



## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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### **GILCHRIST CENTER INCREASING INPATIENT BEDS BY MORE THAN 40 PERCENT DUE TO INCREASED DEMAND FOR HOSPICE CARE**

TOWSON – Gilchrist Hospice Care, Maryland’s largest hospice provider, is embarking on a renovation and expansion project that will add increase inpatient space by more than 40 percent and consolidate the nonprofit organization’s administrative and Owings Mills and Harford home care offices in Hunt Valley beginning mid-January.

The project will increase Gilchrist Center’s inpatient capacity from 24 to 34 beds at its intimate, family-friendly site off Towsontown Boulevard on the Greater Baltimore Medical Center campus in order to better serve Gilchrist Hospice Care’s continually-growing population and meet increased demand for acute inpatient care for patients with terminal diagnoses. The 10 new beds will occupy what is now office space on the lower level of Gilchrist Center.

Gilchrist Hospice Care, formerly Hospice of Baltimore, has experienced rapid growth as more and more patients seek out quality end of life care. During the current fiscal year, the average number of patients cared for on a daily basis is projected to increase by about 16 percent to 465. During FY 2008, the organization cared for nearly 2,500 patients and their families. Since 1994, Gilchrist Hospice Care has provided care and services to more than 19,000 terminally ill individuals in Baltimore City and Baltimore, Carroll, Harford and Howard counties.

Most patients are cared for in their own homes, and Gilchrist Hospice Care uses a team-based treatment model that includes registered nurses, social workers, hospice aides, bereavement counselors, chaplains and volunteers. Patients are most often admitted to Gilchrist Center when their pain and symptoms can no longer be managed at home.

“We always want to make sure our patients have access to the care they need as they approach the end of life,” said Catherine J. Boyne, president of Gilchrist Hospice Care. “The expansion will ensure that we can accommodate all of their needs during this most difficult time.”

Since opening in 1996, Gilchrist Center has provided a comforting and serene setting for patients approaching the end of life. It is a place where staff members often go above and beyond to fulfill the last requests of patients – for a cheese steak sandwich, for example – or accommodate family and friends in their efforts to say goodbye – through 24 hour access, family sleepovers and even, once, rotating barbershop quartets who stopped by to pay tribute to a master.

Construction will begin immediately following today’s move of the administrative and Owings Mills and Harford home care offices to:

One Hunt Valley  
11311 McCormick Road, Suite 350  
Hunt Valley, MD 21031

The Howard County office, located in Columbia, will remain open to serve patients and families residing in the county.

The project is scheduled for completion in Fall 2009.

Gilchrist Hospice Care, a subsidiary of GBMC HealthCare, provides quality, compassionate end of life care for patients in Baltimore City and Baltimore, Carroll, Harford and Howard counties.

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