



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CONTACT: Patricia Klein
Public Relations Specialist
LifePath Hospice, Inc.

813-871-8417 (desk)

813-352-0990 (cell)

kleinp@hpchealthcare.org

DATE: March 11, 2009

Volunteers are the guarantee of success at Life's Treasures Thrift Store Volunteer recruitment underway at South Tampa shopping landmark

TAMPA – After Liz Bonney's mother passed away while under the care of LifePath Hospice, she looked for a way to give back to the organization that "so lovingly took care of my mom." Bonney, of South Tampa, found volunteering at Life's Treasures, the LifePath Hospice thrift store on South Dale Mabry, fulfilled that desire.

According to Bonney, her volunteering experience has been outstanding. "If I'm having a bad day, I just jump in my car, go to Life's Treasures, put on my apron and get involved," she said. "It means so much to me to give back to an organization that gives so much to the community."

The proceeds from the sales at Life's Treasures go to fund programs and services at LifePath Hospice, which delivers end-of-life care to approximately 1,200 patients each day across Hillsborough County, providing \$4.7 million in charity care in 2007.

The shelves and racks of Life's Treasures are attractively arranged with clothing, furniture, books, jewelry, antiques, linens, household goods and accessories. But those items don't just show up there – it comes from the hard work of volunteers. They keep the place running by accepting donations, sorting and pricing items for sale and displaying merchandise. Other volunteers run the cash register, assist customers and keep the store tidy.

Volunteers at Life's Treasures come to appreciate the friendships they develop as they support the mission of LifePath Hospice. "It is a joy to volunteer at Life's Treasures," said Rosemary Svenningsen, who drives in from St. Petersburg. "Besides making new friends, the feeling of giving back to the community warms my heart."

Life's Treasures volunteers come from all ages and walks of life. Volunteers can be as young as 14 years old. Shifts are flexible and just four hours long. There is no minimum requirement per month and volunteers don't need prior sales experience. "Our volunteers are second to none," said Anne Ferrell, LifePath Hospice volunteer coordinator. "They have a great time, make lasting friendships and support the LifePath Hospice mission to provide compassionate end-of-life care."

Life's Treasures wants to sign up other energetic volunteers at its South Tampa location at 1918 South Dale Mabry Highway. On Tuesday, March 31 at 9 a.m., staff will hold a recruitment open house. Staff and other volunteers will be available to answer questions about donating time and talents to Life's Treasures Thrift Store.

Volunteers at Life's Treasures can't keep their enthusiasm under wraps. "I just love working at Life's Treasures," said Bonney. "I feel proud to work in a beautiful thrift store that is the nicest in town!"

For more information about the Life's Treasures' volunteering recruitment open house on March 31, contact Anne Ferrell at 813-357-5321.

About LifePath Hospice

LifePath Hospice is a community-based, not-for-profit organization that supports and serves nearly 1,200 patients each day 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

###



Liz Bonney straightens the racks at Life's Treasures, the LifePath Hospice Thrift Store on South Dale Mabry. Bonney, of South Tampa, volunteers her time at the store as a way to give back to the hospice organization that cared for her mother.



Life's Treasures Thrift Store volunteer Rosemary Svenningsen (right) takes a short break with her fellow volunteers Cecilia Vargas (left) and Delores Staley. Proceeds from sales at the South Tampa thrift store go to support the programs and services of LifePath Hospice.