

## Press Release

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For Immediate Release  
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### **CAMP CATERPILLAR A SPECIAL DAY FOR CHILDREN TO HEAL**

“Red signifies anger ... Use sky blue if you are afraid... Orange means you’re confused... Navy blue if you are sad...” a Hospice of San Joaquin Volunteer, Jackie Korbholz, told a 2008 Camp Caterpillar participant as the child made a caterpillar out of pom--poms.

Hospice of San Joaquin is in the midst of preparing for its 7<sup>th</sup> annual Camp Caterpillar program — a day camp experience for children K - 6<sup>th</sup> grades who have had a loved one die within the last two years. “The camp concept mirrors the nourishment and hard work of the caterpillar which metamorphoses into a butterfly —a new life,” shared Carrie Vanderkar, Bereavement Coordinator, Hospice of San Joaquin.

The day camp experience is free to the community and it offers children an opportunity to explore ways of coping with loss through interactive activities involving games, arts & crafts, stories, play, music, and nature. “Coping with the loss of a loved one is difficult for adults - imagine how it is for children,” highlighted Korbholz.

“Children benefit from special communication techniques allowing them to express their grief,” explained Vanderkar. “Here children learn to express their feelings, improve communication, and learn coping mechanisms for them to deal with current and future losses.”

The 7<sup>th</sup> annual Camp Caterpillar is scheduled to be held Saturday, September 19<sup>th</sup>, from 8:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Registration is free and required ahead of time. You may register children at (209) 957-3888. Registration deadline is September 4, 2009 and space is limited.

Hospice of San Joaquin is a non-profit, community based organization serving terminally ill patients and their families with the next level of care. For more information visit us on-line at [www.hospicesj.org](http://www.hospicesj.org) or call (209) 957-3888.