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**UMDNJ-School of Nursing and Newark Public Library co-host
“Grace Before Dying” Exhibit on Prison Hospice Program
*Continues through Dec. 7 Closing Reception at Newark Public Library***

NEWARK--Photographs by Lori Waselchuk, award-winning documentary photographer and arts activist, and quilts by incarcerated hospice volunteers at Louisiana State Penitentiary are on display in the [“Grace Before Dying”](#) traveling exhibit running through December 7 at the Newark Public Library (NPL), 5 Washington Street in Newark. The free exhibit is sponsored by the Ethics Committee of the University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey ([UMDNJ School of Nursing](#)) in collaboration with the NPL.

The exhibit tells the story of prisoners in Louisiana's infamous Angola Penitentiary and how their hospice program--run by one staff nurse and a team of inmate volunteers-- is helping to transform one of the nation's most dangerous maximum security prisons into one of the least violent. In allowing inmates to comfort terminally ill fellow inmates, the program fosters a culture of humanistic respect and compassion among convicts in an environment typically focused on isolation and punishment. This ground-breaking program at Angola is also documented in the book, also entitled *Grace Before Dying*, which contains photographs by Waselchuk and essays by Lawrence N. Powell.

A Closing Reception will be held Friday, December 7 from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. at the Library and will feature a presentation and book signing by Waselchuk, with copies of the book available for sale. Light refreshments will be served at the reception. There is no admission fee for information visit sn.umdj.edu/events. Or contact the Library at rsvp@npl.org or 973-733-7793

Exhibits and exhibit-related programs are free and open to the general public during regular library hours, Monday-Saturday 9 a.m.-5:30 p.m.; Wednesday evenings to 8:30 p.m. (closed Election Day, Nov 5; Veterans' Day, Nov 12; and Thanksgiving, Nov 22). For more information about the Library, visit npl.org.

“We are grateful to the Newark Public Library for partnering with us to showcase this heart-rending, yet uplifting and inspirational program,” notes Frances Rieth Ward PhD, RN, assistant professor and chair of the Ethics Committee at UMDNJ School of Nursing. “This exhibit will be an enriching experience for anyone who attends.”

“The Library relishes its long-time role as a public venue for a diverse range of arts and humanities programming,” notes Wilma J. Grey, director of NPL. “We look forward to welcoming the public to view this moving and thought-provoking exhibition.”

About UMDNJ

The University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey (UMDNJ) is New Jersey’s only health sciences university with more than 6,000 students on five campuses attending three medical schools, the State’s only dental school, a graduate school of biomedical sciences, a school of health related professions, a school of nursing and New Jersey’s only school of public health. UMDNJ operates University Hospital, a Level I Trauma Center in Newark, and University Behavioral HealthCare, which provides a continuum of healthcare services with multiple locations throughout the State.

UMDNJ-School of Nursing is the state's largest, most comprehensive nursing education program serving more than 1200 students enrolled in bachelor's, master's and doctoral degrees in nursing as well as a PhD in Urban Systems program offered jointly with Rutgers and NJIT. The School operates community clinical service programs including a Newark-based mobile healthcare program and an on-site community health center serving residents of three Newark public housing developments. For information, visit sn.umdj.edu