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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Made with a stitch of love and thread of hope, local elementary class donates blankets to hospice patients.

ANN ARBOR, Mich. –September 5, 2008—Students at Eberwhite Elementary School got creative in a classroom community service project to provide comfort to patients facing the end-of-life- journey. Rose Giacherio’s 5th grade class learned many new skills from grant writing to navigating the city bus system to using a needle and thread as they worked to create handmade blankets to be donated to patients living at The Residence of Arbor Hospice.

The students applied for a grant from the Ann Arbor Community Foundation and received \$100 to complete their project. They compiled a budget and took the city bus to Jo-Ann Fabrics where each group had \$14 to purchase supplies. Each student learned to how to cut fabric and sew and carefully added special touches to each blanket. “Some of the kids had never held a needle, but they had such a great time making these blankets,” said Giacherio.

In total, the class created nine fleece blankets, each decorated with buttons and special designs. “Sewing!” was the best part of this project according to student, Max Cocco, who used his free time on a snow day to make an extra blanket to donate.

The class proudly presented their blankets to Glenda Gordon Kime, Director of Donor Relations and Events at Arbor Hospice, who talked with the students about hospice care. “These beautiful blankets are wonderful and exactly what Arbor Hospice stands for: comfort and caring,” she said.

“We are very grateful for such fantastic community support. This loving donation of blankets from our young supporters warms our heart,” said Gloria Danna Brooks, President & CEO of Arbor Hospice.

Photo Captions:

Eberwhite 1: Mrs. Giacherio’s class travels to Jo-Ann Fabrics to purchase supplies to make blankets for patients living at The Residence of Arbor Hospice

Eberwhite 2: Student Avery Pieronek puts the finishing touches on her group’s blanket.

Eberwhite 3: The class presents a blanket to Glenda Gordon Kime of Arbor Hospice.

Eberwhite 4: The entire class with Mrs. Giacherio, their teacher, Miss Butler, student teacher and Glenda Gordon Kime of Arbor Hospice.

About Arbor Hospice and The Arbor Hospice Foundation:

For more than 24 years Arbor Hospice has been committed to providing quality, compassionate care for those experiencing the end-of-life journey. Arbor Hospice is integrated into the community with the help of its experienced staff and caring volunteers through its certified hospice services, residential hospice facility, grief support services, and community education programs. Arbor Hospice serves Ann Arbor and communities in Washtenaw County, Western Wayne County and Downriver with branches in Ann Arbor, Northville and Trenton. The Arbor Hospice Foundation provides philanthropic support for programs and services provided to more than 6,000 individuals including patients, their families and community members served by Arbor Hospice.

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