



## Felicity Women's Hospice Program

A Hospice Program designed **by Women** with care provided **for Women**

### About The Felicity Program

Our goal is to provide the highest quality hospice care possible with a skilled team of professionals who have dedicated their careers to the care and support of patients and families as they make their end of life journey.

BeLoved Hospice is honored to provide a woman-focused hospice program for patients experiencing end-of-life diseases that are, inherently exclusively to women. This care focuses not only on the physical symptoms but also on symptoms that can be uncomfortable to discuss with their partners and male healthcare providers. In addition, this program uniquely focuses not only on the woman at the center of the care, but also extends to her loved ones, partner/spouse, children, extended family, and friends.

Sadly, many of the cancers and diseases that affect women are caught when the disease has already progressed to late stages of diagnosis and are often beyond the reach of curative treatment. Diseases like ovarian and cervical cancer are not only devastating, but can also manifest into painful symptoms where, in some cases, suffering becomes prevalent at end of life. In addition to pain and symptom management, these women fight dragons in their quest for a cure, often with devastating side effects such as hair loss, loss of estrogen, mastectomy, and total hysterectomy often causing body image disruption. Many of the side effects

of treatment take a toll on women physically, emotionally, spiritually, and often these side effects carry over into other manifestations such as depression and anxiety as well as relationship struggles.

Finally, women have often spent most of their lives in caregiver roles caring for children and other family members, often to the neglect of their own self-care. Female patients are less likely to be receptive to additional care and support until they literally reach the point of exhaustion and lack of ability. Within this deep inner strength, BeLoved Hospice seeks to unite these patients with our own female providers, care staff, counselors and aides who understand the unique nature that belongs to women everywhere.

While BeLoved Hospice will continue to provide quality end-of-life care and symptom management, as we do with all patients, the Felicity Women's Care Team is dedicated to providing the intensive care, emotional counseling, and spiritual support dedicated to our fellow mothers, sisters, daughters, aunts, friends, and women.

## The Felicity Women's Program Includes:

- Pain and symptom management provided on an individual basis to maximize relief and quality of life
- A female Physician who is trained in hospice and end-of-life care to help address distressing pain and symptoms as well as provide counseling and refuge for patients who are still grappling with their diagnosis or prognosis
- Private consultations with all female providers, clinicians, and aides to assist with symptoms that may be embarrassing or uncomfortable to discuss with spouses/partners and male medical providers
- Emotional support, community resources, and counseling provided by female social workers and counselors who can help patients express feelings of vulnerability, persistent anxiety, and difficulties in communication within relationships
- Spiritual support provided by a female member of the clergy who can help patients discuss their grief, anger, hopelessness, loss of faith, existential concerns regarding mortality, or even thoughts of hope within the patient's own faith or spirituality
- Gentle touch massage and aromatherapy provided by female licensed massage therapists who can work with the patient, at their comfort level, for gentle touch and massage to address pain, anxiety, and stress, as well as address symptoms of fatigue and sleeplessness
- Child Life Counselors who can work with younger members of the patient's family who might be living in the home or whom are close to the patient. Our Child Life Counselors work with the children on their level to help them discuss feelings of fear, grief, anger, and uncertainty for the future
- Consultations with our Naturopathic Physician to help discuss natural ways to support quality of life and healthy additions to treatments for pain and symptom management.
- Care provided by a female physical therapist to address safety, in-home DME use, and proper body mechanics and positioning for comfort as well as care provided by our Speech Language Pathologist who will work with the patient to promote continued quality of life

Compassionate hearts and caring hands for your loved one...Contact us to learn more about this woman-focused program.



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