



# CHILDREN'S HOSPICE INTERNATIONAL

901 NORTH PITT STREET • SUITE 230 • ALEXANDRIA • VIRGINIA • 22314 • USA  
800.2.4.CHILD • FAX: 703.684.0226 • INFO@CHIONLINE.ORG • WWW.CHIONLINE.ORG

Contact: Sue Kennedy, CHI  
301.322.4156/ 301.346.2038

## **CHILDREN'S HOSPICE INTERNATIONAL TO OPEN 15<sup>TH</sup> WORLD CONGRESS** *Three-day Symposium will Kick-off on September 15 with Participants from U.S Congress and a Tribute to Mattie and Jeni Stepanek*

Alexandria, VA—September 3, 2003—Children's Hospice International (CHI) will open its 15<sup>th</sup> World Congress, which will include pediatric palliative and hospice care experts from around the world, on Monday, September 15, 2003 at the Radisson Hotel in Old Town Alexandria, Virginia, USA. Scheduled to participate in the Opening are U.S. Senator Bob Bennett (R-UT) and U.S. Congressmen John P. Murtha (D-PA) and James P. Moran (D-VA). Thirteen-year-old *New York Times* best-selling author Mattie Stepanek, author of *Heartsongs* and other poetry collections, and his mother Jeni will also attend the Opening, at which time CHI will present them with a special tribute on behalf of all children with life-threatening conditions and their families.

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 and our 15<sup>th</sup> World Congress. We are so excited that these Members of Congress and Mattie and Jeni will be able to participate in this auspicious event. Their active and ongoing support enables CHI to help the millions of children and families in need of hospice services and support."

The Opening is slated to begin at 8:30 am on Monday, September 15 in the Jefferson Ballroom of the Radisson Hotel Old Town. Armstrong-Dailey will officially open the 15<sup>th</sup> World Congress and Kathryn Turner, Chairperson and CEO, Standard Technology Inc. and Chairperson of CHI's Board of Directors will also be in attendance for the ceremonies. The newest demonstration model for CHI's Program for All-Inclusive Care for Children and Their Families™ (CHI PACC®), recently selected through a competitive Request for Proposals (RFP) process, will be announced at the opening. CHI PACC demonstration programs currently exist in the following states: Colorado, Florida, Kentucky, New York, Utah, Virginia and through a pilot project with the Department of Defense (DOD) at Walter Reed Army Medical Center (WRAMC).

Other significant activities during CHI's 15<sup>th</sup> World Congress include an evening reception on Sunday, September 14 at the historic Carlyle House in Old Town, Alexandria, Virginia. CHI will be honoring U.S. Congressman James P. Moran with the "Ray of Hope" Award for his continued support of CHI PACC and all children with life-threatening conditions and their families. The CHI Achievement Awards for outstanding contributions to the field of children's hospice care will be presented by Mrs. John P. Murtha during a luncheon at the Radisson Hotel on Tuesday, September 16.

For more information about CHI's upcoming 15<sup>th</sup> World Congress and the Opening of the Congress, or to attend any of these special events, please call 703.684.0330 or visit our web site at [www.chionline.org](http://www.chionline.org).

**Children's Hospice International**

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).

**CHI Program for All-Inclusive Care for Children and Their Families<sup>™</sup> (CHI PACC<sup>®</sup>)**

CHI, through Congressional appropriations and with technical assistance from the federal Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS), developed the CHI Program for All-Inclusive Care for Children and Their Families<sup>™</sup> (CHI PACC<sup>®</sup>) to overcome existing barriers to appropriate care for children with life-threatening conditions, and to allow for a continuum of care from time of diagnosis—with hope for a cure—through bereavement, if cure is not attained.

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