



Hospice of
Palm Beach County
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**HOSPICE OF PALM BEACH COUNTY STAFF MEMBER RECEIVES
INTERNATIONAL UNSUNG FACILITY HERO AWARD**

West Palm Beach, FL, October 2007.....Hospice of Palm Beach County is pleased to announce that staff member Fernando Gonzalez has won the International Executive Housekeeper Association Third Annual 2007 Unsung Facility Hero Award. The award recognizes that employee who exemplifies dignity in the housekeeping field, who upholds the integrity of the industry, and who goes above and beyond the call of duty time after time. Recipients go into the "Hall of Fame" of cleaners whose attention and proactive measures have either saved the facility money or assisted a guest or patient with a need.



Fernando Gonzalez



**Robert Hogue presents Fernando Gonzalez with the
2007 Unsung Facility Hero Award.**

As one of over 900 staff members at Hospice of Palm Beach County, Gonzalez has gone above and beyond the realm of his job responsibilities since he began working there five years ago. Robert Hogue, C.E.H., Housekeeping Supervisor at Hospice of Palm Beach County, nominated Gonzalez for the award. "Fernando has excellent skills in floor finishing and maintenance. He cleans patient rooms, sets up meeting rooms, and has worked in all Hospice of Palm Beach County departments wherever he's needed. However, there is so much more that Fernando does—outside the scope of his job responsibilities—that makes him deserving of this special award," said Hogue.

Mr. Gonzalez's heroic acts not only during a series of hurricanes but also daily have made a lasting impression on staff and those served by Hospice of Palm Beach County. Dedication to his job responsibilities include:

* When Gonzalez first started at Hospice of Palm Beach County, he knew little English and had a hard time understanding staff and supervisors. So, Gonzalez enrolled in a local English class to learn more. Now, he assists as a translator between patients and nurses at Hospice.

* Florida has been plagued by many hurricanes in recent years, and while many employees would abandon work responsibilities and take cover at home, Gonzalez instead chose to stay at Hospice and provide support for the facilities and staff. During the last four hurricanes, Gonzalez was at Hospice of Palm Beach County's Charles W. Gerstenberg Center 24 hours a day for several days. "Prior to the storms, he helped protect our main office building," says Hogue. "During the storms, he helped protect carpets from water damage. He also assisted in preparing food in the kitchen for the 200 additional community and family members who came for shelter. His commitment impressed many, and his dedication inspired all."

"As his supervisor, I feel Fernando is an outstanding employee and willing to assist everyone. He works with the Facilities Department whenever there is a need and does 'whatever it takes' for patients and families," said Hogue.

About Hospice of Palm Beach County: *Hospice of Palm Beach County offers a wide range of services and educational programs designed to meet the special needs of patients and families faced with advanced illness. Expert physical, emotional and spiritual care is provided wherever the patient is - the home, skilled nursing or assisted living facility, hospital or hospice inpatient unit, including the C.W. Gerstenberg Hospice Center in West Palm Beach, the Hospice and Palliative Care Unit at Pinecrest Delray, the Bethesda Memorial Hospice and Palliative Care Unit at Bethesda Memorial Hospital, the Hospice and Palliative Care Unit at Good Samaritan Medical Center, the Hospice and Palliative Care Unit at Palm Beach Gardens Medical Center and the Jay Robert Lauer Hospice and Palliative Care Unit at JFK Medical Center. The organization also offers full bereavement support to Hospice families and anyone in the community in need. Hospice of Palm Beach County's focus is on quality of life. The organization is sensitive to and respectful of religious, cultural and personal beliefs. Contact Hospice of Palm Beach County toll free at 888-848-5200 or visit the website www.hpbc.com for information.*

*Accredited as a Jewish Hospice by the Palm Beach County Board of Rabbis, Inc.
Hispanic Patient Care Teams
Serving all of Palm Beach County - Boca Raton to Tequesta, the Glades to the Beach
Over 29 years as Palm Beach County's Leading Provider of Hospice Care*

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