Branch

1. Basic requirements H.

The Town of Smithtown is located fifty miles from New York City on Long Island's north shore in western Suffolk County. Within the town's fifty-five square miles are the hamlets of Smithtown, Kings Park, St. James, Nesconset, and parts of Hauppauge, Commack and Fort Salonga, as well as three incorporated villages, Village of the Branch, Village of Nissequogue and Village of Head of the Harbor. The Branch Funeral Home is located in the Village of the Branch, which is right in the heart of the main town of Smithtown.

According to the last census (2000), the population of Smithtown is approximately 116,000 people. About 16,000 adults are 65 or older. Religious affiliations are predominately Christian. The community has a rich history dating back to its founding in 1665. The Smithtown Historical Society keeps this history alive with its many events. The Smithtown Arts Council, Performing Arts Theatre, and Smithtown's fine educational system provide cultural stimulation for the young and old. Besides history and culture, Smithtown has many parks, thirty miles of shoreline, golf courses, horse farms and libraries, all of which create many activities for everyone.

Smithtown senior citizens are a vibrant educated group who often attend the town's senior center. Besides many activities provided, the seniors like their quiet time. The Branch Funeral Home decided to supply them with reading material covering any and all interests. Many many magazines are delivered monthly for the seniors to enjoy during their restful time. The articles create conversation and excellent information on all topics.

We, at the Branch Funeral Home, are always trying to give back to this great community of Smithtown residents. We are happy to provide services and programs for them, especially the seniors who don't always have the opportunity to get things or do things for themselves.

Computer count 304 words

Pursuit of Excellence Essay

also served positive advertisement, as the funeral home's name appeared on the tee shirt and was Amite, Louisiana. In addition to merely making a financial contribution to this worthwinle cause, enjoyed fellowship and live gospel music and participated in contests and games, such as, bingo, members of the attendees, and by Nursing Home and Assistance Living vehicles. The attendees Brandon G. Thompson Funeral Home provided a meeting space for planning the event and took opportunity for the staff of Brandon G. Thompson Funeral Home to become acquainted with a meal of hamburgers, hot dogs, baked beans and cake was provided by funding from the United Way, City and Parish Governments, and other various donations, in accordance with the Older multitude of Nursing Home employees and directors, family caretakers and senior citizens. It planning this fun filled event, which the area's senior citizens look forward to every year. The best decorated hat, oldest female and male, most laps walked, and the all time favorite, men's best legs, which was judged by Martha Thompson and Lauren Thompson. A delicious pionic Americans Act. This event served as a positive social outlet for senior citizens who often feel Brandon G. Thompson Funeral Home is committed to improving the quality of life to an active role in designing the commemorative tee shirt, and attaining door prizes and contest prizes. As a member of the board of directors, Martha Mckneely Thompson worked closely weather was beautiful on the big day and attendance was spectacular, with over two hundred Council on Aging annual Senior Walk and Picuic on April 15, 2011 at Fleet Easley Park in senior citizens present! Transportation was provided by Louisiana Transit, personal family senior citizens in our community and proudly sponsored the Tangipahoa Parish Voluntary with Tangipahoa Parish Voluntary Council on Aging executive director, Debi Fleming in isolated and lonely. In addition to the benefits it provided for the attendees, it was a great mentioned in the Tangipahoa Parish Voluntary Council on Aging monthly newsletter.

<u>DeMoney-Grimes Countryside Park Funeral Home</u> <u>Essay for Pursuit of Excellence 2010-2011</u>

Columbia City, Indiana is a rural area nestled in the heart of Whitley County, located 18 miles west of Fort Wayne, Indiana and 102 miles north of Indianapolis. With a city population of 8,750, there are four funeral homes located within the county and two within Columbia City proper. The majority of the population is protestant, 83% with the remaining 17% being Roman Catholic. 17.7% of the population is 65 years of age or older, and the death rate for the city averages 265 deaths per year.

In 2009 funeral home staff decided to partner with the Whitley County Senior Center and sponsor a Christmas Movie. As the project began to be planned and details worked out the scope of the project grew and more activities were added. It was such a success that in 2010 it was decided to host the Christmas Movie again. Eddie Beagles, Executive Manager and Dianna Budd, Pre-Need manager, cooked a homemade lunch for over 125 seniors who were served at the Senior Center. Then everyone was invited to the local movie theater, with transportation provided for those that needed it, to watch the holiday movie "Christmas with the Kranks" at no charge to them. The local theater provided popcorn and a soft drink or coffee for \$1.00, Santa Claus greeted everyone and passed out candy canes, we had a Christmas Carol sing-a-long, raffle prizes, the Red Hat Strutters (senior dance group) entertained with their Christmas dance program and the Whitley County Korean War Veterans Honor Guard posted the American Flag and led everyone in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Our main goal of the senior movie was to provide a meaningful afternoon of fun "in the spirit of Christmas" for seniors in the community. Many seniors have lost a spouse and family may no longer be in the area. Our goal was to provide a place for seniors to come together and spend a fun afternoon with friends. We have found that many senior clubs, extension groups, church senior Bible study groups like to attend as their monthly activity for the holiday. Some benefits provided to the community include: savings for the local senior center as they do not have to provide a lunch that day or staff their kitchen as it is all provided and cooked by funeral home staff, well over 200 seniors attend the event that provided them with a social outlet for the day along with the entertainment.

Benefits that the funeral home received was that the majority of the staff was able to participate and this provided everyone the chance to interact with the seniors in our local community, it portrayed funeral service in a good light providing this as a free community service, our cost versus the goodwill of the community was priceless. We plan to continue to host this event each year as it is so well received.



Overgreen MORTUARY
CEMETERY & CREMATORY
3015 NORTH ORACLE ROAD

3015 NORTH ORACLE ROAD TUCSON, ARIZONA 85705 24 Hour Telephone -- (520) 888-7470

Evergreen Mortuary, Cemetery and Crematory, Tucson, Arizona is serving within a community of close to one million residence. Home to a major university, a ranching and mining community, a major defense supplier, many technical support facilities and a multi cultural and religious population. There is a very large retirement base and home for many winter visitors.

Evergreen is the first mortuary, competery and crematory in Southern Arizona, Evergreen has been a progressive leader and in the forefront of education and legislation. Taking that in to consideration, it was decided to put together a program directed to those who need a more balanced information package. Evergreen wanted to do something different in our area. The current economic conditions and living style of the population also had an influence on the program makeup. After much thought a presentation was put together involving a local elder care attorney, Tucson's largest hospice and Evergreen's in house and out sourced pre need talents.

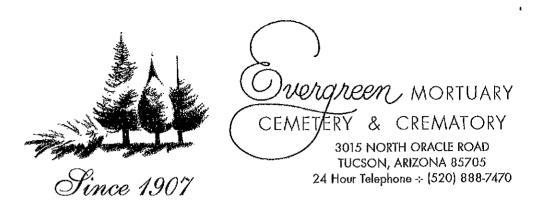
Presentations on legal issues to be considered in order to minimize problems upon the death of an individual; purpose of the proper use of a hospice program for both the terminally ill individual and the care giver: and the advantages of funeral preneed arrangements via insurance were rendered. Evergreen realizes that a more educated public can make more educated decisions. This program was well received with more than thirty individuals attending.

MORTUARY

COLUMBARIUM

CREMATORIUM

MASONIC CEMETERY



This program was a benefit to those who attended and Evergreen's staff. The sharing of information helped the presenters understand the other presenters' position in society.

Evergreen staff was made more aware of legal issues, hospice updates and changes in the needs foreseen by the public in attendance.

COLUMBARIUM CREMATORIUM MASONIC CEMETERY

MORTUARY

Basic Requirements Continued

H. Innovative Program Essay

signer. What the program entails is providing flowers to individuals whom receive, meals emembered Arrangements. The program is named after Nancy who is our retired floral Freitag-Reeves & Baskerville Funeral Home initiated a program called Nancy's

w the program works, is that we ask families that we are serving if they wish to donate antity of flowers). The oasis from the arrangements, as well as all ribbons and fillers are sed. Once reassembled, the arrangements are transported to the Community Nutrition work Meals on Wheels and skilled care facilities. Pending on the volume and number of e flowers and recycle all components of the arrangements. Nancy then rearranges the ce-setting for keeping. In circumstances where we have an over abundance of flowers, ep what they create for their rooms. We have also carted the flowers on carts through residences and just allowed the residents to pull flowers of their choice for bud vases. program clearly makes it known to the residents that the flowers are donated from yers are more often grateful for the flowers to provide cheer for those who don't get ise participating in the floral arranging demonstrations. The families who donate the ollowing formal services. If the family opts to donate the flowers, we then disassemble it flowers from services – rather than leave them at the cemetery or dispose of them seniors who take part in the presentation make their own arrangements and then tirement homes, and Nancy assists in presenting demonstrations on floral arranging, milles who experienced a loss, however provides cheer and in most cases activity for grangements they are also taken to the senior lunches, for everyone to have at their lowers in containers as small as 1.5 ounce containers to full size vases (depending on lowers on a regular basis, and in return those who are receipt are grateful for the we also just separate the flowers in buckets and take them to the active senior on wheels, are 'shut-in' or are residents at senior and skilled care facilities.

y the highest level of

le through integrity,

ompassion. It is our

the success of our ependent upon our

ide families with a

eaningful experience

care and direction.

serve. We will make

effort to meet and

amilies needs by

s to the families we

nitted to the time bration of life and that our primary

ssion Statement



Fairgrove~Mt. Morris~Vassar

Administrative Office 1194 E. Mt. Morris Rd. Mt. Morris, Michigan 48458

> Phone (888) 686-2210 Fax (810) 686-0317

www.martinfuneralhome.com

Describing a program/activity from a previous entry will only be accepted if changes or improvements are noted within the essay. If you are describing this program or service in another location's *Pursuit of Excellence* entry, each location's essay should indicate what its staff did to participate in the activity and the activity's impact on those served. Duplicate essays in multiple-location submissions will not be accepted. The idea described in this essay can also be used to fulfill one criterion in categories II-VI. All participant essays will be featured on the NFDA website and used in other idea-sharing activities. (*Optional*) If you want your essay to be considered for Best of the Best recognition, it must be accompanied by supporting documentation.

Fairgrove, Michigan is a rural community, with a population of approximately 582. Fairgrove is a small farming community producing sugarbeats and Northern White beans. Also, Fairgrove participates in numerous community service events throughout the year. Martin Funeral Home often participates in these events. One event that Martin Funeral Home hosted was the Asset Protection with Medicaid Seminar in the month of March, for which the funeral home advertised to Tuscola County, requesting an RSVP, but offering the seminar free of charge. Many of the Martin Funeral Home's core staff attended, as well as the support staff. Overall, there were approximately 25 attendees. At the seminar, there was a light buffet, and two speakers, Carol M. Thomas, J.D., Elder Law Attorney, and Kevin Jackson, Licensed Preplanning Consultant. The rationale behind the program was to educate those on Medicaid, but particularly those looking to enroll in Medicaid about their rights in regards to their finances and preplanned funerals. The benefits to families and the community are many, including continuous care to the families Martin Funeral Home serves, as well as a public outreach program. Being surrounded by the community broadens the perspective of funeral home's staff, allowing them to better serve the community in the future. Further, it is certain that the funeral home staff learned more about Medicaid and its limitations, which can be of great assistance to questions that may arise in the future. Martin Funeral Home sponsored the event.

Follow us on:



















June 24, 2011

To: NFDA Pursuit of Excellence Committee

From: Tetrick Funeral and Cremation Services

Re: Innovative Programs

Each year during the summer months Tetrick Funeral and Cremation Services sponsors a "Senior Prom" for senior citizens. 2011 marks the fourth year we have provided this event for our community.

The "Senior Prom" is a goodwill gesture by our funeral home giving back to the communities in which we are privileged to serve. Our firm strongly believes that we must give back to our community a goodly portion of what we have received each year. The "Senior Prom" is designed for people over the age of 50, married couples, dating couples, and widowed people. The attendance we see at the "Senior Prom" is a definite cross-section of our community.

The "Senior Prom" always takes place on a Friday night in the Christian Life Center of one of our local churches. Attendees are encouraged to dress up in their finest and most do. We have seen attendees show up in black-tie and cocktail dresses, western outfits, Scottish kilts with cutaway formal jackets, and just about every other kind of outfit you can imagine. We furnish a photographer to take pictures of each couple and furnish this as a favor to those who attend. A live orchestra/band is brought in for entertainment and dancing. The music ranges from 40's music to Elvis Presley to Motown. The favorite music for the attendees is generally music they can line-dance to.

The area where the "Senior Prom" takes place has a stage for the band and the dance floor is ringed with roundtables which are decorated by our staff. Our staff is dressed in black-tie for the event. We serve as host and hostesses, welcoming those in attendance and dancing with those who do not have a partner.

We furnish light refreshments for the evening. All of this is done at no cost to those in attendance. Each year we use the entire seating area and have a waiting list to get in. The community is most appreciative of the 'Senior Prom" and we are proud to be able to provide this for our community.

Pilal Ostat

Richard Tetrick