

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**CONTACT:** Catherine Stahl, 301-990-7927  
Allison Stearns, 301-869-0113**Hospice Caring, Inc. To Lead Widowed Persons Service Support Groups**

Gaithersburg, MD - Hospice Caring, Inc., a non-medical hospice and grief support nonprofit serving Montgomery County, has recently assumed the leadership for three widowed persons' support groups, formerly run by the Widowed Persons Service of Montgomery County (WPS). Since its inception in 1979, WPS has organized and staffed support groups for widowed persons in Montgomery County, providing emotional support, referrals for other services, and community education regarding the needs of widowed persons. WPS ceased operations as of June 30, 2017.

"We are honored and pleased to continue the important work of the Widowed Persons Service that they have continuously provided to citizens of Montgomery County for the past 40 years," said Allison Stearns, LCPC, MPH, Executive Director, Hospice Caring. "This program represents a valuable public/nonprofit partnership that provides critical services to people in need of support during difficult times of loss and grief."

Hospice Caring has opened a satellite office in Holiday Park Senior Center, 3950 Ferrara Drive in Rockville, Maryland, to coordinate the administration and registration for these support groups. The grief support groups are available free of charge to anyone in the community who has experienced the death of a spouse or partner. Two trained facilitators oversee and guide the support groups, which may have up to 12 participants. The support groups meet weekly. Preregistration is required for participation in these support groups, they are *not* drop in groups. For information and registration, contact Anne Baker, Director of Adult Bereavement Services, 301-990-0854, [anneb@hospicecaring.org](mailto:anneb@hospicecaring.org).

The support group locations, dates and times are:

- Holiday Park Senior Center, 3950 Ferrara Drive, Silver Spring, MD. Thursdays, 2:00–3:30 PM
- Jane E. Lawton Community Center, 4301 Willow Lane, Chevy Chase, MD. Thursdays, 2–3:30 PM
- Margaret Schweinhaut Senior Center, 1000 Forest Glen Drive, Silver Spring, MD. Mondays, 1-2:30 PM

These groups are new additions to Hospice Caring's existing adult bereavement services for parent loss, sibling or friend loss, partner/spousal loss, and survivors of suicide loss, offered throughout Montgomery County.

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Founded in 1989, Hospice Caring, Inc. is a volunteer-based, nonprofit organization that provides companionship and practical support for Montgomery County residents with serious illnesses and their families, as well as emotional support for anyone grieving the death of a loved one. All services are provided by trained volunteers at no charge. For more information, visit [www.HospiceCaring.org](http://www.HospiceCaring.org).