



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Good Shepherd Hospice mourns the passing of Erwin “Bud” Somers

SEBRING, FLA. – Good Shepherd Hospice staff, volunteers and supporters are mourning the passing last weekend of Erwin “Bud” Somers of Sebring. Mr. Somers died June 5 at his home.

Late last year, Good Shepherd Hospice announced that Mr. Somers had made a significant donation, earmarked for the construction of the Highlands County Hospice House. Mr. Somers’ gift was in recognition of the compassionate end-of-life care his late wife, Donna, received from Good Shepherd Hospice. In honor of that generous donation, Good Shepherd House will name the freestanding facility the Bud and Donna Somers Hospice House and Resource Center.

“Mr. Somers was a true friend of Good Shepherd Hospice,” said Chris Bredbenner, Good Shepherd Hospice executive director. “With his wife’s illness, he saw firsthand the type of care that hospice delivers. And we will be forever grateful that Mr. Somers chose to thank us with this thoughtful and lasting gift.”

Mr. Somers attended the hospice house groundbreaking in January, where he was reunited with the Good Shepherd Hospice staff members who cared for his wife.

“All of us at Good Shepherd Hospice are greatly saddened that Mr. Somers will not be here for the grand opening early next year,” added Bredbenner. “But the legacy of Bud Somers will live on in the community at the new hospice house, where our patients and their loved ones will find a comfortable, home-like setting while facing the challenges of advanced illnesses.”

About Good Shepherd Hospice

Good Shepherd Hospice is a community-based, not-for-profit organization that supports and serves approximately 750 patients each day in Polk, Highlands and Hardee counties as they face the challenges of life-limiting illnesses. Healthcare professionals and trained volunteers embrace the Good Shepherd Hospice mission to make the most of life by relieving the suffering of patients and their families affected by end-of-life issues. The organization has been a part of the community since 1979 and is a 2008 recipient of a Circle of Life Citation of Honor Award. Good Shepherd Hospice programs are accredited by the Joint Commission, the nation's premier healthcare accrediting body. The United Way of Central Florida partially funds the community programs offered by Good Shepherd Hospice. For more information, please visit the website at www.goodshepherdhospice.org

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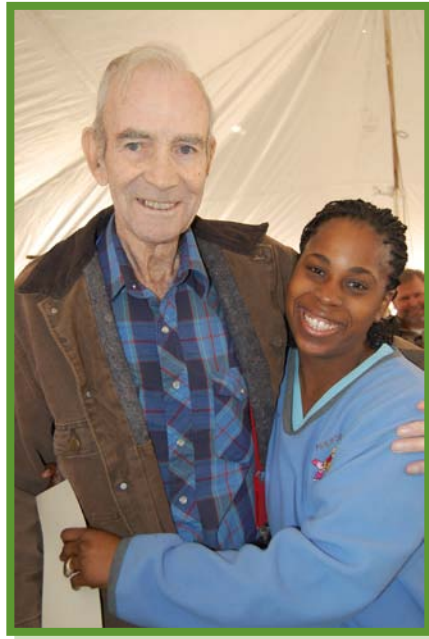


Photo caption: Bud Somers and Good Shepherd Hospice Aide, Amina Hipps, are reunited in January, when Good Shepherd Hospice held a groundbreaking ceremony for the Bud and Donna Somers Hospice House and Resource Center in Sebring. Ms. Hipps cared for Mr. Somers' wife, Donna, who passed away last September. Mr. Somers made a significant donation to Good Shepherd Hospice in appreciation of the care his wife received. To recognize that generous gift, Good Shepherd Hospice will name the freestanding facility in honor of Mr. and Mrs. Somers. Mr. Somers died June 5.