



NYSAAAA & Dignity Memorial™ present

SmartNews



November/December 2001

UPCOMING EVENTS

January 16: Board of Directors Meeting, Holiday Inn, Syracuse

January 18: LTC/Olmstead Workgroup, Introductory Meeting, Holiday Inn, Syracuse

January 18: 1st Planning Meeting for ACUU Partners, Holiday Inn, Syracuse

SmartNews is the publication of the proud partnership between Dignity Memorial™ Funeral Providers and the New York State Association of Area Agencies on Aging.

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Dignity Memorial™ Celebrates November as National Hospice Month

National Hospice month is a month-long celebration that pays tribute to Hospice providers who are dedicated to providing physical, spiritual and emotional support to terminally ill patients. Hospice treats the person, instead of the disease, focuses on the family, instead of just the individual, and emphasizes the quality of life, instead of its duration. Hospice care allows terminally ill patients and their families experience the end of life together in the comfort and security of home, or a home-like setting.

Dignity Memorial™ providers are committed to recognizing the efforts of Hospice. During the month of Novem-

ber, Dignity Memorial™ providers honored their local Hospice team members by presenting them with one of the following: flower arrangements, gift certificates for restaurants, beauty salons, cookies, fruit baskets, breakfast or lunch trays. It was their way of saying thank you for the invaluable service these compassionate men and women provide. Dignity Memorial™ also makes available to local Hospice providers information on their various community programs such as the Picking Up the Pieces series, Escape School, Smart & Safe Seniors™, Making Everlasting Memories™, 24-hour Compassion Hotline and the After-

care Planner.

Such a mutually beneficial partnership has been formed between the two organizations that the Hospice Foundation of America has included a link on their website that connects viewers to Dignity Memorial™'s Making Everlasting Memories™ web site, where users can memorialize loved ones via an Internet-accessible archive. It can be visited anywhere at any time, updated often, and preserved indefinitely. This service helps survivors cope with their loss by celebrating the life of their loved one.

Picking Up the Pieces After September 11th

While the rest of the world goes on about its business, closure has been long in coming for many families of those who perished in the September 11th tragedy. Dignity Memorial™ has been there to help these families honor those who have been lost.

Dignity Memorial™'s Benefit Program for Public Servants, provides complete funeral and cremation services for public servants fallen in the line of duty. This program supports active duty and retired emer-

gency service professionals. To date, Dignity Memorial™ providers have held 63 family funerals, 15 of which were for public servants, and 28 memorial services, of which 8 celebrated the lives of public servants.

As well as in-person services, Dignity Memorial™ has also dedicated a significant portion of its Making Everlasting Memories website to those affected by the terrorist attack. The September 11th Memorial includes an on-line Tribute

Book, which is accessible to anyone with internet access and currently includes 943 tributes, as well as an open letter to the youngest victims of the terrorist attack, written by Kathie Scobee Fulgham, daughter of Dick Scobee, Commander of the Space Shuttle Challenger on its final mission.

The on-line tribute offers a way for anyone anywhere to show their grief, concern and love, to help us all through the healing process.

Annual Leadership Institute Draws Rave Reviews

This year's annual Fall Leadership Institute, rescheduled to November 13-15th, was held at the Radisson Hotel in beautiful Corning, New York. The Leadership Institute is an opportunity for AAA Directors and Commissioners to get together and brainstorm creative practices, troubleshooting techniques and to forge a direction for next year's Association focus.

This year was no exception. AAA Directors and Commissioners enjoyed the hospitality and exceptional food of the Corning Radisson while tackling many thorny issues. Several new workgroups were formed to provide ongoing AAA study and response to several more global issues which could not be ef-



Steuben County was a terrific host!

fectively addressed in the limited time frame. The discussion was lively and productive, and all participants left Corning with the energy generated from a successful synthesis of ideas and approaches.

Normally a two day affair, this year's Leadership Institute was lengthened to three days. The first half was strictly devoted to Association business. The second half showcased a discussion forum with the NY-SOFA management team, including Director Patricia P. Pine, Ph.D., Executive Deputy Director Neal Lane, Deputy Director LPO Frank DeMarinis, Deputy Director Finance & Admin Bob Bush, and newly appointed Deputy Director PPD Mac McCoy. AAA Directors and Commissioners welcomed the opportunity to interact

with NYSOFA staff on an exclusive basis.

Following a delicious lunch celebrating the contributions of our sponsors, Ardelle Kasdan gave an informative presentation on Dignity Memorial's Smart & Safe Seniors Program: how Smart & Safe Seniors™ is presented in the community, which modules are chosen and when, and an overview of the program content. Her presentation was enthusiastically received, and generated a lot of interest from the audience. We all came away a bit more knowledgeable about crime prevention.

For the second year, Dignity Memorial™ joined us as a sponsor of this event, along with Prestige Services, New York State EPIC and the NYS Public Service Commission. All of our sponsors enjoyed the informal interaction with NYSAAAA members, as well as the quaint charm of the town of Corning.

Smart & Safe Around the State

On October 31, **David Ginsberg** kicked off a county-wide Smart & Safe Seniors™ programs at Albany County's Ravena Senior Project.

David was joined by Albany County's Commissioner for the Department of Aging, Vincent Colonna, County Executive Michael Breslin, Consumer Affairs Commissioner Michael Whelan and Center Director Terry Albano. All were presented with certificates and reported positive responses.

In Suffolk County, **Charles Spencer** and **JoAnn DeGiulio** made a presentation on December 5 to the Smithtown Senior Center. The audience was attentive and participated in the discussion, asking for an encore presentation at another senior center. Kudos to the presenters—and it wasn't a bad idea to bring gifts for the audience!

Michael Carullo has been busy in New York City, bringing the home invasion module to the Casabe Nutrition Center, Theatre Arts Center, Good Neighbor Senior Center, and the Schomburg Senior Center, all in the space of a month.

At **Mary DeLouise's** October 10 presentation to Edison Arms Housing residents, the audience could really relate to her Cons and Scams module. They're eager for her to return, and teach them more.

Ardelle Kasdan has been presenting Smart & Safe Seniors™ programs all over the greater New York area, from the Bronx to Cedarhurst to Manhattan Beach, but perhaps her greatest challenge came during her presentation to the Self-help Prince Street Senior Center in Flushing. Not only was the Program presented in two dialects of Chinese, but it was also given in the



Look for Smart & Safe Seniors™ in your area!

same room with card and mahjong players. Ardelle's program was so compelling that not only did they all listen, but afterward thanked her, deeming the presentation "very professional." Ardelle, you can certainly be counted on to rise to the occasion!

