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Interfaith Council's ongoing support helps LifePath Hospice deliver outstanding end-of-life care Sun City Center council generates funds from sales at the Nearly New Thrift Store

TAMPA – In its 25 years of service across Hillsborough County, LifePath Hospice has received great community support for its programs that provide outstanding end-of-life care. Some of its most devoted and dedicated support has come from the members of the Interfaith Council of Sun City Center and the volunteers who work at its Nearly New Thrift Store.

The Interfaith Council again has come through with a generous gift – the organization has pledged \$100,000 to LifePath Hospice over the next two years. The funds will go to help support LifePath Hospice inpatient and residential services in Sun City Center. Council members, store volunteers and LifePath Hospice staff celebrated this donation at a January 7 check presentation ceremony at the Nearly New Thrift Store.

This recent Council gift follows a 2006 gift of \$50,000 to support the completion of the LifePath Hospice Sun City Center Hospice House and an additional \$50,000 pledge in 2007 to support residential hospice care in Sun City Center.

What is the reason behind the Interfaith Council's ongoing support? "High quality end-of-life care is important to our volunteers and our community," said Barbara Lauer, Interfaith Council president. "We believe strongly enough in it to support LifePath Hospice programs regularly."

The Interfaith Council represents all local faith communities in the Sun City Center area and generously supports many local charities. The gifts are funded by the proceeds raised by its volunteer-operated Nearly New Thrift Store, which is located behind Sun City Center Plaza. Working through the week, store manager Dorcas "Dot" Rowland and dozens of local volunteers receive, sort and label donations of clothing, household items and furniture, which they sell at the popular store. In addition to the funds raised by store sales, the Council and its volunteers regularly donate clothing and other items to the area's needy. Anyone interested in learning more about the Interfaith Council or the Nearly New Thrift Store can call Barbara Lauer at 813-633-1245.

“LifePath Hospice truly appreciates the outstanding friendship and support of everyone at the Interfaith Council and its Nearly New Thrift Store,” says John Wilbur, LifePath Hospice major gifts officer. “LifePath Hospice would be unable to provide our patients and families the full array of services we do without the gifts we receive from charitable organizations like the Interfaith Council.”

In recognition of the Council’s gift, LifePath Hospice will name two patient rooms at its Sun City Center Hospice House in honor of the Council and the Nearly New Thrift Store.

For more information on making a donation to LifePath Hospice, contact John Wilbur at 813-871-8089.

About LifePath Hospice

LifePath Hospice is a community-based, not-for-profit organization that supports patients in Hillsborough County as they face the challenges of life-limiting illnesses. Healthcare professionals and trained volunteers embrace the LifePath Hospice mission to make the most of life by relieving the suffering of patients and their families affected by end-of-life issues. The organization is a 2008 recipient of a Circle of Life Citation of Honor Award, which celebrates innovation in palliative and end-of-life care. LifePath Hospice is accredited by the Joint Commission, the nation’s premier healthcare accrediting agency. For more information, visit the LifePath Hospice website at www.lifepath-hospice.org

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Photo caption: Officers and volunteers of the Interfaith Council of Sun City Center celebrate a \$100,000 pledge to LifePath Hospice at a January 7 check presentation ceremony at the Nearly New Thrift Store. Pictured front row from left: Rose Brook; Dorcas Rowland, Nearly New Thrift Store manager; Joyce Falandysz, Ann DeVine; Naomi Foreman, Interfaith Council grants committee chair; and Anne Bailey. Back row from left: Barbara Lauer, Interfaith Council president; Louise Lee; Marty Donaghue; and Bob Bailey.