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Haven Hospice acute care center in Chiefland to close

By Jeff M. Hardison © Nov. 1, 2017 at 11:47 a.m.

CHIEFLAND -- The Haven Hospice care center for terminally ill patients in Chiefland has been a mainstay of the community for several years. Now it is closing.

An official statement from this hospice explains why the Tri-County Haven Hospice Care Center is closing. It shows the people of Levy, Dixie and Gilchrist counties that they can still go to a Haven Hospice acute care center in Alachua County or Columbia County.

Haven Hospice Public Relations and Communications Manager Patricia Vernon, who is in the Gainesville corporate office of this hospice group, sent the following information via email on Oct. 31 in response to a query about the closure.

"Haven is committed to delivering compassionate and quality care to patients and families in North Florida while being good stewards of the funding and generous donations that we receive. Due to increased industry regulations, shifts in the marketplace and decreased demand for in-patient hospice care, Haven has made the difficult decision to temporarily close the Haven Tri-Counties Hospice Care Center in Chiefland."

The acute care centers in Lake City and Gainesville are still open, Vernon notes.

"Haven is an expert in pain and symptom management and historically has served over 95 percent of patients in their home. If short-term, inpatient care is needed to manage pain and symptoms, patients from the Tri-Counties will receive this acute care in Haven care centers in Lake City and Gainesville. Haven remains committed to meeting all hospice care needs in the Tri-Counties and will continue to serve patients in their home or wherever they call home," Vernon concluded.

There is at least one other separate hospice group that serves Levy County.

It is named Hospice of the Nature Coast, and it is also known as Hospice of Citrus County.

Both Haven Hospice and the other hospice group in this area have retail resale outlets in Chiefland. People can donate items to help either hospice group there, and people can buy items to help either hospice group at the two different locations for the two different hospice groups.

Haven Hospice's is called The Attic and it is located in the same shopping center as Save-A-Lot, on the northeast corner of U.S. Highway 129 and U.S. Highway 19 in Chiefland.

The Hospice of the Nature Coast Thrift & Gift Shoppe is at 2200 N. U.S. Highway 19 – closer to beautiful downtown Chiefland. It is across the street from the plaza that includes offices and treatment areas for Palms Medical Group and Martin Orthodontics.