

Foundation Partners with Coliseum Medical Centers to Begin CRITICAL ConditionsSM Program

The United Hospice Foundation has been sponsoring the CRITICAL ConditionsSM program in northeast Georgia with the help of Stephens County Hospital for the last 16 months. The program has been very successful. Because of that success, the Foundation is now bringing the program to the Macon area with the help and support of Coliseum Medical Centers and other area organizations.

Imagine . . . for a moment . . . the unimaginable. There was an accident . . . your loved one made it through, but she's in a coma with little chance of recovery. The doctors tell you she may live a long time, maybe years, if she is fed through a tube. Without it, she'll die in a matter of days. And you're the one who has to decide.

What would you do? Would you know if your loved one would want that kind of medical care? . . . Or not?

Many Georgians face agonizing decisions like these every day; sooner or later, it could happen to you. That's why it's important to talk about your wishes with the people who will have to make healthcare decisions for you when you no longer can.

Through the CRITICAL ConditionsSM program, Macon-area residents will soon be able to get informative, easy-to-use information to help you and your loved ones make more informed decisions about healthcare at the end of life. The program features:

- The CRITICAL ConditionsSM Planning Guide, a discussion tool that uses real-life scenarios to help people talk about their healthcare choices with family members and record their wishes using a new type of living will document called a "Directive For Final Health Care."
- Workshops that explain the topic in more detail and help you understand how to use the Planning Guide to your best advantage.
- Trained Community Counselors who can help you and your family personally talk about the issues and make better-informed decisions.

The Foundation is currently looking for volunteers to help get this program started in the Macon area as well as volunteers to help keep the program running smoothly in the Stephens County area. If interested, please call the United Hospice Foundation at (800) 443-4788. Or watch for upcoming CRITICAL ConditionsSM workshops in your local media.

CRITICAL ConditionsSM
Make your final health care decisions

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 bereavement 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.



Hospice Foundation of America Tenth Annual Living With Grief Teleconference

The United Hospice Foundation will be sponsoring the Hospice Foundation of America's Tenth Annual *Living With Grief* Teleconference on Wednesday, April 30, 2003 in Elberton (at Elbert Memorial Hospital), Toccoa (at the Toccoa Church of God) and Commerce (at BJC Medical Center).

This live-via-satellite, televised broadcast will look at factors that define a public tragedy and offer insight and advice to organizations and professionals as they support their communities and help those coping with loss. The effects of tragedies such as 9-11, Hurricane Andrew, Oklahoma City and other significant national events will be examined.

The program will be moderated by Cokie Roberts and a panel of experts in grief and tragedy will include Kenneth J. Doka, PhD, MDiv, LaVone Hazell, MS, Marcia Lattanzi-Licht, MA, RN, LPC, Nadine Reimer Penner, ACSW, LCSW, and Marlene A. Young, PhD, JD.

At the conclusion of this program, participants will be able to:

1. Understand ten factors that affect public perception and responses to a traumatic event;
2. Assess the ways that individuals, in varied situations of involvement, respond and react to public tragedy;
3. Describe short and long term interventions and resources for persons affected by public tragedy;
4. Discuss the value of ritual, memorialization, and the arts as public responses to tragedy;
5. Discuss the long term effects of public tragedies on communities;
6. Discuss the role of hospice as well as other community resources such as aftercare or mental health agencies in the aftermath of public tragedy;
7. Describe the ways that public policies may influence prevention and intervention to public tragedy.

The Teleconference on Grief is free. For more information, or to register for the event, call the United Hospice Foundation at (800) 443-4788.

UNITED HOSPICE FOUNDATION inc
3945 Lawrenceville Highway
Lilburn, Georgia 30047

Grief Support Groups

All groups are open to the public. For more information, please call the United Hospice Foundation at (800) 443-4788.

- **1st & 3rd Tuesday of each month**
7:00 pm – 8:30 pm
Pleasant Hill Presbyterian Church
3700 Pleasant Hill Road
Duluth, GA
- **4th Monday of each month**
6:30 pm – 8:00 pm
Trinity Lutheran Church
S. Big A Road
Toccoa, GA
- **4th Wednesday of each month**
6:00 pm – 7:30 pm
United Hospice
700 S. Enota Street
Gainesville, GA



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Neil Little Pruitt, Sr. 1935—2003



Neil Little Pruitt, Sr.

Tragedy has struck the United Hospice Foundation family. On Thursday, February 27, 2003 Neil Little Pruitt, Sr., president and sole owner of the United Health Services, Inc., and the Founder of the United Hospice Foundation, died from injuries sustained in an automobile accident.

Mr. Pruitt's vision for and generosity to the Foundation has touched the lives of thousands of people who have taken advantage of the Foundation's hospice, grief support, and educational programs over the years. His legacy will touch the lives of even more people, as a

nursing scholarship will soon be established in his name.

A son of the late Ben and Ruth Little Pruitt, Mr. Pruitt was born July 21, 1935 in Hart County, Georgia having lived most of his life in Stephens County. His company, based in Toccoa, Georgia, evolved from a single pharmacy into a multifaceted healthcare organization with operations in several southeastern states. He was engaged in all phases of the company's operations in several southeastern states.

As a registered pharmacist and a graduate of the University of Georgia School of Pharmacy, Mr. Pruitt has played an active role in the pharmacy profession in conjunction with his business career. He served as President, Director, and Chairman of the Board of the Georgia Pharmaceutical Association and was currently on the GPHA Foundation. At the national level, Mr. Pruitt has served as the President of the National Association of Retail Druggists (NARD) also known as the National Community Pharmacist Association (NCPA) and President of RxNet, a subsidiary of the NARD, which provides purchasing services to more than 15,000 retail pharmacies throughout the United States. He was also on the NCPA Foundation.

In addition to his many business and professional activities, Mr. Pruitt has participated in a wide range of civic and charitable organizations, including

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Bring Me Some Water, Please.



Sylvia Collins

Sylvia Collins loved pecan pie and always had one to nibble on in her kitchen. French fries and chicken tenders were other favorites, although you never would have known it by looking at her tiny 105-pound frame.

Sylvia wore off all of that pie by working hard. She loved to do yard work and, even in her late 70s, she could be found outside pushing her heavy lawnmower in the middle of the day with the hot Georgia sun beating down. Covered with beads of sweat, she wouldn't stop after finishing

her own yard, but would mow parts of her neighbors' yards as well in an effort to make her world a little more beautiful.

That was Sylvia, though. She was the boss and she got what she wanted—even if that meant working hard. She kept everyone and everything in line, except maybe her late husband, Albert, who loved her madly but was always trying to pull a joke on her. Her two children, Charles and David, were raised learning respect and love. Their home was always spotlessly clean (thanks to thousands of gallons of Clorox!) and no one else but Sylvia was allowed to do the cooking.

It wasn't any different as Sylvia got older. Around age 80 her health began to fail, but she still wanted to care for everyone. She made sure her family and friends had everything they needed. If not, she gave them what she had. By the time she moved into an assisted living facility, she had given away most everything she owned.

As Sylvia's health continued to fail, she entered the United Hospice program with the diagnoses *failure to thrive*. The hospice staff helped make her comfortable, bathed her and changed her. The hospice chaplain visited with her frequently as Sylvia's faith was more important than anything else in her life. And the staff provided the whole family with emotional support and literature to help them cope with what was to come.

"Mom told me that she didn't feel as if she were the same person any more," remembered her son Charles.

"She had already made up her mind," said her other son David. "She was barely eating and for the most part was just drinking juice. In fact she told me that all she had left to do was die."

Although sad for the family, Sylvia was ready to move on. She had lived a good life full of love and happiness. She had been married for 43 wonderful years, watched her two children grow and pampered four grandchildren and five great-grandchildren. She had lived her life exactly the way she wanted—by her rules—and that wasn't going to change now.

"One day we had a conversation in which she explained to me that juice will keep you alive," stated David. "After I agreed, she said 'bring me some water, please.'"

"I'm sad she's gone," said Charles. "But I'm glad she didn't suffer."



Sylvia and her great-grandchild, Devon, when he was just a baby.

Neil Little Pruitt, Sr.

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six years on the Toccoa, Georgia City Commission and two years as the Mayor of Toccoa. He served as a Director of the Salvation Army Board. Mr. Pruitt was instrumental in working with the Jaycees to organize the distribution of the polio vaccine in Stephens County, which served as a pilot project of the state and later the nation. He served on the Board of Directors of Hilton Head Preparatory School and was a member of the First Presbyterian Church in Hilton Head, South Carolina.

In recent years, Mr. Pruitt has been very involved with numerous charitable causes. The Pruitt Foundation has provided support to many organizations in northeast Georgia, including the United Way of Northeast Georgia and the Boy Scouts of America. Always interested in environmental issues, he recently donated to the state of Georgia the use of a portion of Lake Tallulah and more than fifty acres of land for use by the Tallulah Falls State Park.

Mr. Pruitt is survived by his wife of forty years, Mrs. Nancy Wilkerson Pruitt of Toccoa; daughter, Janie Paige Pruitt of Macon, GA; daughter and son-in-law, Lisa and Robert Hamby of Martin, GA; son and daughter-in-law, Neil, Jr. and Mebane Pruitt of Atlanta, GA; two grandchildren, Robert "Rob" Edwin Hamby and Eliza Keese Hamby both of Martin, GA; two brothers and sisters-in-law, Walt and Virginia Pruitt of Lavonia, GA, and Boyd and Betty Pruitt of Athens, GA, sister, Ellen Witlow of Lavonia, GA and a number of nieces and nephews.

To those who desire, memorials in Mr. Pruitt's memory can go to the United Hospice Foundation (3945 Lawrenceville Hwy, Lilburn, GA 30047), to the St. Jude's Children's Research Hospital (c/o ALSAC, 501 St. Jude Place, Memphis, TN 38105 — make check payable to the ALSAC), or to the Salvation Army (PO Box 1094, Toccoa, GA 30577).

Upcoming Workshop Provides Tips to Help Grieving Children



The United Hospice Foundation is pleased to host a workshop entitled **Grief As A Journey: Tools & Techniques For Helping Children Cope With Serious Illness and Loss** on Friday, March 28, 2003. This all-day workshop will be presented by Sharon Rugg, a licensed clinical social worker and certified grief therapist. Sharon has over 20 years of professional experience and is the author of books and games for grieving children. She specializes in counseling with children and adults on issues of loss and bereavement and hosts seminars on a variety of related topics.

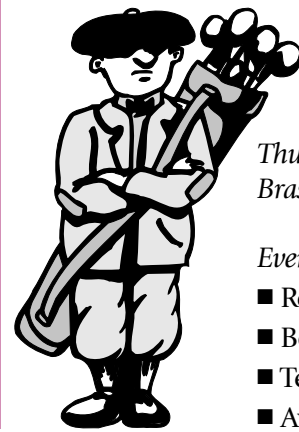
This **Grief As A Journey** seminar will be geared towards professionals working with children of all ages. The workshop will help participants learn more about children's grief and how to help children cope more effectively both prior to and following the death of a family member due to serious illness. The concepts of the **Tasks of Grief** and **Grief As A Journey** will be used to introduce participants to *Healing Hearts*, a game that can be used to encourage children to share their experiences and feelings of impending loss as well as grief. The workshop leader will share, through lecture and demonstration, many of her own ideas and activities which she has successfully used with grieving children and adolescents individually, in small groups, and in families. Attendees will have the opportunity to participate in a puppet play as well as an art project. Handouts, resource materials and ideas for incorporating art, story telling, music, puppetry and other activities in grief work with children will be highlighted.

Goals/Objectives

At the end of this workshop participants will

- 1) Understand the **Tasks of Grief** within the concept of **Grief As A Journey**
- 2) Understand unique ways in which children grieve
- 3) Know how to help children cope with both serious illness and loss
- 4) Become familiar with the use of games, art, story telling, music, puppetry, and other activities in grief work with children.

Neil L. Pruitt, Sr. Classic



Enjoy a beautiful day in the mountains, play golf and compete for prizes to support the non-profit United Hospice Foundation and its mission. For more information or to register, please call 770.925.4788.

Thursday, May 8, 2003
Brasstown Valley Resort — Young Harris, GA

Event Schedule:

- Registration Opens 10:30 am
- Box Lunch Served 11:00 am
- Tee Off (Shotgun Start) Noon
- Awards Reception 5:30 pm – 7:00 pm

Friday, March 28, 2003 — Schedule

- ♥ Registration/Continental Breakfast — 8:30 am – 9:15 am
- ♥ Early Morning Session — 9:15 am – 10:30 am
 - I Introductions/Summary of the Day
 - II The Unique Way In Which Children And Adolescents Grieve
 - III Tasks of Grief vs. Stages of Grief
- ♥ Morning Break — 10:30 am – 10:45 am
- ♥ Late Morning Session — 10:45 am – 12:15 pm
 - IV Helping Children Cope With A Serious Illness
 - V Puppet Play
 - VI Butterfly Art Activity
- ♥ Lunch Break — 12:15 pm – 1:00 pm
 - Lunch Compliments of the United Hospice Foundation
- ♥ Early Afternoon Session — 1:00 pm – 2:15 pm
 - VII Helping Children Cope With Grief Following A Death
 - VIII Healing Hearts/Other Activities
- ♥ Afternoon Break/Snacks — 2:15 pm – 2:30 pm
- ♥ Late Afternoon Session — 2:30 pm – 4:00 pm
 - IX Puppet Play
 - X Healing Rituals
 - XI Q&A and Discussion



The Workshop will be held at the Georgia Nursing Home Association in Stockbridge, Georgia, and will cost \$65 per person including lunch. Social workers can receive five and a half (5 1/2) Continuing Education Units through the National Association of Social Workers/Georgia Chapter.

Pre-registration is required. For more information, visit www.unitedhospicefoundation.org or call (800) 443-4788.

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 would be pleased to discuss these opportunities with you. Or, clip out the coupon below and send it with your gift to...

The United Hospice Foundation, 3945 Lawrenceville Highway, Lilburn, GA 30047

I would like to pledge my support of the United Hospice Foundation and its mission.
I will contribute \$_____ every month quarter six months year for the next _____ years.

I would prefer to support the United Hospice Foundation with the enclosed one-time gift of \$_____.

Please send me more information about becoming a volunteer including United Hospice Foundation in my/our will
 other giving options hospice advance directives grief support

today's date: _____ name: _____

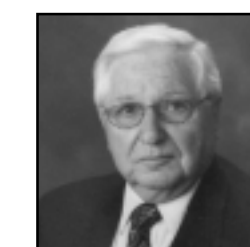
address: _____

city: _____ state: _____ zip: _____

phone: (_____) _____ e-mail: _____

This gift is in memory of in honor of _____ (tribute name) SP03

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