

Mercy Hospice Bereavement Program

Mercy Hospice offers a bereavement program which is provided for the bereaved for 13 months after the death of their loved one. This service is a part of the hospice benefit and is provided at no cost.

Telephone Contact - Bereavement staff contact by phone at one, five and twelve months after the death of their loved one. Staff assess the physical, social, emotional and economic impact of their loss, educate about normal grief reactions, provide emotional support and counseling, and provide information on community resources. All conversations are private and confidential. Telephone contact is a convenient option for those who live beyond the service area of Mercy Hospice.

Grief Counseling Visits - Face to face grief counseling is offered by bereavement specialists to those who may benefit from talking further about their loss. With the understanding that everyone grieves differently, bereavement professionals specialize in counseling related to grief and loss. They educate and encourage the use of coping mechanisms; assist in recognizing, developing and utilizing support systems; and assist in adjustment to new tasks of daily living.

Bereavement Companions - Hospice Volunteers are offered in the 13-months following the death of their loved one. The goal is to provide comfort and companionship with a focus on their spiritual and emotional needs. The volunteers may make visits, telephone calls, or provide transportation to Hospice related functions.

Grief Support Groups - Support and connection comes from being with people who have also recently experienced a loss. Group attendance provides a consistent place to gather and process grief. Groups meet quarterly in St. Louis and Washington.

Memorial Celebration Services - Families, friends, hospice staff and volunteers are invited to attend our ecumenical celebration services. These services provide loved ones with an opportunity to honor, remember and celebrate the life of the deceased. Services are held in St. Louis and Washington throughout the year.

Mail - Monthly mailings are sent the first year following the death of their loved one. Mailings include newsletters, current information, and announcements about special events.

Information and Referral - Bereavement specialists evaluate individual needs, and provide information and referral to resources, as needed.

Please call for more information on **Mercy Hospice**.
St. Louis 314-729-4400
Washington 636-239-7128