**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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*The Festival of Trees will run throughout the month of December*

**Hospice of Stanly Hosts**

**Festival of Trees**

**November 17, 2022** (ALBEMARLE, NC) -- Hospice of Stanly announces its annual holiday fundraiser, the Festival of Trees, throughout the month of December at the Stanly County Commons.

The Festival has been a highlight of the holiday season for the community since 1998. The event showcases more than 50 Christmas trees sponsored and decorated by organizations and volunteers from Hospice of Stanly. The trees are themed and range from whimsical to elegant. Larger trees have been added this year as a point of interest.

On Monday, December 5, Hospice will host a tree lighting ceremony for the Angel Trees. Volunteers have crafted nearly 1,000 angel ornaments in honor or memory of those in the community. The lighting ceremony will take place from 4pm to 6pm in the Stanly Commons.

Santa and Mrs. Claus will be at the Stanly County Commons and taking photos with children on Wednesday, December 7 for the Stanly County Public Library pre-school story time at 10:00 am. They will return on Thursday, December 8 from 5:00 pm to 7:00 pm for photos with the community. Kids and pets are welcome. No reservations are required for the photos – simply bring your family and your camera. The Hospice of Stanly bereavement team will also offer an ornament workshop for children who have experienced a loss this year.

“We invite the community to walk through the Stanly Commons this month and enjoy the beauty and splendor of the holiday season with us,” said Hospice of Stanly Executive Director Lori Thayer. “This community has been so supportive of Hospice of Stanly throughout the past 40 years. We are delighted to pay forward that kindness through the joy of the Christmas season.”

Trees are available for sponsorship by calling Hospice of Stanly at 704.983.4216. Individual and business names are displayed by the tree they sponsor.

**About Hospice of Stanly**

Hospice of Stanly & the Uwharrie, a nonprofit organization, was founded through the grassroots efforts of people in the community and it continues to be governed locally by a board of directors. Through the generosity of many, Hospice of Stanly has been able to provide care to more than 7,000 terminally ill residents since 1981. The organization provides compassionate care, comfort, and support for patients and their families. More information about hospice and advance care planning is available from Hospice of Stanly & the Uwharrie by calling 704.983.4216 or by visiting [hospiceofstanly.org.](https://hospiceofstanly.org/)

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