CompassionateCareForAll.org Goes Live!

The Coalition for Quality at the End of Life (CQEL) in cooperation with the Institute to Enhance Palliative Care at the University of Pittsburgh launched the website, CompassionateCareForAll.org on April 2, 2010 to provide palliative and hospice care resources for patients and families in our region facing serious illness or the end of life.

This online resource has been made possible through the generous support of Southwestern Pennsylvania community member and business leader Laura Huch Kerckhoff.

CompassionateCareForAll.org is a website for anyone in Southwestern Pennsylvania who has a serious, life-threatening illness, or who cares for someone who is seriously ill. It is a guide to palliative care resources that are available right now and close to home, that can help people live as fully and as actively as their illness permits, help ease the burden on family caregivers and friends, and help make the unavoidable difficulties and sadness of life-threatening illness less lonely and easier to bear.

This site is a guide to the help individuals need in facing the physical symptoms of illness such as pain, breathing problems, or tiredness, as well as with psychological, emotional, financial, and spiritual concerns.

There are also services and agencies to help with the practical matters of everyday life—shopping, cleaning, getting to doctor and hospital appointments, taking out the trash—that can be much harder to manage when someone is sick or caring for someone else 24/7.

There are three resource sections of this website.

1. Regional Resource Directory: This directory allows the visitor to search the listings by county in Southwestern Pennsylvania, to find service providers that are closest to him or her.

2. Articles and Resources: These descriptions of service areas are written by experts in the field of end-of-life and hospice care, which serve to provide users with information on a particular subject as well as connect users to additional resources.

3. National Resource Directory: These national sites provide a wealth of additional information that the searcher can use to decide what help he or she may need, and will suggest questions he or she can ask local providers to make sure that the help they offer is right for the searcher.

For palliative care consultations please contact the Palliative Care Program at PUH/MUH, 647-7243, beeper 8511, Shadyside Dept. of Medical Ethics and Palliative Care, beeper 412-647-7243 pager # 8513 or call 412-623-3008, Perioperative/ Trauma Pain 647-7243, beeper 7246, UPCI Cancer Pain Service, beeper 644 –1724, Interventional Pain 784-4000, Magee Women’s Hospital, beeper 412-647-7243 pager #: 8510, VA Palliative Care Program, 688-6178, beeper 296. Hillman Outpatient: 412-692-4724. For ethics consultations at UPMC Presbyterian-Montefiore, and Children’s page 958-3844. With comments about “Case of the Month” call David Barnard at 647-5701.