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For Immediate Release

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Hospice Building Awarded LEED Gold Certification

The Lower Cape Fear Hospice & LifeCareCenter Katherine & Duncan Phillips LifeCare & Counseling Center has been awarded LEED® Gold certification. LEED is the nation's preeminent program for the design, construction and operation of high performance green buildings. The Phillips Center is the first new construction LEED-certified building in southeastern North Carolina.

The two-story, 23,500 square foot facility built on the 7.25-acre Hospice Care Center campus at 1414 Physicians Drive in Wilmington opened in February 2009. It serves as a community education and grief counseling center with space allocated for clinical and administrative staff offices. Construction was made possible through the Lower Cape Fear Hospice Foundation Caring for Life capital campaign that raised more than \$1.1 million.

"We were excited to build green and conserve our diminishing natural resources," Lower Cape Fear Hospice & LifeCareCenter President & CEO Laurie Bystrom says. "The upfront costs of this building were about 10 percent more than conventional construction, but over the years, the agency will recoup this through reduced annual expenses, particularly energy costs," she says. "This project was so successful that we plan to incorporate a number of green practices in the design of our proposed hospice care center in Brunswick County."

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The LEED gold certification was based on a number of green design and construction features that positively impact the project and the broader community:

- geothermal HVAC system with ground-source heat pumps utilizing natural heat storage capacity of the earth and a closed-loop water system
- building set into the slope of the land for energy efficiency and minimal land disturbance
- most construction waste recycled and a recycling program implemented
- passive solar design techniques incorporated
- regional, recycled, and energy efficient materials used throughout
- glazing design for maximum daylight and internal views
- low VOC (volatile organic compounds) emitting materials to improve indoor air quality

The Phillips Center project, designed by Lisle Architecture & Design, Inc., won a Lower Cape Fear Stewardship Development Significant Achievement Award in 2007 for its demonstration of outstanding environmental stewardship and is being considered for an Outstanding Achievement Award in 2009. The adjacent Heritage Garden received the City of Wilmington Tree Commission's 2009 Tree Preservation and Landscape Award.

Lower Cape Fear Hospice & LifeCareCenter is a nonprofit agency that provides professional health care and comfort to people with life-limiting illness; support and counseling to families; and education to people in Bladen, Brunswick, Columbus, New Hanover, and Pender counties.

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