

NEWS RELEASE



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For Immediate Release

HALIFAX REGIONAL PLANS BEREAVEMENT CEREMONY

ROANOKE RAPIDS, NC (September 22, 2010)—Halifax Regional will remember parents who lost a pregnancy or an infant during the year in a special ceremony October 1.

Parents who have experienced the loss of an infant or pregnancy are invited to the ceremony, which will be held at 2 p.m. in the Healing Hearts Memorial Garden, behind the lobby of the Medical Center. The ceremony is open to the public.

Jennifer Marchant, executive director of the Pregnancy Support Center of Roanoke Rapids, will be the guest speaker at the ceremony.

Guests will release 300 purple, biodegradable balloons to symbolize families' letting go of their loss. Lisa Cooke, RN, of The Birthing Center will read a poem entitled, "Balloon Release."

"This ceremony is a symbolic gesture of the staff of The Birthing Center to help parents and their families cope with their loss," said Amy Joseph, RN, manager of The Birthing Center. "Our physicians, nurses and volunteers have tremendous compassion for these families."

The ceremony is organized by Angie Brown, RN, a clinical leader at The Birthing Center. "This program not only helps the grieving process," said Brown. "It is part of our outreach to show families that we care for them and remember them, too."

For information about the ceremony, call the Birthing Center at 252 535-8670.

In 1988, President Reagan issued a proclamation that October would be recognized as National Pregnancy and Infant Loss Awareness Month.

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About Halifax Regional

Halifax Regional Medical Center is licensed for 204 beds, including psychiatric and nursery. A non-profit organization, Halifax Regional is fully accredited by the Joint Commission. For more information, visit www.halifaxregional.org.