



**Mary K. Spengler, Executive Director, Hospice & Palliative Care of Westchester  
Named 2012 Distinguished Alumna at Salve Regina**

**White Plains, NY – (January 3, 2013)** - With four decades of service in health care, during which time she developed two award-winning cancer and stroke programs, Hospice & Palliative Care of Westchester's Executive Director Mary K. Spengler was recently honored as Salve Regina University's 2012 Distinguished Alumna.

Spengler, a resident of White Plains, NY, graduated from Salve Regina with a degree in biology. She has worked for 32 years in a variety of administrative positions at White Plains Hospital and, prior to that, at New York Medical College's flagship hospital, Flower Fifth Avenue in Manhattan, which has since closed.

As vice president at White Plains Hospital, Spengler led the development and implementation of an accredited multi-service cancer program that was recognized with an Outstanding Achievement Award in 2009, a designation given to only 18 percent of programs nationwide. She was also directly responsible for coordinating the hospital's multidisciplinary stroke program which received the Gold Star from the American Heart Association and was featured in *U.S. News and World Report*.

Diagnosed with breast cancer in 1995, Spengler credits her recovery to excellent clinical treatment, the support of friends, and her trust in God. This experience fueled her desire to provide access and dignified health care for all. She joined the fight against cancer working with the American Cancer Society as a volunteer, participating in the Making Strides Against Breast Cancer Walk, and working one-on-one with recently diagnosed breast cancer patients in the Reach to Recovery program. Recognized by the YWCA of White Plains for her breast cancer awareness efforts in the community, Spengler was honored with their Salute to Women award.

In 1991, White Plains Hospital Center appointed Spengler to work with Visiting Nurse Services of Westchester to establish a joint hospice program which later became Hospice & Palliative Care of Westchester, where she served as a member of the board of directors for 12 years and is now its executive director.

In addition to her Salve Regina degree, Spengler has a master's degree in nursing from New York Medical College in Valhalla, N.Y.

**About Hospice & Palliative Care of Westchester:** Hospice & Palliative Care of Westchester, which is celebrating its 20<sup>th</sup> year, is a private, not-for-profit healthcare agency that provides skilled, compassionate and comprehensive end-of-life care to patients with any diagnosis and gives support to their families and loved ones.

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