Pursuit of Excellence - Spencer Family Funeral Home

Athens, MI Contact Name: Joy Spencer-Spoor

At Spencer Family Funeral Home in Athens, Michigan, we strongly believe in the value of connecting with the community in ways beyond just during the periods of bereavement.

By reaching out to our neighbors throughout the year with special services and activities, we break down the invisible wall of fear and anxiety with those who are in need of our funeral services.

Along with an annual Veteran's Day memorial service that honors a historical figure and local fallen heroes, we offer a more lighthearted activity in the spring.

This year, Spencer Family Funeral Home hosted its 73rd annual Easter Egg Hunt. The Hunt attracted hundreds of children and their parents to our property, allowing them to participate in a cheerful and exciting event at our establishment. Along with over 8,000 brightly colored hidden eggs - all filled with goodies and some with mystery prizes, such as new bikes and MP3 players- there were a myriad of other attractions as well. Hilarious clowns in their festive garb paraded around the grounds, as did a 7 foot tall Easter Bunny and a bee mascot from a local restaurant who passed out dinner coupons.

Baby animals also were present for the kids to pet lambs, goats, bunnies and chicks. A nearby cartoonist signed an activity and coloring book made for the event and a deejay spun lively kids tunes and held hula hoop contests. Clowns from the Red Cross tied animal balloons, stories were read and puppets were on hand, along with Ronald McDonald who told jokes, performed magic and taught kids great virtues.

Area high school students painted bunny faces on eager children and a local sheep farmer demonstrated wool-making on her spinning wheel. The entire event was broadcast by a 50,000 Watt radio station.

Many of the families that attend the event would not normally know about Spencer Family Funeral Home, as they come from a few towns away. The whole festivity inspires a sense of hope and celebration and eases the intimidation and mystery that is often associated with this business. A byproduct of the event is the relationships that are furthered with those who volunteer their time and energies for the occasion.

All involved are more likely to become friends and patrons of the funeral home, along with spreading the word to others about us. When Paul Spencer, the founder of the funeral home, began the Easter Egg Hunt activity many years ago, his main goal was to ease the burden of fear and uneasiness children have towards funeral home.

It is safe to say that our outreach to the community by way of these events and particularly through the annual Easter Egg Hunt is greatly beneficial to all involved.