

Allegany County Summary of *Sharing Your Wishes* NHDD Activities

College/University Involvement: April 16, 2009, Houghton College, Alfred State College and Alfred University welcomed students throughout the day at publicized locations on campus, to receive information about advance care planning and obtain advance directive forms. I was present at both of the campuses in Alfred, NY, and available to answer questions, and assist students in completion of a Health Care Proxy. I stressed to students the importance of having conversations with their family before completing the documents. Students as well as faculty members stopped by our "resource tables"; a couple of the faculty offered to make announcements to their classes regarding the importance of ACP, and encouraged them to stop by the information tables after class. Faculty also took educational materials to share with their students.

A highlight following NHDD was the system change that occurred when Alfred University printed a link to the SYW website in their 2009 Fall Orientation Packets for new students.

In addition to the NHDD activities, Advance Care Planning resources have been presented to area college students in other formats:

I have been a guest lecturer Alfred University and Alfred State College over the past three years (and just received a call today from Dr. Danielle Gagne to present to her "Death and Dying Class in March". She agreed to make an announcement to her classes about NHDD and pass on to me names of student who would like to be involved in the student sub-committee. Introducing the ACP concept to future health and human service care providers is vital to the sustainability of this process. This opportunity allowed us to reach an audience who will have great impact on the future of this issue. These lectures added a new dimension to the community outreach effort. Each of the nearly 175 students was given a packet of SYW materials including Advance Directive forms and supporting documents to assist them with have conversations with their health care proxy and/or family members prior to completion of the forms.

Summary of Other Allegany County Sharing Your Wishes Marketing for NHDD:

As a participating organization in National Health Care Decisions Day, the Allegany County *Sharing Your Wishes* program provided educational resources for the public to talk about their wishes with family, friends and healthcare providers, and execute written advance directives (Health Care Proxy and Living Will forms) in accordance NYS laws. Press releases were submitted to local newspapers and newsletters prior to National Healthcare Decision Day, April 16, 2009. As participating organizations, Steuben and Schuyler counties joined the local and national endeavor to increase awareness of the need for completing Advance Directives. Printed and radio spots aired in both Schuyler and Steuben Counties to encourage the community to talk about their wishes with family, friends and healthcare providers. In addition, radio station WFLR in Dundee, included NHDD posters on the WFLR website and on the "Community Bulletin Board", a radio announcement of community events. Respecting Choices© trained facilitators in each of the counties took the lead in organizing the events for NHDD.