COMMUNITY PedsCare Physicians Leading Nation In Board Certification for Hospice and Palliative Care

Community PedsCare Serves Children with Life-Limiting and Life-Threatening Illnesses in the Northeast Florida Region

This announcement also is available at the Community Hospice Web site: http://www.communityhospice.com/getinvolved/release82.htm

JACKSONVILLE, FL — Kelly Komatz, MD, MPH, and Susan Krieger, MD, who serve as associate medical directors of Community PedsCare, recently became board certified in the medical subspecialty of hospice and palliative medicine. They are among nearly 1,300 U.S. physicians, and 77 in Florida as of August 2010, who carry this certification.

Dr. Komatz is certified through the American Board of Pediatrics, and is among 100 pediatricians nationwide to become board certified in hospice and palliative medicine. She has been with Community PedsCare for five years, and has served in Jacksonville as a pediatrician since 1991.

Dr. Krieger is certified in pediatrics and internal medicine through the American Board of Pediatrics and the American Board of Internal Medicine, and now also has received certification in hospice and palliative medicine through the American Board of Internal Medicine. She joined Community PedsCare in December 2010 with prior hospice experience. Both doctors also are assistant clinical professors in the Department of Pediatrics at the University of Florida College of Medicine Jacksonville.

“The outstanding work Dr. Komatz and Dr. Krieger are doing has positioned Northeast Florida as one of the few communities in the country with truly comprehensive, pediatric in-home, inpatient and outpatient hospice and palliative care services,” said Jeffrey Goldhagen, MD, MPH, administrative medical director of Community PedsCare and a professor at the University of Florida College of Medicine Jacksonville, Department of Pediatrics. “This is fundamental to the future of pediatrics as we provide a continuum of care, from the hospital to the primary care physician in the community and back to the hospital again.”
Serving Baker, Clay, Duval, Nassau and St. Johns counties, Community PedsCare is a pediatric palliative and hospice program for children (under age 21) with life-limiting and life-threatening conditions. The program offers medical, nursing, psychosocial, spiritual, volunteer and other services to support, comfort and care for children and their families.

Established in 2000, Community PedsCare is a program of Community Hospice of Northeast Florida in collaboration with Wolfson Children’s Hospital, Nemours Children’s Clinic and the University of Florida-Jacksonville.

These physicians are among a growing number of physicians affiliated with Community Hospice who have attained board certification as hospice and palliative care experts.

“Our medical directors are excellent, seasoned physicians,” said Stephen Clark, M.D., chief medical officer for Community Hospice. “All of our medical staff, and especially our newly boarded physicians, demonstrate a specialized focus every day, bringing exceptional pain and symptom management to our patients of all ages.”

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**About Community Hospice of Northeast Florida**

Established in 1979, Community Hospice of Northeast Florida is the first and only community-based, nonprofit hospice provider to serve residents of the First Coast. Each day, through the support of nearly 800 employees and 800 volunteers, the organization helps approximately 1,100 patients and their families live better with advanced illness. During its more than 30-year history, Community Hospice has served more than 67,000 adults and children in Baker, Clay, Duval, Nassau and St. Johns counties—at home, in long term care and assisted living facilities, in hospitals and at its five inpatient care centers.

Community PedsCare® is a nationally recognized pediatric palliative and hospice program for children with life-limiting and life-threatening conditions. A program of Community Hospice of Northeast Florida in collaboration with Wolfson Children’s Hospital, Nemours Children’s Clinic and the University of Florida–Jacksonville, Community PedsCare offers support, comfort and care to these children and their families.

No one is ever denied care due to an inability to pay. To learn more about the support and services of Community Hospice, visit communityhospice.com.

*Community Hospice of Northeast Florida and Community PedsCare are registered service marks of Community Hospice of Northeast Florida, Inc.*