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**THE WELLNESS COMMUNITY OF PHILADELPHIA ANNOUNCES MERGER
WITH
THE WELLNESS PLACE (FOR THE CANCER COMMUNITY)**

**The Wellness Community at The Anne McCouch Center
Begins Programs on July 1, 2006**

The Wellness Place (for the Cancer Community) (TWP) of Lansdale, Pennsylvania, which provides complementary care for people with cancer, has merged into **The Wellness Community of Philadelphia (TWCP)**, which helps people affected by cancer enhance their health and well-being through participation in a professional program of support, education and hope at no cost to them. Meetings have been held between officials of the two organizations over the course of the last two years to explore opportunities to collaborate, support and work together to serve people with cancer and their loved ones. Initial conversations involved key staff and board members from both facilities, and the deal was finalized a short time ago.

The Wellness Place (for the Cancer Community) was founded by five-time cancer survivor Anne McCouch in July of 1999. The renamed center is now called **The Wellness Community at The Anne McCouch Center** to honor all of the dedication and success of McCouch, its former executive director. "I'm happy that I will be able to continue to help out at **The Wellness Community at The Anne McCouch Center** as it transitions from being a stand alone **Wellness Place** to being part of a well-respected national organization," says McCouch. It is located at 1000 W. Main Street in Lansdale, Pennsylvania in Luther Hall at Trinity Lutheran Church. **The Wellness Community at The Anne McCouch Center** is continuing the partnership with the Church begun by **The Wellness Place (for the Cancer Community)**.

There are many reasons the merger is taking place. Says **TWCP** executive director Kimerly Hinkelman: "The organizations have similar missions. In addition, **TWCP** has been running programs at locations in the Bux-Mont area, while **TWP** was holding them at its Montgomery County location in Lansdale. It made great business sense to combine these efforts as we will be able to serve even more people living with cancer in this local community." In addition to its programs at The Suzanne Morgan Center at Ridgeland and now in Lansdale at its satellite location at Trinity Lutheran Church, **TWCP** offers limited off-site programs in Chester County at Paoli Memorial Hospital, in Bux-Mont at Grand View Hospital, and in Philadelphia at Hahnemann University Hospital and at its Community-Based Program locations.

In the Philadelphia region, **The Wellness Community of Philadelphia** is recognized by the health care community as a critical resource for complementary care to families facing a cancer diagnosis. **TWCP** is a charter member of **The Wellness Community**, a national non-profit organization with 23 local communities and a 24-year history of providing support, education and hope for people with cancer and their caregivers. Within the national delivery model is the opportunity for satellite facilities to be developed and to operate as secondary

sites in remote locations that offer a full schedule of **Wellness Community** services. Using this model, **The Wellness Community of Philadelphia** is now operating a satellite facility in Lansdale, beginning with targeted programs that had been offered at **The Wellness Place (for the Cancer Community)** and building on their success by gradually adding newcomer's meetings, support groups, and mind-body programs. More details are expected to be announced soon about a community open house and celebration of Anne McCouch's tireless efforts. It is scheduled for Saturday, September 30, 2006.

The mission of **The Wellness Community of Philadelphia (TWCP)** is to help people affected by cancer enhance their health and well-being through participation in a free professional program of emotional support, education, and hope. **TWCP** offers programs at Ridgeland in Fairmount Park, at its satellite location in Lansdale, Pennsylvania and limited off-site programs at Paoli Hospital, Grand View Hospital, Hahnemann University Hospital, and throughout Philadelphia. Please call **The Wellness Community of Philadelphia** at (215) 879-7733, or toll free at (888) 819-3553. **The Wellness Community at The Anne McCouch Center** may be reached at (215) 393-9105. Visit **TWCP's** website at www.twcp.org for more information. **The Wellness Community of Philadelphia's** grounds and buildings are smoke-free.