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Hospice of Bristol Hospital Hosts “An Evening of Remembrance”

Bristol, CT (12/10/09) – Each year Hospice of Bristol Hospital holds its annual Lights of Love “Evening of Remembrance” to recognize deceased loved ones for their life and importance to surviving family members, and to honor Hospice of Bristol Hospital caregivers who provide outstanding support through patient’s end of life journey. This moving event, held on December 2nd, which was attended by 125 guests, coincides with the annual “Lights of Love” campaign that raises funds for the Hospice and Palliative Care Funds at Bristol Hospital.

This evening includes the presentation of several “First Lights of Love”. A “First Light of Love” is presented each year in honor of someone, such as a staff member or Hospice volunteer, for their tremendous commitment to the Hospice program. A second “First Light of Love” is presented to a family in memory of someone who touched the lives of the Hospice staff and volunteers in a special way. This year two First Lights were given in honor of and in memory of people. These recipients include:

- First Light in Memory of: Karen Daigle
- First Light in Memory of: Ann L. Kelly
- First Light in Honor of: Rev J. Richard Fowler, Chaplain, Bristol Hospital
- First Light in Honor of: Sophie Whitlock, RN, Hospice Nurse

One of the highlight’s of this year’s event was the reading of a poem entitled “Karen” that was written by Hospice Nurse Sophie Whitlock, RN, about a special patient that she had cared for, and read aloud by her nurse colleague Donna Marrero, RN. The event also featured music by Bristol Hospital employee and Harpist Jeffrey Palmer.

This evening also celebrates the success of the Lights of Love campaign, which this season has raised \$16,000 to date. Funds raised by the campaign provide Hospice of Bristol Hospital patients and their families with

meals, financial assistance, and bereavement support, as well as community education programs about the end-of-life experience. Hospice volunteers Leslie Kish, MD and Tom LaPorte are chairing this year's campaign. The evening and the campaign are sponsored by Webster Bank and Bristol Hospital.

For more information regarding the Lights of Love campaign, please call the Bristol Hospital Development Foundation at (860) 585-3365.

Bristol Hospital Lights of Love Photo Caption from left to right:

- Bristol Hospital Chaplain Rev. J. Richard Fowler who received a First Lights award;
- Bristol Hospital Hospice and Home care Bereavement Coordinator Betty Burgess;
- Bristol Hospital Hospice Volunteer and Lights of Love Campaign Co-Chair Tom LaPorte.