

# Here are the Week-by-Week Contents of This Series and How the Stories Touch Your Community

The Series Topics (approximate dates)	Ideas for Local Stories	Local Information Sources
<b>Week 1:</b> Living with Dying in America (9/9)	Stories of local people whose deaths were managed well and not well	Local end-of-life coalitions; libraries holding discussion groups; hospice & palliative care providers
<b>Week 2:</b> It is Time to Talk: Conversations About the End-of-Life (9/16)	Small discussion groups about “how to have THE conversation”; create opportunities for role-play	Community groups, i.e., Caring Conversations
<b>Week 3:</b> Widowhood: Building a New Identity (9/23)	Co-sponsor a forum with city/county planners: What will this community be like in 20 years? 30? Who will live here? How will the growing number of older people affect it	Area Agencies on Aging; university Aging Institutes; urban planning departments; AARP chapters; gerontologists; geriatric nurse practitioners and social workers; womens’ groups
<b>Week 4:</b> Palliative Care: Pain and Symptom Control (9/30)	Ask your hospital to hold “Grand Rounds” on palliative care; ask local tv/radio talk shows to feature hospice representatives this week; special showings of PBS program, “To Live Until I Die”; create a directory of local hospice & palliative care resources	Local medical societies; hospice organizations; hospital medical/nursing directors; hospital palliative care providers
<b>Week 5:</b> Advance Directives: Planning for Care (10/7)	Implement Advance Directive programs, i.e., Five Wishes & others; Ask your Mayor to proclaim “Advance Directive Signing Week” (s/he and spouse should sign theirs “on camera”)	Local Bar Associations; lawyers and estate planners; clergy; hospital ethics committees
<b>Week 6:</b> Culture and Diversity: Breaking Down Barriers (10/14)	Encourage letter-writing to the newspaper about how different cultures view death and dying; panel discussions; in-hospital discussion group with health care providers of different ethnic and cultural backgrounds	Community associations representing different ethnic groups
<b>Week 7:</b> Spirituality and Faith: Finding Peace (10/21)	Start planning for a Compassion Sabbath project; discuss state of teaching about spiritual counseling for dying people and families	Clergy; hospital chaplains; parish nurses; Faith in Action projects; book stores (lots of popular spirituality titles)
<b>Week 8:</b> Last Rites: Witness and Remembrance (10/28)	Tours of local cemeteries and memorials; photo exhibit of tombstones, roadside memorials; bring in other cultures: What does Halloween mean? “Day of the dead” celebrations; stories of public or private rituals that helped people grieve	Architects who design memorials; clergy; sociologists; historians; AIDS memorial quilt contributors; funeral directors
<b>Week 9:</b> Caring for Aging Parents and Partners (11/4) <i>November Is National Caregiving Month</i>	Request a Mayoral proclamation of “Help a Caregiver Week,” with ideas about how people can help; forum for employers about caregivers’ needs; conduct “Caregiving 101” classes to help family members learn what to expect and what to do	Women’s Organizations; employers; unions; human resources professionals
<b>Week 10:</b> Hospice: Finding our Way Home (11/11) <i>November Is National Hospice Month</i>	Hospice open houses and public events; hospice event for family practice/internal medicine staff; recognition events for volunteers	Local hospices; palliative care centers
<b>Week 11:</b> Nursing Homes: Maximizing Long-term Care (11/18)	Interviews with residents and families who have chosen nursing homes	In-home care support services; subsidized senior housing; adult day care centers; continuing care retirement communities; board and care homes; assisted living facilities, nursing homes
<b>Week 12:</b> When a Child is Dying: Learning From the Unthinkable (11/25)	Showcase local palliative care options for children; suggest a talk show on how care can be improved; create a display of critically ill children’s art work	Pediatricians and neonatologists; parents’ groups (SIDS, MADD, etc.); child therapists
<b>Week 13:</b> Violence and Death: Healing the “Secondary Victims” (12/2)	Sponsor discussions of loss to the community, family; create a memorial wall	Cardiologists; emergency medical personnel; psychologists; police; clergy
<b>Week 14:</b> Living with Loss: Swimming With the Tide (12/9)	Compile a directory of bereavement resources; conduct library discussion groups	Mental health professionals; counseling centers; social workers
<b>Week 15:</b> A Vision for the Future: Navigating Within Healthcare (12/16)	Hold a Public Forum to sum up the series; plan next year’s community action with the arts, the sciences, sociology, culture, and spirituality all brought together	All of the above and your good experience!