



## ARBOR HOSPICE KICKS OFF 25<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

*Nonprofit "Celebrates Life" by planting new life*

"Celebrating Life" will be the theme as Arbor Hospice commemorates its 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary (1984-2009). The community is invited to be a part of the festivities with a range of special events – including a five-month community gardening project with area parks.

"Above all else, we have been celebrating life for each of the last 25 years," said Gloria Danna Brooks, CEO of Arbor Hospice. "We are dedicated about following the hospice model of care. That means educating and nurturing others hospice care. It means giving comfort and assurance to families and patients on the end of life journey."

To mark the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary, Arbor Hospice is also planning a series of events to recognize its history of providing care to patients and their families. The agency intends to plant 125 "new lives" in five of the communities they serve throughout Southeast Michigan. Beginning on April 18, the community is welcome to join in the celebration by planting a new shrub or flower at one of five community gardening projects taking place from **10 a.m. to 2 p.m.** at the dates and locations listed below:

- **April 18** – Leslie Science & Nature Center, 1831 Traver Rd., Ann Arbor
- **May 9** – The Northville Community Park, 15801 Beck Rd., Northville
- **June 6** – The Emily Bridge Frank Cultural Center, 2427 West Rd., Trenton
- **July 18** – The University of Michigan – Dearborn's Interpretive Center, 4901 Evergreen Rd., Dearborn
- **August 15** – Baldwin Park, corner of Byron Rd. and Spring St., Howell

With the help of the community and the generous support of community partners, Arbor Hospice plans to provide each of these cities with a lasting memorial that will be enjoyed for years to come.

"In this last quarter-century, each one of our patients and their families who have found themselves facing an end-of-life journey have truly become part of the Arbor Hospice 'family,' said Gloria Danna Brooks, CEO of Arbor Hospice. "That's why we wanted to mark this milestone with a living, breathing community project that would honor their loved one for years to come."

Arbor Hospice was founded by Mary Lindquist, a nurse, on June 11, 1984, as "Personalized Nurses Services, Inc." in a time when the word 'hospice' was not yet a part of our daily lexicon, and the small organization was run from a private home.

The agency has reached its quarter century milestone due to the hard work and commitment of thousands of individuals, both within Arbor Hospice and throughout the Southeast Michigan.

In the 2008 fiscal year, Arbor Hospice served more than 7,000 patients, family and community members within its seven counties of service, with more than 23,000 volunteer hours provided.