

# MUSC Palliative Care: Legacy Work

Jessica Bullington, BSN, RN, CHPN  
Palliative Care Program Specialist



Changing What's Possible | [MUSChealth.org](https://MUSChealth.org)



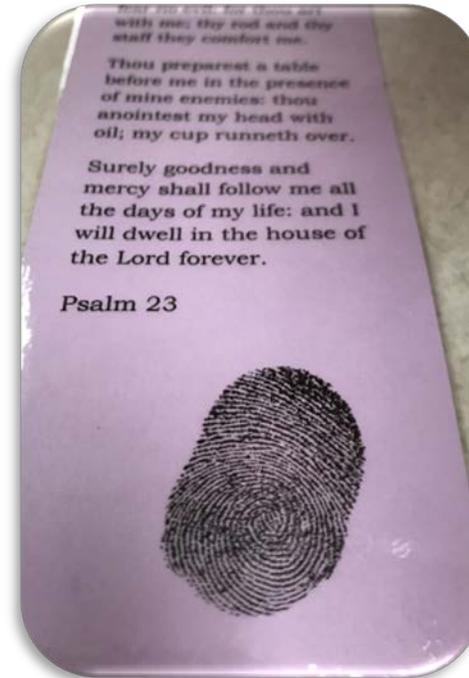
# Legacy Work

- Memory making at end-of-life.
- Transitional objects that promote coping and connection to family during long hospitalization.
- A form of meaning-based coping
  - Finding meaning & purpose during a stressful event.
- Allows people to shift awareness and focus on the humanity in the moment.
- Facilitates first steps in the bereavement process.



# How is Legacy Work Practiced?

- Hand print impression kits
  - Thumb prints
  - Photos
  - Creating cards
  - Journaling
  - Letter writing
  - Painted hand prints
    - on decorative paper, canvases, book covers, rocks, stuffed animals
  - ECG tracings
  - Special events
  - Services of Remembrance
- ❖ Think outside of the box!



# “How do I talk to families about Legacy Work?”

- EOL vs. chronic, serious illness
  - Long-hospitalizations
  - Poor/uncertain prognosis
- Visuals help!
- Meet them where they are
- Legacy work = Connection
- Normalize emotional responses
- Encourage participation

MUSC Medical University of South Carolina  
We hope these gifts from our Legacy Program provide you with comfort & support.  
Please share your experience/thoughts/suggestions with us.

Person Completing card:  Nurse  Chaplain  
 Family/Friend  Physician  RT/PT/OT/SLP  
 Patient  PCT  Other

Was this activity of value to you?  No  Yes

Please rate how meaningful this was for you:  
(Not at all) 0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 (Highly Meaningful)

Comment:  
This touched our hearts and is greatly appreciated!  
Thank-you!

Please return this card to the Legacy Kit or your nurse.  
If you have more to say, please share your story with us at [palliativecare@musc.edu](mailto:palliativecare@musc.edu)

MUSC Medical University of South Carolina  
We hope these gifts from our Legacy Program provide you with comfort & support.  
Please share your experience/thoughts/suggestions with us.

Person Completing card:  Nurse  Chaplain  
 Family/Friend Daughter  Physician  RT/PT/OT/SLP  
 Patient  PCT  Other

Was this activity of value to you?  No  Yes

Please rate how meaningful this was for you:  
(Not at all) 0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 (Highly Meaningful)

Comment:  
Losing a loved one is never easy. Taking a piece of her home makes me smile!

Please return this card to the Legacy Kit or your nurse.  
If you have more to say, please share your story with us at [palliativecare@musc.edu](mailto:palliativecare@musc.edu)

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We hope these gifts from our Legacy Program provide you with comfort & support.  
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Person Completing card:  Nurse  Chaplain  
 Family/Friend  Physician  RT/PT/OT/SLP  
 Patient  PCT  Other

Was this activity of value to you?  No  Yes

Please rate how meaningful this was for you:  
(Not at all) 0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 (Highly Meaningful)

Comment:  
Thank you so much for providing such a thoughtful and lasting memory for us.

Please return this card to the Legacy Kit or your nurse.  
If you have more to say, please share your story with us at [palliativecare@musc.edu](mailto:palliativecare@musc.edu)

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We hope these gifts from our Legacy Program provide you with comfort & support.  
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Person Completing card:  Nurse  Chaplain  
 Family/Friend  Physician  RT/PT/OT/SLP  
 Patient  PCT  Other

Was this activity of value to you?  No  Yes

Please rate how meaningful this was for you:  
(Not at all) 0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 (Highly Meaningful)

Comment:  
We thought this was so wonderful on the hardest day of our life.

Please return this card to the Legacy Kit or your nurse.  
If you have more to say, please share your story with us at [palliativecare@musc.edu](mailto:palliativecare@musc.edu)

# Transforming Grief in the Children's Hospital...

Children's  
Organizational  
Resource  
Acknowledging  
Life and loss



# CORAL Program

- **Bereavement Database:**
  - Send patient's MRN to [peds-pct@musc.edu](mailto:peds-pct@musc.edu)
  - Peds team will enter patients into the database
- **Cart Locations:**
  - 8<sup>th</sup> floor NICU – inside physician's conference room
  - 4<sup>th</sup> floor PCICU – Clean utility room (behind the door)
  - 5<sup>th</sup> floor Antepartum – Storage room 555
  - Keys are either at the nurse's station or in the narcotics drawer of the Acudose



# Certified Child Life Specialists



- Professionals trained to help children and their families understand and manage challenging healthcare experiences.
- Skilled in providing developmental, educational and therapeutic interventions for children and their families under stress.
- Provide support for growth and development while also recognizing family strengths and individuality, and respecting different methods of coping.
- Expertise in pediatric bereavement, supporting both parents and siblings.



# Transforming Grief in the Adult Hospitals...

Ellie's  
Way



# Collaboration and Healing...

