

New Spanish-Speaking Bereavement Support Group

April 9, 2008

A new, free Salinas support group for Spanish-speaking persons who are experiencing grief and loss will begin meeting April 17 and welcomes new members. The group, organized by the hospice unit of the Central Coast Visiting Nurse Association and Hospice, will meet on the first and third Thursday of each month from 4-5:30 p.m.

English-language groups, led by Joseph Lumello, VNA bereavement and volunteer coordinator, meet in Monterey, Hollister, Gilroy and Salinas. Additional information is available at 758-8423 or on the VNA website at www.ccvna.com. All groups are free, and welcome new members.

“These groups are for those who are dealing with a difficult loss,” Lumello said, “and who would like to talk about their loss and meet with others who have something in common with them. The groups provide support, companionship and community to people learning about loss and dealing with it.”

MORE INFORMATION:

The bereavement program is a division of the nonprofit VNA hospice team of physician, nurse, social worker, chaplain, health aides, physical/occupational/ and speech therapists, dietitian and volunteers. Since the Central Coast VNA is Medicare certified, VNA Hospice can provide the Medicare/Medi-Cal hospice benefit that many hospices are unable to provide. The VNA also coordinates delivery to the home of Medicare-covered drugs, supplies and medical equipment related to the disease process. Additional support for the VNA Hospice program is provided through a grant from the Hospice Foundation.

Regardless of a patient’s condition or race, age or financial sources, the non-profit VNA Hospice provides care to all terminally ill people. The team focuses on educating, empowering and supporting the patient and family in hopes of reducing the fears often associated with terminal illness. Respite care in contracted facilities also is arranged when needed, to allow caregivers some time away from the home.

The bereavement program continues to care for family members for up to one year and assist the families who are going through the normal but difficult grief process. Central Coast VNA and Hospice is licensed by the California Department of Health Services Medicare and Medi-Cal Certified Home Health and Hospice.

More information regarding VNA programs may be obtained by calling 831-372-6668 or on VNA’s website: www.ccvna.com.

FREE GRIEF & LOSS SUPPORT GROUPS as of 04/09/08:

Within the nurturing and non-judgmental environment of a support group you are free to express your feelings of grief and loss in *YOUR* own unique way and at *YOUR* own pace.

For information on English-language bereavement support, please contact Joseph Lumello, MA at 831-758-8243, x3062, or email jclumell@ccvna.com
Para informacion en espanol contactar Joseph Lumello, M.A., 831-758-8243

Group dates and times are subject to change without notice.

GILROY:

2nd and 4th MONDAYS 4:30 pm - 6:00 pm
Kaiser/Gilroy Medical Center
7520 Arroyo Circle, Gilroy

HOLLISTER:

2nd and 4th TUESDAYS 12:00 noon - 1:30 pm
Hollister Methodist Church
521 Monterey Street, Hollister

MONTEREY:

2nd and 4th WEDNESDAYS 4:00 pm - 5:30 pm
VNA & Hospice - Ryan Ranch Office
5 Lower Ragsdale, Monterey

SALINAS:

1st & 3rd TUESDAYS 6:30 pm - 8:00 pm
John XXIII AIDS Ministry
1121 Baldwin Street, Salinas

1st & 3rd THURSDAYS 4:00 pm - 5:30 pm
VNA Salinas Office
6 Quail Run Circle, Suite 101, Salinas
en Espanol / Spanish speaking group

2nd & 4th THURSDAYS 4:30 pm - 6:00 pm
Salinas Valley Comprehensive Cancer Center
501 East Romie Lane, Salinas