



Hospice Volunteers of Waterville Area

304 Main Street • P.O. Box 200

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October 28, 2008

For immediate release

A story about the local grief support program, Camp Ray of Hope (CROH) was aired on the national PBS show *Religion and Ethics Newsweekly* this week.

Picture taken at Camp Ray of Hope is attached. Caption:

Jim Dunbar of Winslow is pictured here with Luke Armentrout of Farmingdale. Dunbar and other members of Trout Unlimited offered workshops on fly fishing at Camp Ray of Hope this fall. Camp Ray of Hope was featured on a PBS national broadcast this week.

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Press Release

Camp Ray of Hope gains national recognition

A story about Camp Ray of Hope (CROH) was aired on the national PBS TV show *Religion and Ethics Newsweekly* this week. The show's producer Marcia Henning and PBS journalist Bob Faw came in from Washington DC and spent the weekend at Camp Ray of Hope in Winthrop, where they filmed and interviewed campers and staff throughout the weekend. Faw, who is also an award-winning national correspondent with NBC News, said "Marcia Henning learned about Camp Ray of Hope while reading *A Healing Touch: true stories of life, death and hospice*, edited by Richard Russo. The chapter about Deb (and Ed Crocker written by Gerry Boyle) made a particular impression and convinced her to pursue the story".

Faw was impressed with the program saying "What surprised me at Camp Ray of Hope is how individual -- indeed, unique -- the grieving experience is. That there is no right or wrong way to grieve, nor is there any one timetable that fits everyone. That everyone travels what you call the "journey" differently. Personally, I was quite touched by the workshop where clay pots were broken, then reassembled. It's a perfect metaphor for how lives can never be the same but that they can be mended" said Faw.

CROH is one of the grief support programs offered by Hospice Volunteers of Waterville Area (HVWA). We offer several workshops throughout the weekend that demonstrate healthy coping strategies and self care techniques" said Dale Marie Clark, HVWA executive director. "Campers choose which workshops are of interest and best fit their life styles" said Clark. "The objective is to help them develop a personal "coping well" they can draw from throughout the year". According to Clark "PBS put together a beautiful 8 ½ minute piece that was aired across the country on Sunday. "People have emailed and called HVWA from coast to coast wanting more information about Camp Ray of Hope. As we had hoped, the story seems to have inspired others to begin or attend similar programs in their own areas of the country". The show can be accessed through a link on the CROH web site www.hvwa.org/camp-ray-of-hope.



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Camp Ray of Hope is a statewide weekend retreat for grieving families and individuals that takes place annually, the third weekend of September, at Camp Mechuwana on "The Narrows", in Winthrop, Maine. For more information about CROH and all HVWA grief support programs call 873-3615 or www.hvwa.org.

- more -

To access the Camp Ray of Hope segment on PBS *Religion and Ethics Newsweekly*:

<http://www.pbs.org/wnet/religionandethics/week1207/feature.html>

For additional information about Bob Faw, NBC News National Correspondent:

<http://www.msnbc.msn.com/id/3687995/>

Contact Deb Crocker, youth services coordinator at (207) 873-3615 x 19 or dcrocker@hvwa.org for information about HVWA's programs for grieving children and teens:

Camp Ray of Hope September 18-20, 2009 www.hvwa.org/camp-ray-of-hope

Hope's Place, next session begins in January 2009 www.hvwa.org/hopes-place

Hospice Volunteers of Waterville Area (HVWA) is a non-profit organization founded in 1980 that serves 27 communities in Central Maine. It exists to provide non-medical support to individuals and their families during the last phases of life, to loved ones throughout the grieving process, and to educate the community on issues related to death and grieving. Bereavement services are available to anyone who has sustained loss either through illness or unexpectedly. HVWA is volunteer-based and community funded. For more information about the free end-of-life and grief support services offered by HVWA phone 873-3615 or access information online at www.hvwa.org.

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