



# CHILDREN'S HOSPICE INTERNATIONAL

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## **CHILDREN'S HOSPICE INTERNATIONAL TO HOST 15<sup>TH</sup> WORLD CONGRESS** *Three-day Symposium to Feature Presentations by International Leaders in Pediatric Palliative and Hospice Care*

Alexandria, VA—July 28, 2003—Children's Hospice International will host pediatric palliative and hospice care experts from all over the world at its 15<sup>th</sup> World Congress to be held September 14-17, 2003 in Alexandria, VA, USA.

Ann Armstrong-Dailey, CHI Founding Director and CEO, stated "this is our 20<sup>th</sup> year of providing comfort and hospice care to children with life-threatening conditions and their families. We felt that there was no better place than right here in Alexandria to celebrate the work of these participants and to highlight the increasing need for pediatric palliative and hospice care." In the past, the CHI World Congress has been held in cities such as Athens, Greece; Sydney, Australia; Vienna, Austria; New Orleans, Louisiana, USA; and Johnstown, PA, USA. Next year's scheduled site is Edinburgh, Scotland.

Invited to open the 15<sup>th</sup> World Congress are U.S. Senator Bob Bennett (R-UT) and U.S. Congressmen John P. Murtha (D-PA) and Jim Moran (D-VA). "These men have been behind our mission for a long time," said Armstrong-Dailey, "without their active and ongoing support, CHI would not be able to help the millions of children and families who need these services and support."

Special events during the Congress will include an opening reception on Sunday, September 14 at the historic Carlyle House in Old Town, Alexandria, Virginia; the presentation of the CHI Achievement Awards by Mrs. John P. Murtha for outstanding contributions to the field of children's hospice care during a luncheon on September 16; and a tribute to Jeni and Mattie Stepanek at the conclusion of the Congress on September 17. Thirteen-year-old *New York Times* best-selling author, Mattie Stepanek has been a spokesperson for CHI since he was seven years old. Former First Lady Barbara Bush and Secretary Tommy Thompson, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services—both public supporters of CHI—have been invited to give keynote addresses.

The co-chairpersons of the 15<sup>th</sup> World Congress are Charles A. Corr, PhD, Professor Emeritus at Southern Illinois University, Edwardsville, Illinois; Pamela Melbourne, RN, MN, Director of Clinical Services, Division of Visiting Nurse Health System, Hospice Atlanta Clinical Services in Atlanta; and Lisbeth Quesada Tristán, MD, Director, Palliative Care and Pain Control Clinic, National Children's Hospital and President of the Palliative Care Foundation in Costa Rica. Several members of CHI's International Advisory Council—Stefan Friedrichsdorf, MD, Chairman and Project Director, Palliative Care and Evaluation in Paediatric Haematology/Oncology, Vest Children's Hospital, Datteln, Germany; Anna Gorchakova, PhD, Director, Belarussian Children's Hospice, Minsk, Belarus; and Barbara

Sourkes, PhD, Kriewall-Haehl Director, Pediatric Palliative Care Program, Lucile Packard Children's Hospital at Stanford University, Palo Alto, California will also be in attendance.

Children's Hospice International (CHI<sup>®</sup>) is an Alexandria, VA-based non-profit organization founded in 1983 to promote hospice support through pediatric care facilities providing community-based programs and resources for children with life-threatening conditions and their families. CHI also provides education, training and technical assistance to healthcare professionals who care for this patient population. Information on pediatric palliative and hospice care, as well as an international directory of children's hospice, palliative and end-of-life programs and organizations can be found at CHI's website, [www.chionline.org](http://www.chionline.org).