

Hospice Comes to NLHV



President and CEO of Montgomery Hospice, Ann Mitchell, talks with one of the residents during Family Forum.

Quality care at the National Lutheran Home & Village at Rockville involves a partnership between families and the healthcare staff to ensure the best care for residents. NLHV communicates regularly through its Family Forum programs where residents and family members are invited to attend bi-monthly gatherings that feature speakers, information on new initiatives and an open Q&A session with staff members representing every department – from food services and maintenance to nursing and physical therapy.

To further assist families, NLHV has entered into a partnership with Montgomery Hospice, an organization offering unique care and services for residents and families. Hospice focuses on medical and personal comfort for people in the last months or days of life and the program has been implemented on the 2PC Unit with plans to expand through the entire Home.

Ann Mitchell, President and CEO of Montgomery Hospice, spoke with residents and family members at the September 16 Family Forum meeting, detailing exactly what hospice is and how it can help residents that are interested.

“Hospice is not about giving up...it’s about holding families together,” Ann Mitchell said.

Hospice doctors and nurses help patients with physical symptoms like pain, nausea or breathing

difficulty. Nursing aides help with practical needs like eating, bathing and making sure patients can rest or move around safely. Trained volunteers run errands or visit patients to give families a break. Hospice counselors, including social workers and chaplains, help patients and their loved ones find emotional and spiritual comfort.

While NLHV has always offered palliative, or comfort care for end of life, Montgomery Hospice brings a special set of services specifically geared to the family’s needs. Bereavement care is an essential part of the family’s spiritual, physical and emotional needs after a resident’s death.



Dr. Pabla discussing care with Mary Wanchick and her daughter.

Through the NLHV-Montgomery Hospice partnership, family members can receive bereavement care for more than a year after a patient’s death to cope with grief and adjust to new lives after loss. Montgomery Hospice bereavement counselors have graduate degrees in counseling, social work, pastoral care or nursing. ♦

Hospice Bereavement Counselors

- Provide general information about grief and loss
- Answer questions and help people find their own answers
- Listen to personal stories with all the mixed emotions involved
- Offer a caring and reassuring presence

**For more information contact
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