



news release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

New Local Productions That Describe Palliative Care to Premiere on Western Reserve PBS

NORTHEAST OHIO — Sept. 30, 2013 — When families are faced with the reality of their child's chronic disease or life-threatening illness, they are all involved and in need of help and support. An innovative program at Akron Children's Hospital that is addressing the needs of these patients and their families is featured in a new documentary produced by the hospital, Northeast Ohio Medical University (NEOMED) and Joshua Tree Productions. **Portraits of Life, Love & Legacy Through Pediatric Palliative Care** will premiere on Western Reserve PBS (WNEO 45.1 / WEAO 49.1) on Sunday, Oct. 13, at 10 p.m. This hour-long production shares the stories of seven families and their close partnerships with Haslinger Family Pediatric Palliative Care Center at Akron Children's Hospital. It offers information about the center's services and shows what care can and should be for every family facing the challenge of caring for a seriously ill child.

Following the documentary at 11 p.m., Western Reserve PBS presents a half-hour companion program, **A Closer Look: Palliative Care**. To discuss this relatively new type of medical care as it relates to patients of all ages, host Toni Kayumi of Western Reserve Public Media welcomes Sarah Friebert, M.D., director of pediatric palliative care at Akron Children's Hospital; Sue Howson, nurse case manager at Akron Children's Hospital; and Barb Palmisano, director, Offices of Palliative Care and Geriatrics at Northeast Ohio Medical University.

Palliative care begins at the time of initial diagnosis of life-threatening or serious illness and continues throughout the journey to cure or to death and bereavement, if that occurs. It involves both comfort-oriented and cure-directed therapies in which providers partner with families to help them navigate a complex health care system and make the best decisions about their family member's care. It is the art and science of holistic

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care — physical, emotional, social, spiritual and practical — provided for the patient and their families by a team that focuses on relieving the symptoms and conditions that detract from the person’s enjoyment of life.

Both programs will air additional times on Western Reserve PBS (WNEO 45.1 / WEAO 49.1) and Fusion (WNEO 45.2 / WEAO 49.2) channels. For more information, visit <http://westernreservepublicmedia.org/schedule.htm>.

About Akron Children’s Hospital

Akron Children’s Hospital is a not-for-profit organization established in 1890, and is the largest pediatric health care provider in northeast Ohio. With a staff of more than 4,000, it cares for nearly 600,000 patients each year at two freestanding hospitals and offers services to families throughout the region at more than 80 locations. Its pediatric specialists care for children of all ages, treating a wide range of conditions from routine primary care to the most complicated injuries and illnesses.

Akron Children’s earned the Gold Seal of Approval from the Joint Commission, a health care provider accreditation organization, as well as Magnet Recognition Status for nursing excellence from the American Nurses Credentialing Center. It is also a major teaching affiliate of Northeast Ohio Medical University, and offers a number of pediatric subspecialty fellowship training programs. In addition, Akron Children’s is committed to finding ways to improve the prevention and treatment of pediatric illnesses through its Rebecca D. Considine Research Institute. For more information, visit www.akronchildrens.org.

About NEOMED

Northeast Ohio Medical University is a community-based, public medical university with a mission to improve the quality of health care in Northeast Ohio working in collaboration with its educational and clinical partners. With a focus on scientific and medical research, and the interprofessional training of health professionals that is unique to the state of Ohio, the University offers a doctor of medicine (M.D.) and a doctor of pharmacy (Pharm.D.) degree, in addition to graduate-level coursework and research opportunities leading to master’s and doctoral degrees in other medical areas.

About Western Reserve Public Media

Western Reserve Public Media (formerly PBS 45 & 49) is owned and operated by Northeastern Educational Television of Ohio, Inc., a private, nonprofit corporation and consortium of Kent State University, The University of Akron and Youngstown State University. A trusted community resource, Western Reserve Public Media uses the power of commercial-free television and related services to enrich the lives of people through high-quality programming and educational services that teach, illuminate and inspire. It serves the largest population of Ohio’s eight PBS member stations.

Western Reserve PBS (WNEO 45.1/WEAO 49.1), a service of the organization, is the only broadcast television service that reaches all of Northeast Ohio. It is available to 5.13 million people in the Cleveland and Youngstown designated market areas. In an average month, more than 1 million people tune in. The organization also operates three standard definition channels: Fusion (WNEO 45.2/WEAO 49.2), MHz Worldview (WNEO 45.3/WEAO 49.3) and V-me (WNEO 45.4/WEAO 49.4).

Through funding from the Ohio Department of Education, Western Reserve Public Media provides K-12 educational technology training and instructional television programming to 21,500 educators and 256,700 students in eight Ohio counties. For more information about the organization, visit www.WesternReservePublicMedia.org or call 1-800-554-4549.

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