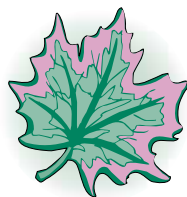


*Celebrating Life's
Precious Moments*

Eleanor's Story

Eleanor died last October, alone in a hospital bed; hooked up to oxygen to help her breath; receiving her meals through an intravenous tube; with her family at home — taking a quick break from the stress of being by her side at the hospital all week. Eleanor had been diagnosed with terminal cancer six months earlier and doctors had tried every method of treatment available to prolong her life. What the doctors didn't realize was that the 71-year old woman was at peace and ready to move on to something greater.





Eleanor had lived a good life. She had three children of whom she was very proud. They had grown up and given her eight wonderful grandchildren who visited every Sunday for dinner. Her husband of 52 years was always by her side... so much so she teasingly told him he was like a puppy dog, always underfoot. But that's what made her happy — Her family, whom she constantly spoiled. Her friends, whom she depended on for advice and companionship. Her home, which she painstakingly adorned over the years to reflect her loves.



But when Eleanor died, she died afraid and alone. Neither she nor her family ever thought about preparing for the end of life. They never discussed taking part in a hospice program. They never filled out an Advance Directive. And her family never anticipated the guilt and pain they felt when they learned Eleanor could have stayed at home during those last precious days of her life, surrounded by everything she loved.

Our Mission

The United Hospice Foundation will work with communities to prepare and promote activities that raise public awareness and understanding of end-of-life issues. ♦ We will advance the hospice philosophy so more people living with life-limiting illness and their families can find comfort care. ♦ We will make grief and loss support available for those suffering from loss. ♦ We will provide the information and resources necessary to stimulate end-of-life discussions among family members to assist them in the development of Advance Directives. ♦ And, we will work with healthcare providers to develop ways to ensure patients' end-of-life wishes are realized. ♦ We will be guided by the highest level of ethical and moral values as we develop, manage and grant support for this cause.



Eleanor's story is not uncommon. Most people do not realize they can (and should) plan for the end of life. And others who do are reluctant to talk about this sad and uncomfortable topic. That's why the United Hospice Foundation is dedicated to making sure families, like Eleanor's...and yours, understand the importance of end-of-life planning. Although most of us won't be faced with these situations immediately, planning will help us be well prepared when we are.

What We Offer...



Let the staff of the United Hospice Foundation help you learn more about:

Hospice—Hospice allows terminally ill patients and their families to experience the end of life together, in the comfort and security of home or a home-like setting. Hospice emphasizes the quality of life instead of its duration by providing comfort care rather than aggressive medical treatment. Hospice treats the person physically, emotionally, socially and spiritually, instead of simply treating the disease. And it focuses on helping the entire family, instead of just the

individual. Hospice is covered by most insurance companies and is an option for those who qualify for Medicare and Medicaid benefits.

Advance Directives—A Living Will, a Durable Power of Attorney for Healthcare and a Directive for Final Healthcare are all types of Advance Directives (documents that allow you to plan for the healthcare you would like to receive if you cannot communicate these instructions yourself).

A **Living Will** is a document that tells healthcare providers whether or not you want life-sustaining treatments or procedures if you are in a terminal condition, coma or persistent vegetative state. Do not confuse a Living Will with the legal document you create that distributes your assets upon death. You do not need legal counsel to prepare a Living Will. The form is free and should be available at your local hospital.

A **Durable Power of Attorney for Healthcare** is a document that allows you to identify a specific person who will act as your *agent* any time you cannot speak for yourself. Your agent will make sure your healthcare providers are informed of the type of care you wish to receive by referring to your Living Will or Directive for Final Healthcare and to past personal conversations the two of you shared. You do not need legal counsel to prepare



a Durable Power of Attorney for Healthcare. The form is free and should be available at your local hospital.

A **Directive For Final Healthcare** combines the powers of the Living Will and the Durable Power of Attorney for Healthcare into one document that allows you to both formally state your wishes for the medical treatments you do or do not want to receive and to legally appoint someone to make healthcare decisions for you when you cannot speak for yourself. This document meets the legal requirements of Georgia law. You do not need legal counsel to prepare a Directive For Final Healthcare. The Directive For Final Healthcare is included in the *CRITICAL ConditionsSM Planning Guide*, a resource to help you plan for your final healthcare. The Planning Guide is provided free by the United Hospice Foundation or can be purchased for \$10 from Georgia Health Decisions by calling toll free 1 (877) 633-2433.

Grief & Loss—Our Grief & Loss program can help you deal with feelings of fear, loneliness, and helplessness after loss. We offer peer counseling, support groups, grief workshops, and special presentations for the community as well as professionals.

To learn more about the Foundation's programs and resources available in your area, call us at (800) 443-4788 or visit www.unitedhospicefoundation.org.

How Can You Help?

The United Hospice Foundation is an independent, non-profit organization that depends on contributions from the community to fulfill its mission. We always appreciate:

- ◆ *Volunteer Time*
- ◆ *Cash Gifts*
- ◆ *Memorial Gifts*
(in lieu of flowers at a funeral)
- ◆ *In-Kind Gifts*
- ◆ *Deferred Gifts*
- ◆ *Gifts of Property*
- ◆ *Wills & Bequests*

Call the United Hospice Foundation, Inc. at (770) 925-4788 or (800) 443-4788 for more information regarding your giving options. A United Hospice Foundation representative will be pleased to discuss these opportunities with you.

Or if you prefer to make a donation immediately, please send it to:

The United Hospice Foundation
1626 Jeurgens Court
Norcross, GA 30093

www.unitedhospicefoundation.org

