

High Peaks Hospice & Palliative Care, Inc. New Executive Director

**For Immediate Release:
January 25, 2017**

Nicholas George is Chosen as HPHPC's New Executive Director

Candidate search focused on the organization's goals for the future

(Saranac Lake, NY) – High Peaks Hospice & Palliative Care, Inc. (HPHPC) announced today that its board of directors has selected Nicholas George as the organization's new executive director, effective January 1, 2017. George succeeded Meg Wood, who has led the organization since 2013.

Mr. George, currently, is owner of Kinetic Symmetry, that specializes in creating environments that facilitate relationship growth and organizational change. He previously was the Executive Director of Queensbury Senior Citizens, Inc, manager at Corning Federal Credit Union and a Project Manager for Corning Inc. and was the Training Director for Rotary District 7190 covering the Capital Region. He was an Adjunct Professor at Corning Community College. Prior to that, he served in the US Air Force as a Captain working at the Pentagon.

Mr. George holds a B.S. degree from Clarkson University. He has extensive Board experience, serving on the boards of Retired Service Volunteer Program (RSVP), Adirondack Interagency Council and High Peaks Hospice & Palliative Care, Inc, Greater Glens Falls Roman Catholic Cluster Council, Chemung Chamber of Commerce and Chemung Valley Monterssori School.

“With the aging of the Baby-Boomers, our nation is experiencing an increase in the need for hospice services. HPHPC began 30 years ago, as a grassroots movement in the Tri-Lakes to provide better care for the dying. Hospice is now an integral part of the U.S. healthcare landscape and HPHPC is committed to ensuring we are providing the best possible care for those facing life-limiting illness,” said Mr. George.



Nicholas George, ED

“Hospice in the 21st Century must combine the core hospice philosophy with a laser-like focus on quality and access to care. Hospice care must always be focused on patient and caregiver needs, and must be compliant with all federal and state laws and rules. I am honored to join HPHPC at this important time, and look forward to working with HPHPC and its community partners on building a better, fairer and more accessible healthcare system,” Mr. George remarked.

“I am delighted that Nick George has joined HPHPC to lead us into the future. He has the experience and insight from which our entire community will certainly benefit,” said Robert Flynn, HPHPC Board President. “Over the past several months, we have worked to identify the best candidate and I thank all the members of the board of directors for their dedication to this important task.”

About HPHPC

High Peaks Hospice and Palliative Care was founded in January 1986 by Ann and David Merkel (see photo below) and a dedicated group of concerned medical, clergy, and community volunteers, who saw the need for expanded services to the terminally ill throughout the Adirondack Mountains.



For two and a half years' volunteers alone provided supportive services to area residents from office space donated by the Trudeau Institute.

In August 1998, our ability to provide comprehensive medical treatment along with supportive care was realized following certification by State and Federal agencies. That same year High Peaks Hospice received the prestigious Eleanor Roosevelt Community Service Award by Governor Cuomo for outstanding volunteer service (over 6900 volunteer hours).

A vision and thirty years later, High Peaks Hospice and Palliative Care has two clinical offices that cover a vast and challenging service area of 5400 square miles and serves patients and their families facing end-of-life in all of Essex and Warren counties and parts of Franklin, Hamilton, St. Lawrence and Washington counties. The organization employs over 50 employees and volunteers – who started it all and continue to be the heart and soul of the organization – number over 80.

Learn more about the High Peaks Hospice & Palliative Care, Inc. go to www.highpeakshospice.org

-###-

Media Contact:

Tania McCabe
HPHPC, Outreach Coordinator-Northern Territory
Ph: 518-891-9637 x 107
tmccabe@hphpc.org