

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Melissa DelaCalzada, San Diego Hospice  
(619) 278-6139; [mdelacalzada@sdhospice.org](mailto:mdelacalzada@sdhospice.org)



**SAN DIEGO HOSPICE**  
and The Institute for Palliative Medicine

**More than \$225,000 was raised for  
San Diego Hospice's *Light up a Life* Celebration**

---

**Tribute celebration featured musical performances by the San Diego Symphony**

San Diego Hospice and The Institute for Palliative Medicine's *Light up a Life* Celebration honored the memory of loved ones for all San Diegans. The tribute celebration was held at the San Diego Civic Theatre on Dec. 9, 2008 and is an annual tradition for the not-for-profit organization, which raised more than \$225,000 to support the organization's programs and services for the seriously ill of all ages.

More than 1,300 people attended the event, featuring musical performances by The San Diego Symphony, with conductor Matthew Garbutt. The highlight of the evening was the lighting of the Christmas tree and Menorah, which symbolically represented the lives of loved ones being honored, both past and present.

San Diego Hospice Regional Director Ben Marcantonio, MFT, emceed the event, along with several presenters who shared their journeys with San Diego Hospice including Dr. Eric Roeland, a Fellow with The Institute for Palliative Medicine; James Bowser, a spiritual counselor; and local businessman Richard Ybarra paid tribute to his late mother, Sofia Erminia "Minnie" Ybarra, who received San Diego Hospice care. Richard was joined on stage by his brothers Albert and Sammy who both performed the song they sang and played for their mother by her bedside before she passed away.

San Diego Hospice's *Light up a Life* has touched thousands of lives since its inception 26 years ago, and continues to help ensure that all seriously ill patients in our community receive the compassionate end-of-life care they deserve, regardless of their ability to pay. For more information, call 619-688-1600 or visit online at [www.sdhospice.org](http://www.sdhospice.org).

###