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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE AND PUBLICATION:

**“End-of-Life Nursing Education Consortium – Geriatric Care Curriculum:
Promoting Palliative Care in Geriatric Nursing”**

Nurses spend more time with patients who are facing the end of life than any other member of the health care team. Yet, studies have shown that many nurses feel inadequately prepared to provide the comprehensive care so important at the end of life.

Audrey Wuerl, RN, BSN, Education Coordinator and Edee Singer, RN, BSN, Skilled Nursing Facility Case Manager, Hospice of San Joaquin have recently attended the first ELNEC Geriatric course on end-of-life care held in Long Beach, CA, partially funded by a grant from the California HealthCare Foundation. The City of Hope (COH) and the American Association of Colleges of Nursing (AACN) conducted this training program. This program titled “End-of-Life Nursing Education Consortium – Geriatric Curriculum: Promoting Palliative Care in Geriatric Nursing” is for nurses working in geriatric settings to provide education to other nurses, nursing assistants and support staff. This project is led by Betty R. Ferrell, RN, PhD, FAAN (COH) as the Principal Investigator.

Audrey Wuerl and Edee Singer were two of 90 participants competitively selected from California to attend this training program. The principal goal of the training program is to provide current information on end-of-life care and resources to integrate end-of-life content into geriatric, hospice, long term care and nursing home settings. Course content was presented in several participatory formats including lecture, open forum discussion, small group activities, and training sessions.

The training program was conducted by a distinguished faculty of researchers, educators, authors, and leaders in the field of palliative care. Topic areas included roles of the Geriatric Nurse in end-of-life/palliative care; pain and symptom assessment and management; ethical issues; communication; loss, grief, and bereavement; final hours of life; and achieving quality improvement.