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## 2007 HEALTH CARE HEROES



### Mary Gravina

Director of Pediatric and Perinatal Programs  
Hospice Care Network

In the human experience, the most difficult to confront is the death of a child. As part of her job, Gravina does it every day. A licensed social worker, she has spent 20 years at the Hospice Care Network, serving people with terminal illnesses. In 1984, she created the group's child bereavement program, which serves as a model for other programs nationwide. Five years ago, she started the group's perinatal program, offering support to parents choosing to give birth to children with terminal diseases.



Counselors provide support from diagnosis through birth, and afterwards, through memorial services. The program won the Trailblazer Award this year at the Hospice and Palliative Care Association of New York State's annual meeting.