Spiritual Care Services

What is Spiritual Care?

Hospice recognizes that many human beings, and especially those at the end of life, have a spiritual dimension that may need to be addressed. This may be true for those who consider themselves to be religious as well as those who do not. At this time, you may feel a need for someone to provide additional support.

For this reason, the Spiritual Care staff of Hospice of Cincinnati is committed to being available to assist patients and families with their spiritual needs. We do this by exploring with people their unique sources of faith and hope, helping them to recognize their own spiritual nature and individual practice of faith, or by just being there.

Spiritual Care represents the concern for an individual as a whole person – a unity of body, mind, and spirit. All individuals are unique and of value. It is our hope that, through the Spiritual Care staff, the meaning of life’s journey can be understood and interpreted. Spiritual Care is available without regard for gender, race, national origin or religious affiliation, or previous enrollment in Hospice of Cincinnati Services.

What does a Hospice Chaplain do?

• Contacts the patient and/or family member to discuss needs so that spiritual care can be provided in a manner respectful of their faith.
• Provides a compassionate listening presence, allowing patients and families to share feelings and concerns.
• Provides support for families in their grief process as they anticipate the loss of their loved one.
• Contacts patient’s clergy at patient/family request.
• Helps provide religious practices and rituals including: prayer, scripture reading, sacraments of baptism, worship, communion and anointing, plus other spiritual resources as needs arise.
• Makes routine and emergency visits with patient and/or family when they desire support during loved one’s terminal illness.
• Provides consultation in ethical decision making.
• Helps with mediation of stressful situations.
• Provides Spiritual Care in homes, long term care facilities, hospitals or inpatient settings.

This care is a reflection of the mission of Hospice of Cincinnati, which creates the best possible and most meaningful end-of-life experience for all who need care and support in our community.
Chaplains
Hospice of Cincinnati chaplains are part of the interdisciplinary team, along with the nurse, social worker, aide and physician. Chaplains provide spiritual and emotional support to patients, families and staff during the time of illness and/or crisis.

Our chaplains come from a variety of religious traditions, and do not represent any one faith or denomination when they are ministering on behalf of Hospice of Cincinnati. They do not preach or attempt to change a person’s religion. Their ministry is ecumenical and interfaith in approach, as they operate in a manner respectful of the patient’s and family’s personal faith tradition.

Trained spiritual care volunteers may also assist chaplains as appropriate.

“You matter to the last moment of your life, and we will do all we can, not only to help you die peacefully, but to live until you die.”
- Dame Cicely Saunders
  Founder of the first modern-day hospice in London

For more information about Spiritual Care Support, please call 513-891-7700.