
Marketing & Communications Coordinator
Schoolcraft Memorial Hospital
Manistique, MI 49854
(906) 341-3293 fax: (906) 341-3297
ajones@scmh.org

**SCHOOLCRAFT MEMORIAL HOMECARE, NORTHWOODS HOME NURSING AND HOSPICE AND
LMAS DISTRICT HEALTH DEPARTMENTS, HONOR THEIR HOSPICE VOLUNTEERS DURING
NATIONAL VOLUNTEER WEEK!**

Manistique, MI - April, 2004

April 18-24, 2004 is National Volunteer Week and organizations across the country are celebrating the contributions of dedicated volunteers who give of their time and talents to make a difference in their community. Schoolcraft Memorial Homecare, North Woods Home Nursing and Hospice and LMAS is honoring the volunteers who are integral members of hospice's interdisciplinary care team, providing comfort and compassion to those facing a life-limiting illness.

Whether it's providing companionship to a person in the final months and weeks of life, offering support to family members and caregivers, or helping with community outreach and fundraising, the contributions of volunteers is essential to the important work provided by our nations hospice and palliative care programs. It is federally mandated that five percent of all patient care hours be provided by trained volunteers. Hospices could not provide the special care they do without these extraordinary individuals.

According to the National Hospice and Palliative Care Organizations, approximately 500,000 people volunteer in the nation's 3,200 hospice organizations annually, providing more than ten million hours of service annually. Here in Manistique, more than 15 volunteers provide numerous hours of service per year to help our local Hospices care for patients and families in our community. Many people become hospice volunteers after experiencing first hand compassionate care hospice provided to a dying loved one.

Schoolcraft Memorial HomeCare, North Woods Home Nursing and Hospice, and LMAS recognize their community hospice Volunteers by hosting a special luncheon to celebrate their special contributions and publicly thank those who give so much to others throughout the year.

To learn more about becoming a volunteer for Hospice please contact any of the following Hospice agencies: Schoolcraft Memorial HomeCare 341-3284; North Woods Home Nursing and Hospice at 341-66963 or LMAS 341-6951.