



**PRESS RELEASE**

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**National Leadership and Management development organization taps  
Covenant Hospice for a new partnership**

**Pensacola, FL** – The Studer Group, a national healthcare leadership and management development group, and Covenant Hospice headquartered in Pensacola, Florida, announced an exciting new partnership today, which will include collaboration for multiple services for health care organizations. The new services will include training programs for leaders involved with providing end-of-life care (including palliative, home health, long term care and hospice care), specialized consultation services, and an Institute concentrating on end-of-life issues. The two organizations will also harvest and develop new tools and teaching material.

Dale O. Knee, Covenant Hospice President and CEO, said the new partnership will help Covenant Hospice continue to realize its vision statement to broaden and fulfill life's journey for all people. "This new partnership is a wonderful opportunity to improve care throughout the nation and other countries for individuals and their loved ones facing end-of-life issues and challenges, while concurrently improving the leadership skills and talents of the Covenant staff by the education and training they will receive by Studer Group trainers," said Knee. And, Knee is also excited about the opportunities for increased job promotions and career growth for the Covenant staff. Covenant Hospice – a non-profit organization – serves over 1,000 patients per day in 37 counties in South Alabama, Northwest Florida and the Big Bend area of Florida.

The Studer Group will be hosting a national conference of healthcare leaders in the Pensacola area at the end of the year, at which Dale Knee will be presenting a program on end-of-life care. Then, during 2006, the two organizations will jointly sponsor the first

of an ongoing series of End-of-Life Institutes to benefit healthcare leaders nationwide. Both organizations are very excited about the official partnership, and are looking forward to coaching and enhancing end-of-life care around the country. "Covenant Hospice makes a difference every day. This partnership will now provide a way for Covenant Hospice's caring concepts to reach patients and families across the United States," said Quint Studer, President and CEO of the Studer Group.

Covenant Hospice is a not-for-profit organization dedicated to providing comprehensive, compassionate services to patients and loved ones during times of life-limiting illnesses. The focus of Covenant Hospice is to enable its patients to live as fully and comfortably as possible, to provide dignified palliative care, to assist patients' loved ones in coping with end-of-life issues and the eventual death of the patient, and to improve care for all patients at the end of their lives by example and education.

The Studer Group is a healthcare company that helps organizations achieve superior operational performance by implementing tools and techniques created by the Studer Group. The company has doubled its size in the last year alone. The company serves hospitals across the United States and has just entered into agreements in Australia and Ireland. Its services consist of consulting, speaking, and national seminars held at least 15 times throughout the year.

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