

Press Release

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CENTRAL ASIA HEALTHCARE EXECUTIVES LEARN BEST HOSPICE AND PALLIATIVE CARE PRACTICES AT HOSPICE OF SAN JOAQUIN

Stockton, CA, —Special American Business Internship Training (SABIT), a program sponsored by the United States Department of Commerce, is collaborating with Hospice of San Joaquin in an educational session introducing modern hospice and palliative care practices to Healthcare Executives from Central Asia.

Eighteen delegates representing Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan will tour the U.S. starting in Washington D.C. visiting relevant government agencies and associates. The group will then travel to significant regions across the country meeting with leading U.S. hospitals, healthcare providers and industry experts. In California's Central Valley, Hospice of San Joaquin, in Stockton was selected due to its success in improving quality of life through hospice and palliative care. Besides providing compassionate care, counseling and support to terminally-ill patients and their families, Hospice of San Joaquin strives to educate and collaborate with other healthcare providers and the public in end-of-life care. "Education is part of our agency's mission," said Barbara Tognoli, Hospice of San Joaquin's Director. "As a healthcare partner, we are pleased to be part of the dialog among healthcare advocates throughout the world." Hospice of San Joaquin provides the next level when cure is no longer an option.

Historically, the hospice philosophy and plan of care began in England during the 1970's. The objective is supportive care for patients and families through an interdisciplinary team concept. The team consists of nursing services, social services, spiritual support and bereavement follow-

up, under the guidance of the Hospice Medical Director and patient's primary physician. Hospice of San Joaquin is Joint Commission Certified, and is considered the premiere agency in offering the hospice philosophy of care to the County's residents. "With over 27-years of experience in providing for our terminally-ill patients, we can offer our global healthcare partners a comprehensive understanding of hospice and palliative care which they can apply to their systems." highlighted Tognoli.

The private 2-hour session will take place at the Hospice of San Joaquin Conference Room starting at 2:30 p.m. on Tuesday, January 27, 2009. Media is encouraged to interview the participants at 4:15 p.m. following a 15 minute Q and A session. Hospice of San Joaquin is located at 3888 Pacific Avenue, Stockton, CA.

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