

# Crossing the Religious Divide: Training Caregivers in Religious Diversity



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## **Executive Summary**

Creighton University along with Project Interfaith and the Nebraska Respite Network created a training opportunity for professional care givers, medical personnel and social service providers that was held on November 6<sup>th</sup>, 2008 at the Brookstone Meadows Assisted Living Facility. Each institution participated in promotional activities and currently there are over 40 registrants. A Project Interfaith volunteer helped locate laptops that will be used as training aids and as a resource for locating religious diversity and health care information.

## **Administrative/Planning Activities**

Beth Katz, of Project Interfaith and her staff compiled participant packets. The workshop was held Nov. 6<sup>th</sup>, 2008. Beth led the training with establishing ground rules, identity exercises and developing a common language for diversity issues. Dr. Paul Williams presented a history of religious diversity in the United States and introduction to some legal issues. A panel made up of Jehovah's Witness, Muslim, Hindu and Jewish faiths presented a summary of their religious practices. Beth led a discussion on best practices and strategies for inclusion and Judi Bergjord presented resources for dealing with religious diversity issues in healthcare.

## **Collaborations/Partnerships**

Creighton University, Project Interfaith and the Nebraska Respite Network worked together in promoting and marketing this workshop. The staff at the Brookstone Meadows Assisted Living Facility assisted in set-up and technical support throughout the day of the event.

## **Publicity/Marketing Activities**

In October, Beth spoke to the Midlands Elder Care Network, a network of care givers, (both organizations and individuals) in the Omaha metropolitan area. Approximately 40-50 people attend these monthly meetings. She also spoke at the Greater Omaha Retirement Housing Group.

Flyers were available at the workshop publicizing the spring event.

## **Registration**

Forty-one people registered for the November 6 workshop. Thirty-three signed the Outreach Activity Participant Information Sheet. Participants include one member of the general public, two health sciences librarians and one public library staff member. The other 29 participants were health care service providers.

## **Laptop and Website**

Project Interfaith received 2 laptops that meet the needs of the project and the website is in the process of being developed.

### **Evaluation and Feedback**

The needs assessment that was sent out to each registrant for completion was reviewed. Evaluation forms were given to each participant and were collected at the end of the workshop. A member of the Project Interfaith staff compiled the results of the evaluations in the attached report.

### **Projected Activities for Next Quarter**

Next quarter, we will begin the marketing and publicity for the spring workshop that will be held May 6<sup>th</sup>, 2009. We will gather additional feedback from the fall workshop participants and take any corrective action for improvement. We will complete the website redesign.