I. Basic Requirements

E. On January 11, 2007, Hauser-Hantge Funeral Chapel, in conjunction with our other funeral chapels presented our 17th annual Beyond Sorrow Seminar. The event was held at Peace Lutheran Church in Hutchinson to allow for the large crowd.

Letters of invitation (see enclosed) were mailed to all families we served at our Fairfax Funeral Home during the past year. An article was also in the local newspaper. The funeral directors also personally invited families that have had difficult times with their grieving or traumatic deaths in their family. We also gave the invitation to the local churches to include in their bulletins. Since there was no charge to attend the seminar, many more were able to attend.

The seminar also offered CEU's (2) for all health care professionals. This was not only a benefit to our staff but also to our friends of the local clinic, nursing home, Alzheimer's home, and hospital. They were all notified of the event and were pleased to receive the CEU's at no cost.

Elizabeth Andersen from the funeral home attended the two hour seminar. It was a good feeling to look around the room and see families we recently served – knowing the information presented would hopefully be helpful to them. It also reminded them we hadn't "forgotten" about them or their loss.

Steven Tibbetts, Mortuary Sciences Instructor, was the speaker. He was informative, humorous and kept the crowd involved by presenting interactive exercises. He brought many helpful forms and pamphlets which attendees were able to take home and to their places of business.

Cookies and coffee were served both during intermission and after the program. This gave those in attendance the opportunity to visit with Ben and the funeral home staff. They were able to ask questions one on one.

This event has become an annual tradition. It allows our funeral chapels, along with our after-care program "Grief Recovery Friends" to offer the community and families we serve with a meaningful, informative program.

Mattson Funeral Home & Cremation Service

As funeral directors in a growing community, we are constantly answering telephone calls that appear to us as "price shoppers" when in fact these are lay people who really are just quite curious about what we do on a day to day basis. While fielding these daily questions is a large part of our daily responsibilities, we feel it is a larger responsibility for us to educate these consumers about the unknown. Funeral directors, Susan Hutchison, Paul Hutchison and Kari Eberhardt organized a two day program to accomplish that goal. This innovative program was a one hour educational seminar on cremation. During that hour attendees heard from the superintendent of Forest Lawn Crematory who spoke about the actual cremation process, a representative from Batesville Casket Company who spoke about the many options when choosing cremation for the final form of disposition, an expert in preplanning who spoke about the importance of planning ahead and funeral director susan Hutchison who painted a "true to life" story about a family who planned ahead.

Susan began the session telling a story about a lady who called the funeral home to "just get information" on being cremated. She said she did not want any type of service, nor did she want anyone talking her into anything. Susan answered her questions and invited her to come to the funeral home at her convenience to get these ideas in writing. When Ms. Smith came into the funeral home they talked about her children, friends and other family and how they may feel if they were not given the opportunity to see her again. This led her to choosing a "small visitation" with a celebration of life service to follow. She left the funeral home that day as a friend and they continued that friendship.

The day of the seminar the funeral directors set the room where the session would take place to resemble "Ms. Smith's" wishes. The room was filled with her collection of glass birds, items from her actual garden (even a sample of her peonies and irises) and the cremation casket she had selected was draped with the flowers she loved. Susan's discussion ended with her telling everyone the room was set this way because "Ms. Smith" had died this past weekend and her visitation would be this evening and the celebration of her life would follow. Some in attendance were so touched by the story they wept. Needless to say the importance of planning ahead was well portrayed.

The following day interested persons were invited to tour Forest Lawn Crematory along with the staff from the funeral home. Complimentary transportation was provided and an hour long tour of the retort and the facility was given. It was exciting to see people learning about something so foreign to them. It is our hope that in providing this program and tour to the public that "wives tales" and misleading notions regarding cremation were solved.

Thomas McAfee Funeral Homes



I. Basic Requirements

E. Innovative Program 2007

Thomas McAfee Funeral Home presents annual seminars for the public, educators and health professionals to attend. These seminars have featured renowned names such as: Dr. Alan D. Wofelt (October 6-7, 2003), Rabbi Earl Grollman (October 5-6, 2004), Bill Hoy (September 27-28, 2005), and Dr. Maria Trozzi (September 26-27, 2006). Thomas McAfee started these public seminars in 2002 with Bill Bates. This year, the funeral home is proud to announce that Dr. Alan D. Wofelt will again be our presenter.

The seminars started as a community service that is free of charge to the general public. We then extended the scope of the seminars and added the availability of professionals attending and receiving continuing education credits. Professions that benefit from the continuing education session are area funeral directors and nurses as well as social workers. Last year we expanded further and included educators from the area. This presentation was molded just for them on how to deal with children during some of the most difficult times of their lives in coping with many different kinds of grief.

The general public is invited to attend our evening seminar that is held at the convention center to learn about grief; what is normal, what is not, how to cope with the changes in their lives and to ask questions that they feel comfortable sharing publicly. We have literature available for the public that is complimentary as well as the published works of the aforementioned speakers have written for sale.

Hosting the seminars for the Greenville, South Carolina area is quite an experience and is highly recognized in our community as well as other communities such as Atlanta, GA and Charlotte, NC. We are fortunate to be able to provide the high quality speakers that we do and feel that it is an invaluable service to our community. Quite often we receive inquiries early in the year from local hospitals, nursing homes, counseling centers, etc. that are already interested in who will be our guest for the year. Our entire staff looks forward to providing this service each year and most of the staff lends their support and help in making the entire two days a success.

