



March 1, 2011

## **MJHS HOSPICE PARTNERS WITH STORYCORPS**

*Not-for-profit organizations collaborate on new Legacy Initiative to preserve stories of New Yorkers who are at different stages of end-of-life journey*

### **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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NEW YORK—MJHS Hospice is partnering with StoryCorps on a new program called the Legacy Initiative. This is the first time both not-for-profit organizations will collaborate on the launch of this program that is specifically designed to encourage and support the act of reminiscence, and to preserve and share the stories of people with life-limiting conditions.

“Life stories are particularly poignant when shared by a hospice patient, which is why MJHS is honored to be the first hospice and palliative care partner organization in the Legacy Initiative,” said Barbara Hiney, Executive Vice President of MJHS Hospice and Palliative Care. “We understand the power of expression and know that our patients and their loved ones will be moved by the sharing of personal stories and life lessons. Throughout the years, we believe the interviews will be a source of comfort for family members, as well as others, who experience grief and loss—whether physically, emotionally, cognitively or spiritually.”

As part of the collaboration, StoryCorps Legacy staff train and prepare MJHS Hospice social workers, nurses, chaplains, creative arts therapists and volunteers to conduct and record interviews using equipment provided by StoryCorps. Following the recorded interview, all participants receive a copy of the interview and are invited to share it with friends and family. Another copy is archived at the American Folklife Center, which is housed at the Library of Congress.

“Looking at a loved one in the eyes and asking about his or her life is one of the greatest gifts we can give one another. The simple act of listening tells them how much they matter, and documenting that conversation for posterity tells them that they won’t be forgotten,” says StoryCorps Founder and President, Dave Isay.

The Legacy Initiative is generously funded by the Pumpkin Trust. The extraordinary programs and services of MJHS Hospice are made possible, in part, through the generous support of MJHS Foundation, as well as by a generous contribution from the Caring Commission of UJA-Federation of New York.

**About MJHS**

MJHS is a charitable not-for-profit organization with more than a century of providing quality, compassionate and innovative health services to New Yorkers of all ages, ethnic, religious and economic backgrounds. MJHS is uniquely positioned to provide the right level of care when and where it is most needed—so the majority of its care recipients are able to continue living at home and we can help reduce hospital readmissions. The MJHS robust portfolio includes: home care, hospice, palliative care, centers for rehabilitation and nursing care, health plans, independent living and adult day health care. For more information, visit [www.mjhs.org](http://www.mjhs.org) or call 1-855-692-5058.

**About the Hospice Programs of MJHS**

MJHS Hospice provides comprehensive culturally-sensitive care and effective pain management to patients with advanced illnesses, as well as their families, throughout the Greater New York area—whether in homes, hospitals, nursing homes or hospice residences. It was one of the original demonstration projects in the 1980s and has remained at the forefront with innovative inpatient and home-based palliative care services, state-of-the-art pediatric hospice care and culturally specific end-of-life programs. For more information, call 1-800- HOSPICE or visit [www.mjhs.org](http://www.mjhs.org).

**About StoryCorps**

StoryCorps is a national nonprofit organization whose mission is to provide Americans of all backgrounds and beliefs with the opportunity to record, preserve, and share their stories. Each week, millions of Americans listen to StoryCorps' award-winning broadcasts on NPR's Morning Edition. StoryCorps has published two books: *Listening Is an Act of Love* in 2007 and *Mom: A Celebration of Mothers from StoryCorps* in 2010—both New York Times bestsellers. For more information, or to listen to stories online, visit [storycorps.org](http://storycorps.org).

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