FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

Karla Nichols Named Statewide Heart of Hospice Visionary Winner

"Her genuine kindness and thoughtfulness have personally touched countless lives"

KANSAS CITY, Mo., May 5, 2025 - For more than 25 years, Karla Nichols has transformed lives as the Executive Director of Cancer Action in Kansas City. In addition to her leadership role at Cancer Action, Karla has served on the Kansas City Hospice & Palliative Care (KCH) Professional Advisory Committee for more than 15 years, offering invaluable insights to align hospice services with patient and community needs.

That's why Kansas City Hospice nominated Karla for the Missouri Hospice & Palliative Care Association's (MHPCA's) recent statewide Heart of Hospice Visionary Award. *And she won!*

"Her collaborations with hospice organizations have improved access to holistic care, ensuring that patients and families receive the support they deserve," says David Wiley, President & CEO of Kansas City Hospice & Palliative Care." He also says, "Her commitment extends far beyond her professional role. Her genuine kindness and thoughtfulness have personally touched countless lives. When local families face the devastating realities of cancer, Karla provides both resources and also moments of grace—such as ensuring a mother could accompany her daughter to a special high school event despite declining health. These acts of compassion reflect Karla's unwavering dedication to bringing dignity, comfort, and hope to all she serves."

Annually, MHPCA requests nominations in several different categories for their Heart of Hospice Awards. The competition is fierce. The nominees come in from statewide member organizations of MHPCA. But at KCH we happen to think we have phenomenal people and outstanding programs, so we submitted a nomination in five different categories. And—although we can't possibly win <u>all</u> of the awards, they're **all** winners in our eyes.

Karla and the Cancer Action organization are pillars of support for individuals and families navigating the challenges of cancer, empowering thousands of people with critical resources, emotional support, and compassion. Through Karla's vision and dedication, Cancer Action has expanded to two locations, serving six counties in Greater Kansas City. Karla's leadership has enabled Cancer Action to navigate economic challenges, a global pandemic, and many other obstacles—all while expanding and enhancing its programs.

Karla embodies the essence of visionary leadership. Her contributions have both strengthened Cancer Action and also uplifted the entire community. This nomination recognizes her exceptional dedication and celebrates the remarkable difference she continues to make in the lives of those she serves. Her unwavering dedication combined with her ability to inspire hope and dignity make her a deserving recipient of the Heart of Hospice Visionary Award.

About Kansas City Hospice & Palliative Care

The mission of Kansas City Hospice & Palliative Care is to bring expert care, peace of mind, comfort, guidance, and hope to people who are affected by serious illness or by grief. And, our vision is that each person in our community is valued from life through death and each family is supported in their grief. The team of caring and trained professionals is considered the leader and innovator in palliative and end-of-life care in this region. We are also the area's only provider of comprehensive community-based grief support services. More than 300 volunteers assist in many roles, including administrative duties and working with patients and families.

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For More Information

Caryn Hohnholt
Chief Development & Communications Officer
For Kansas City Hospice & Palliative Care
9001 State Line Road, Suite 300
Kansas City, MO 64114 816.276.2615 or chohnholt@KCHospice.org