



Professional End-of-Life Doulas & Hospice Collaboration

The Death & Resurrection Doula Training Program brings together industry experts in the fields of nursing, ethics, and theology.

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What's happening:

- **Within 25 years**, The Baby Boomer population is projected to grow from 600M+ to 1.6B. Before this time, hospitals will admit twice as many Baby Boomers in need of medical care than today. The establishment of multi-disciplinary care is one of many solutions to the Gray or Silver Tsunami.
- **Medical Aid in Dying** legislation is being passed in a growing number of U.S. states. The cost of **long-term care** is unaffordable for many seniors.
- **Hospice** services are a vital part of **end-of-life care** but many families find the hours of provided care are not enough when a loved one is dying at home. Caring for the dying is unfamiliar territory for many Americans. Death remains an uncomfortable topic for doctors and patients and family members.

End-of-life doulas benefit hospice services:

- **End-of-Life Doulas** are becoming more familiar as helpers and companions for seniors and terminally-ill patients. The greek word, *doulos*, means “servant; one committed to another.” An end-of-life doula is a non-medical practitioner trained to assist individuals, families, and communities through the dying process.
- **The Death & Resurrection Doula Training Program** is turning out strong leaders to help families navigate end-of-life care in the home setting. Hospice News reports an unsurpassed benefit of investing in end-of-life doulas: helping hospice address the “unmet needs among terminally ill patients and their families.”
- Doulas amplify – not replace – clinical care, improving patient satisfaction;
- Doulas strengthen community trust and referral strength;
- Doulas are trained for outreach and education to help families understand the importance of end-of-life conversations and early hospice referrals.

Achieving success between End-of-life Doulas & Hospice:

- Determine an equitable partnership. Professional doulas charging a fair rate will enhance skill and reliability over volunteers in the same role. Doulas should expect to follow an individual hospice agency's on-boarding for volunteers & staff.
- The end-of-life doula scope of practice especially touches the emotional and spiritual needs of patients and families. Discussing end-of-life wishes, legacy work, and story telling across consistent visits provides healing and closure.
- Clearly defining the partnership & setting compensatory goals may vary between agencies and doulas. Pilot endeavors are proving to be worth the effort for doulas, hospices, and families!

To Get Started:

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