

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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St. Joseph Hospice Opens Office in Monroe

St. Joseph Hospice has announced the opening of their newest office in Monroe. Located at 1890 Hudson Circle, Suite 3, the office is the eighth Louisiana location for the agency. In business since 2002, St. Joseph Hospice has locations in Baton Rouge, Lafayette, Thibodaux, Alexandria, New Orleans, Covington, and Shreveport and also serves the Gulf Coast with an office located in Picayune, Mississippi.

The St. Joseph Hospice interdisciplinary team works with physicians to formulate a plan of care tailored to the needs of those facing terminal illness. The plan outlines medical and support care, social services, patient/family education, psycho-social services and bereavement counseling. The focus of hospice is to provide high quality comfort care, not only for the patient, but the patient's family and caregivers, who are also impacted by the overall well being of the patient.

The team is comprised of Certified Hospice and Palliative Care physicians who are available for consult 24 hours a day, 7 days a week; hospice-trained registered and licensed practical nurses; certified nursing assistants; medical social workers; non-denominational chaplains and pastors; bereavement professionals and hospice-trained volunteers.

Hospice services are covered by Medicare, Medicaid and most private and managed care insurance plans. St. Joseph Hospice embraces the physical, emotional and spiritual needs of both the patient and their family and never denies anyone care regardless of ability to pay.

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The office is locally owned and will be managed by Shannon D. Newton, RN. A native of East Texas and a resident of Monroe for the past 16 years, Shannon graduated from the University of Louisiana at Monroe with a Bachelor's of Science degree in Nursing. Having been a nurse for some ten years, she served in a telemetry and cardiac invasive unit before dedicating her career to caring for hospice patients over six years ago. Shannon has worked as a hospice Case Manager, Assessment Coordinator and Community/Physician Educator and has spent the last four years as a Clinical Director of a hospice agency in the Monroe area.

"I am excited to be working with St. Joseph Hospice to bring their highly respected level of care to the Monroe area," stated Newton. *"Their dedication to providing compassionate care ensures those facing terminal illness are provided the physical and psycho-social support they need when facing such a difficult time."*

Pat Mitchell, Chief Executive Officer of St. Joseph Hospice, looks forward to working with the area's healthcare community. *"The comment that we receive most from family members whose loved ones have utilized St. Joseph Hospice, is that they'd only wished they'd known about hospice sooner,"* said Mitchell. *"It is our hope that we can work with the healthcare providers of the Monroe area to better educate them and the general public about the wonderful services provided through hospice."* Mitchell went on to add, *"Our philosophy of care is centered around respect and compassion and we strive to provide those facing end of life with the dignity and care they so deserve."*

A division of St. Joseph Holdings, St. Joseph Hospice is a Louisiana-owned and operated agency. The Monroe office can be reached at 318-387-2687. Additional information can be found at www.StJosephHospice.com.