

2014 - 2015 CGCC Survivorship Initiative Success Story

Death Over Dinner

Summary

Let's Have Dinner and Talk About Death is a national movement striving to normalize conversation surrounding death and dying with dignity. A statistic from Harvard states that 65% of bankruptcies occur due to medical expenses and the vast majority of these expenses are end of life care. How we want to die represents one of the most important and costly conversation that America isn't having. With this in mind, the CGCC partnered with attorneys Julia Magda and Jennifer Haskins to talk about the importance of advance directives, wills, and estate planning while enjoying a tasty dinner from a local and healthy restaurant, Fountain of Juice.



CHALLENGE

The Let's Have Dinner and Talk About Death movement reports a shocking statistic that states that 75% of Americans report that they would want to die at home but only about 20% actually do. The reason behind this is that death and dying are two subjects that simply do not get talked about enough. Additionally, there are many families that are torn apart as a result of the stress and guilt that comes from the question that should have an answer: "Would this have been what my loved one wanted."

The Solution

The CGCC and attorneys Julia Magda and Jennifer Haskins are dedicated to increasing awareness and starting a conversation that needs to take place more often. Our first Death Over Dinner event encompassed a wealth of information on the topics of advance directives, wills, estate planning and the technical information such the implications of artificial nutrition and hydration.

"This event was very informative and I have taken away a lot of good information that I will use in the near future. I'm 91 years old so I guess it's about time I started talking about this stuff."

-Program Participant

Future Directions

Based on the amount of interest that this topic received from community members and partners alike, the CGCC fully intends to continue introducing the idea of the Let's Have Dinner and Talk about Death movement to the Central Georgia area. Along with the dedication and knowledge of Julia Magda and Jennifer Haskins, the CGCC hopes to further efforts to normalize conversation surrounding death, dying, and the importance of having legal measures in place.



Results

A post workshop feedback survey among all attendees revealed that:

- 82% of participants indicated that they attended the event because they wanted to be prepared for the future
- 100% of participants indicated that they learned many new things that would be useful
- 91% of participants indicated that their next step would be to talk to their family and friends about this topic.

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A focused initiative of Community Health Works