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Contact:

Jane DiGirolamo
Montgomery Hospice Foundation
301-921-4400
JDiGirolamo@montgomeryhospice.org
www.montgomeryhospice.org

Montgomery Hospice Receives \$1 Million through Eugene B. Casey Foundation Challenge

Rockville, MD, March 17, 2011 – The Eugene B. Casey Foundation has provided a \$1 million grant to Montgomery Hospice to establish an endowment for Casey House Nurses and Nursing Aides. The challenge grant, issued in the form of a \$1-for-\$1 match up to \$1 million, was offered to Montgomery Hospice in May 2010. The Eugene B. Casey Foundation offered to match cash gifts as they were received in \$250,000 increments.

Ann Mitchell, MPH, President and CEO of Montgomery Hospice, states, "This \$1 million challenge from the Eugene B. Casey Foundation was truly an inspiration to our donors – both former donors and new donors. We were able to raise the first \$250,000 by July, and we continued to receive unprecedented support for this important endowment. We reached the final milestone of raising \$500,000 in cash contributions in January, just eight months after we received the challenge."

Named in honor of Mr. Eugene B. Casey, the Foundation previously donated over six acres of land and nearly \$1 million to build the inpatient hospice as well as an endowment of approximately \$1 million. The recent \$1 million matching grant was in addition to this support. Casey House has served more than 4,500 patients and their families since opening in August 1999. It is the only healthcare facility in Montgomery County exclusively designed for hospice patients. Patients with acute medical needs that cannot be managed in the home receive comprehensive, end-of-life care from the medical team of physicians, nurse practitioners, nurses, social workers, chaplains, nursing aides and volunteers.

Casey House consistently operates at a planned financial deficit because its operational expenses are always greater than the reimbursement received from Medicare, Medicaid and private insurance companies. In addition, no one in need of acute, end-of-life care is ever denied admission, including the uninsured and under-insured.

Montgomery Hospice launched an \$8 million comprehensive campaign in September 2010, and half of the goal will be used to create a \$4 million endowment for Casey House. The other \$4 million provides for general operational needs that are not covered through insurance reimbursement such as bereavement care services, complementary therapies, educational programs and advanced care planning support. To date, \$4.1 million has been raised toward the goal, including \$2 million for the Casey House Nurses and Nursing Aides Endowment.

"We are extremely grateful to the Eugene B. Casey Foundation for its generous support of Casey House and to the many community members who responded so positively to this challenge," adds Ms. Mitchell. "This financial support will help to ensure that we can continue to support the community by providing comprehensive, compassionate, end-of-life care to individuals with life-limiting illnesses."