

For Immediate Release

## Valley Hospice Foundation AGM Showcases Work of District Palliative Care Team and its Partners...

The Valley Hospice Foundation marked another successful year at its annual general meeting on Wednesday, June 11<sup>th</sup> in Port Williams. The Foundation is seeking to establish a hospice in the Annapolis Valley for those living with, or dying from, a life limiting illness and to serve those who care for them. In the recent past, much work has been done by the foundation to raise the awareness of the need for quality end-of-life care in our communities. The capital campaign, being undertaken jointly with the Valley Regional Hospital Foundation, is to raise funds to establish a hospice in the Annapolis Valley and to fund the Valley Redevelopment project, currently underway in AVH facilities. The 'Staff Giving' phase of the campaign is well on its way to meeting its \$50,000 target. The Wolfville Rotary Club was present at the meeting to announce that they have reached their goal of \$50,000.00, pledged to the initiative three years ago.

Following the business portion of the meeting, members of the palliative care team and its partners were invited to showcase the work they do together. Their discussion helped community members present to understand the roles of each team member and how they work together to provide excellent care to palliative patients and their loved ones. The enthusiasm of the partners was easily apparent and the word 'synergy' was used repeatedly. The discussion included an explanation as to how the hospice will only serve to enhance the work already being done by the team and will provide an ideal environment for patients who are struggling with life limiting illness that require inpatient care. The panel discussion format featured Janet Ness, VON Coordinator of Palliative Care Volunteers, Paulette Gash, Annapolis Valley Health Palliative Care Consultation Nurse, Fern Brydon, VON Nurse Manager and Debbie Hannam, Palliative Care Coordinator, Dept. of Health Continuing Care Branch. The discussion was facilitated by manager Shelagh Campbell-Palmer. The work of these three partners together aims to provide care to palliative patients and their loved ones that appears seamless. They meet regularly with other team members of their respective organizations discuss patient care plans, educate each other and continuously improve processes for communications and delivery of care.

The meeting was well attended by approximately 30 community members and feedback from audience indicated that following the presentation they had a much better understanding of the work of the three partners and their place in the continuum of care.

Contact:

Shelagh Campbell-Palmer,

AVH District Manager, Palliative Care and Chronic Pain Services – 542-2646

Dale Sanford, Development Coordinator, Valley Hospice Foundation – 542-2265