

Legacy for Spiritual Dignity—End of Life Program

Death is as unique as the individual who is experiencing it. Parmly strives to provide the highest quality holistic experience through the end-of-life journey by walking together with residents, families, friends, and staff. We identify, establish, and provide a medium that accommodates the wishes of a dying resident and their family by centering on a peaceful environment, pain control, social well-being, and spirituality.

This comprehensive interdisciplinary “End of Life” program at Ecumen Parmly LifePointes is such a success that it has expanded from serving care center residents, to tenants in assisted and independent living. This innovative program received two awards from Ecumen for its spiritual empowerment and honor. In May 2010, Parmly participated in the TPT “Honoring Choices” Minnesota feature <http://www.honoringchoices.org/videostories>. In addition, the “End of Life” program has been presented to other facilities in the area. Families have expressed their gratitude for creating this compassionate, respectful, and dignified end-of-life journey.



This “End of Life” program encompasses several intimate and detailed pieces that begin with empowering and honoring an individual before their journey begins. Each individual entering their end-of-life journey receives services based on their wishes. Our educated inter-disciplinary team is comprised of Nursing, Spiritual, Dietary, Environmental, Recreation Therapy, and Social Service staff working together with attention to special details of an individual’s medical, emotional, social, and spiritual needs while communicating with and providing support to family and friends throughout the journey.

The program begins with “**Angel Care**”, which communicates to family and staff caring for the individual that they may be close to end of their journey. It is at this time visits by the Nursing staff are increased and the team works to create an atmosphere such as mood lighting, favorite music, bedside prayers and readings as desired by the individual.



Respect and compassion for the individual continues at the end of their journey when draped with the “**Dignity Quilt**” while family and staff walks with them through the home, and out the front door, they entered. The “**Dignity Walk**” honors the individual and celebrates the special part of life’s journey. While many folks have a funeral in their home congregation, the Parmly Chapel is available for funerals. Chaplaincy works with families in providing this service.

Several “**Grief Care**” support activities and services are available to families and include “Service of Remembrance” and “Celebration of Life” Chapel Worship services for grieving families. Guidance to grief support groups and inclusion in the Parmly Prayer List are also offered.

To learn more information about the “End of Life” program or to schedule a presentation for your organization, contact Pastor Ron Gerl at 651-257-7953 or rongerl@ecumen.org



Thank you for making Alice’s final days peaceful. The day she passed, we were comforted by the caring staff, the bedside service, and the walk of dignity where she was covered with the beautiful quilt. That was unexpected and very touching. We have told everyone how Parmly made her final day so special and meaningful....The Service of Remembrance was beautifully led. And how delightful to receive the memory book filled with messages and memories! I have read them over several times and will cherish the book always.