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• **Solari Hospice Care**
• **NEWS RELEASE**
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Neighbors Helping Neighbors

Degree of Pocahontas Donation to Benefit Camp Solari

Las Vegas, Nev. – Oct. 25, 2011 – In a generous outpouring of community spirit and compassion, Las Vegas Nogcus Council #305 of the Degree of Pocahontas (D of P) recently donated \$2,500 to the Solari Hospice Foundation, a nonprofit organization dedicated to educating patients, their families and the community about end-of-life care. The donation will help provide financial and operational support for Camp Solari, a bereavement camp for children and their families.

Founded in 2004, Camp Solari was developed specifically to help survivors come together for a weekend of music, art, and other fun and educational activities geared to help them deal productively with their loss.

“Solari Hospice Care is located just a few blocks away from where we meet each month at the Jaycee Senior Mobile Home Park Community Center, and so it seemed a natural fit to help our neighbors,” explains Dolores Ramirez, a founding member of the Las Vegas Nogcus Council of the D of P and the 2010-2011 Great Pocahontas (President) of the larger Reservation of California to which the local Nogcus Council belongs. “The precept of the Degree of Pocahontas is freedom, friendship and charity. The best way to begin extending that friendship is to help a local charity right here in Spring Valley.”

Each year, the Great Pocahontas has the honor of choosing one area of charitable work as a focus for the organization’s fundraising efforts. Ramirez chose hospice because she has personally seen the difference it makes in people’s lives.

“I’ve been impressed by all of the great work that the people at Solari Hospice Care do,” says Ramirez. “I’ve toured the inpatient home and was amazed to learn about the many different services and programs they offer not only for patients, but for the caregivers and families. Camp Solari is a great cause because it really changes people’s lives.”

Camp Solari is led by a group of professionals who are experienced in grief counseling. Support for the camp comes from donations made by individuals and charities in the greater Las Vegas community. There is no cost to those who attend.

“We are sincerely honored that this wonderful group of women from the Degree of Pocahontas chose Solari Hospice Foundation as their charity of choice this year,” explains Candis Armour, executive director, Solari Hospice Care, who accepted the check at the Annual Appreciation Day of the Nogcus Council of the D of P. “Camp Solari is a place where kids and their surviving loved ones can go and get away from the problems of everyday life. An incredible spirit of camaraderie develops when you meet others who are experiencing similar emotions. We do everything we can to help families develop healthy ways to express their feelings and continue on with life while honoring the memories of those they lost.”

“Our code of honor is to extend compassion to others, just as the Native American princess, Pocahontas, did when she saved the lives of the Jamestown colony settlers so many years ago,” says Thelma Northrup, Keeper of Records (Secretary) for the Nogcus Council of the D of P, which currently has about 40 members. “The people at Solari Hospice Care do a wonderful job of reaching out to those in our local community who have suffered significant loss of life. We feel privileged that our group can do something to help the people here in Spring Valley and Las Vegas.”

The Degree of Pocahontas was officially organized in 1885 as the women's auxiliary of The Improved Order of Red Men, the oldest fraternal organization in the United States, tracing its roots back to the Sons of Liberty. Nationally, the D of P has donated nearly \$3 million to help the Alzheimer’s Association. Locally, the Nogcus Council of the D of P has supported numerous charities, including the Nevada State Veterans Home, St. Jude’s Ranch for Children and Ronald McDonald House Charities. Members also give of their time to help transport dialysis patients, make pillowcases for children with cancer and send care boxes to servicemen overseas.

In addition to financial support to the Solari Hospice Foundation’s Camp Solari, Northrup notes that the Nogcus Council of the D of P has collected items for yard sales to benefit the Foundation and made lap robes and afghans for patients at the Solari Hospice Care Inpatient Home, located at 5530 S. Jones Blvd.

The next Camp Solari will be held from May 18-20 at the Mount Charleston Lodge, located at the end of Highway 157 and about a 30-minute drive from Las Vegas. For more information about Camp Solari or to learn how you can make a donation to Solari Hospice Foundation, please visit www.solarihospice.com, e-mail info@solarihospice.net or call 702-870-0000. For information on how to become a member of the Degree of Pocahontas, call Thelma Northrup at 702-889-3929 or Dolores Ramirez at 702-876-1167.

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