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## GILCHRIST HOSPICE CARE AND JOSEPH RICHEY HOSPICE JOIN FORCES

HUNT VALLEY – Gilchrist Hospice Care, the largest provider of hospice services in Maryland, and Joseph Richey Hospice, one of the state's oldest hospice organizations, are pleased to announce that the two non-profit hospices are joining forces.

Joseph Richey, which provides care both in patient homes and at its free-standing residential hospice facility in Baltimore City, will join the Gilchrist umbrella of services, which are designed to provide care that is coordinated, comprehensive and compassionate through the end of life.

The move is expected to enhance services to all terminally-ill individuals, especially those residing in Baltimore City, where Joseph Richey operates the only free-standing inpatient hospice facility. That facility will be renamed Gilchrist Center Baltimore - Joseph Richey House and will continue its long-standing mission of serving the underserved. Joseph Richey's existing home care program will be merged into Gilchrist's current program, and all home care will be provided by Gilchrist staff. Joseph Richey Hospice also includes Dr. Bob's Place, a facility designed to provide palliative and hospice care exclusively for children. Although Dr. Bob's suspended operations earlier this year, the two hospices are working together to enhance how pediatric services are delivered in the region.

"We are truly honored that Joseph Richey's Board of Trustees chose to join forces with Gilchrist. This new partnership will allow us to benefit from the histories, strengths and missions of both organizations," said Catherine Y. Hamel, Executive Director of Gilchrist Hospice Care. "Joseph Richey and Gilchrist share a vision of care that is compassionate and dignified, and both remain committed to serving all those in need of hospice care and services, regardless of insurance limitations or ability to pay."

"This new relationship with Gilchrist will enable us to continue providing care tailored to the individual needs of patients and families. We will continue our mission of more than 27 years

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to serve the underserved and disenfranchised communities in our areas," said Michael L. Levin, MD, Board Chair of Joseph Richey. "We are delighted to partner with an organization that shares our vision and values."

Gilchrist Hospice Care provides the finest care through the end of life for patients in Baltimore City and Baltimore, Carroll, Harford and Howard counties. Since 1994, the organization has provided care and services to more than 40,000 terminally ill individuals. Gilchrist offers care in homes, in skilled nursing and assistant living facilities and at our two acute inpatient hospice centers, the 34-bed Gilchrist Center Towson and the 10-bed Gilchrist Center Howard County. Gilchrist Hospice Care is certified by Medicare, licensed by the State of Maryland, accredited by The Joint Commission and a member of the National Hospice and Palliative Care Organization.

Joseph Richey Hospice first opened its doors in downtown Baltimore in 1987. The inpatient hospice now spans four row houses and includes 20 beds, offering pain and symptom management and respite care for terminally-ill patients. Seventy percent of Joseph Richey patients live below the median family income for Baltimore City. Joseph Richey is certified by Medicare, licensed by the State of Maryland and accredited by the Community Health Accreditation Program (CHAP).

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