

LIFE QUALITY INSTITUTE

advancing palliative care

Creating Communities of Care Share The Care™

Caregiving: State of the Union

- 52 million informal (unpaid) caregivers
- Estimated value **\$375 billion** annually
- 25% of all households affected
- 60% of caregivers work
- US corporations lose **\$17-34 billion** annually (lost productivity)
- By 2030, population > 65 years will double (20% of the population)

Currently in the United States, an estimated 52 million people are serving as primary caregivers who face the daily challenges posed by chronic, advanced, or terminal illnesses. At a time when our healthcare systems are stressed, families are geographically scattered, technology serves to isolate and insulate, Share The Care™ is a refreshing and relational approach to caregiving. Family members, friends, colleagues, neighbors, and volunteers unite to *create a community of care*...a community offering time and talents to meet the diverse and varied needs of the patient and their family. Whether facing the challenge of cancer, ALS, Alzheimer's, AIDS, MS, or other serious illnesses, Share The Care™ provides a practical approach to caregiving that results in compassionate, competent care for the patient while alleviating the overwhelming stress of the primary caregiver. By sharing the care, the likelihood of the primary caregiver succumbing to serious illness is reduced while the quality of life for the patient and family is enhanced.

Palliative care is a philosophy of care focused on caring rather than curing. “ The goals of palliative care are to improve the quality of a seriously ill person's life and to support that person and their family during and after treatment.” (NHPCO website) Caregiving is a concern for all those impacted by serious or advanced illnesses; therefore, proven methods for mitigating the stress of the primary caregiver(s) should be a foundational component in all palliative care programs.

Creating Communities of Care

Life Quality Institute provides an opportunity to explore the process of *creating communities of care* through workshops and community presentations. Share The Care™ is a model of caregiving rooted in the inherent, human desire to be in relationship with one another...to help one another. Please help Life Quality Institute in spreading the word about this effective and compassionate model of caregiving. Contact Jane Barton at 303.398.6230 or jbarton@lifequalityinstitute.org to schedule seminars and workshops for your social, civic, community, business, and/or faith communities. Check out scheduled educational events at www.lifequalityinstitute.org.

