LEGACY WORK

Transforming Grief at the Bedside

JESSICA BULLINGTON, BSN, RN, CHPN

Palliative Care Program Specialist

MUSC Palliative Care

Charleston, SC

OBJECTIVES

- Define legacy work
- Learn various ways to facilitate legacy work
- Learn how legacy work looks in adult versus pediatric populations
- Discuss the impact of legacy work on both patient families and staff
- Discuss things to consider when building a legacy program
- Discuss lessons learned
- Make a memory stone!

WHAT IS LEGACY WORK?

Memory making at end-of-life

Transition object for coping and connection during a long hospitalization

A form of meaning-based coping that helps family find connection and purpose during a stressful event

Shifts awareness away from mechanical nature of the hospital environment to the humanity in the moment

Helps facilitate first steps in bereavement

FORMS OF LEGACY WORK

Handprint impression kits

Photos/Video/Audio Recording

Letter/card writing

Journaling

ECG strips

Special events

Services of Remembrance

Personal Rituals

LEGACY KITS AT MUSC

In the Adult hospitals, each kit includes pre-made bookmarks and memory stones, black ink pads, clear nail polish, and instruction guide.

CORAL CARTS - PEDIATRICS

WITNESSING TRANSFORMATION

IMPACT

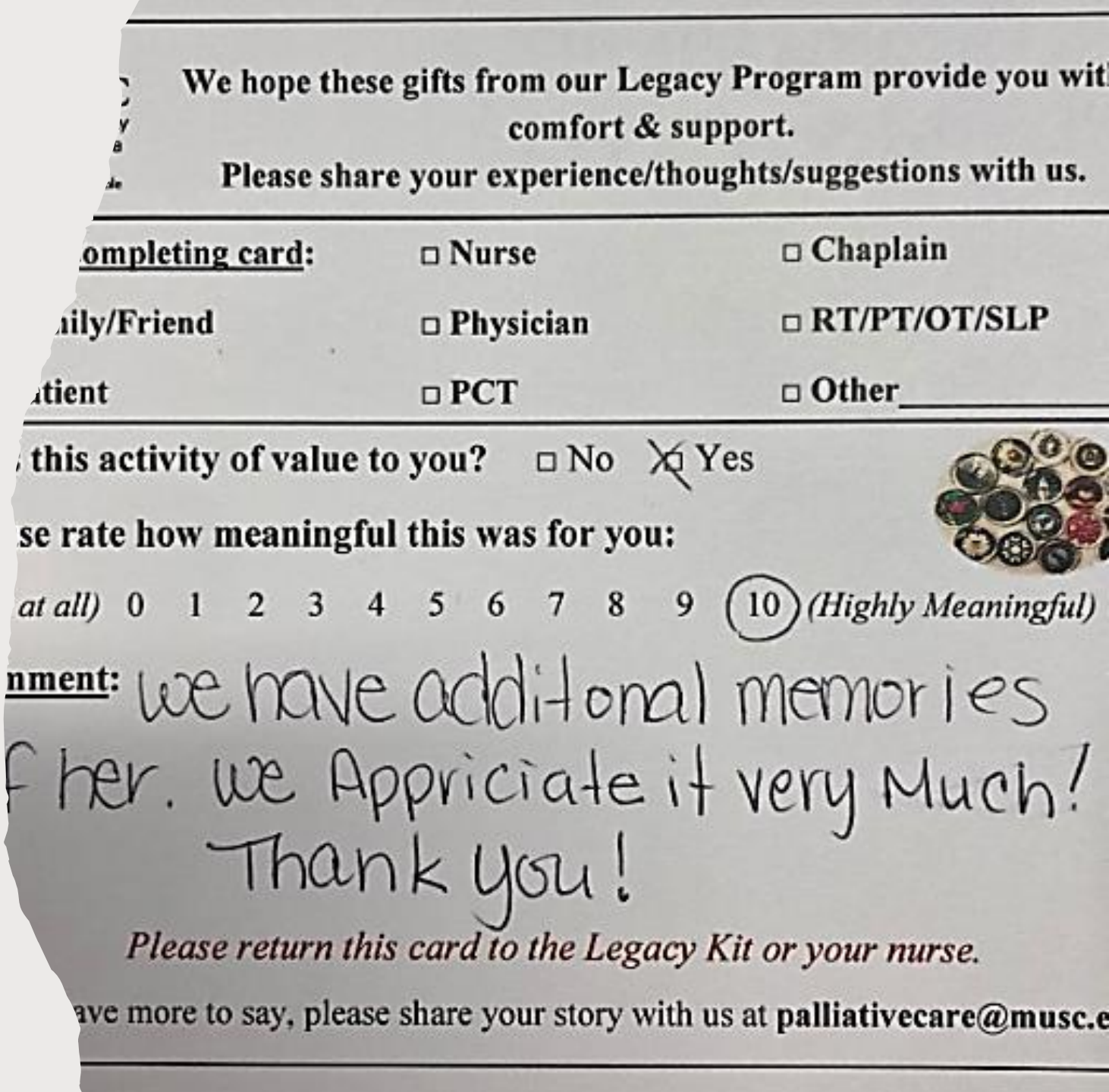
Staff:

"The family was so grateful for the LW. All 22 grandkids got stones!!!"
-ICU Nurse

"This kit transformed the family's life. It was amazing to watch this experience unfold with the family. Thank you."
–Patient Care Technician

Family:

"We thought was so wonderful on the hardest day of our lives."
–Patient Family



We hope these gifts from our Legacy Program provide you wit
comfort & support.
Please share your experience/thoughts/suggestions with us.

ompleting card: ☐ Nurse ☐ Chaplain
ily/Friend ☐ Physician ☐ RT/PT/OT/SLP
tient ☐ PCT ☐ Other_____

this activity of value to you? ☐ No ☒ Yes

se rate how meaningful this was for you:

at all) 0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 (Highly Meaningful)

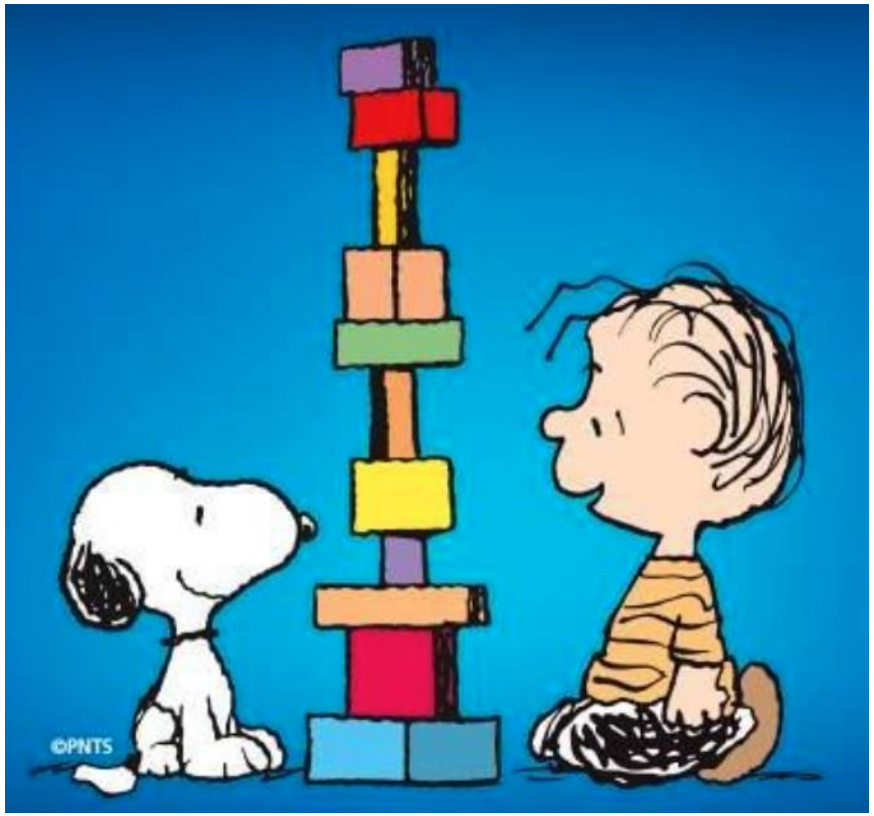
nment: we have additonal memories
f her. we Appriciate it very Much!
Thank you!

Please return this card to the Legacy Kit or your nurse.

ave more to say, please share your story with us at palliativecare@musc.e

THINGS TO CONSIDER WHEN BUILDING

- Funding
- Crafting workforce
- Who will be doing legacy work?
- Infection control
- Initial education
- Supply maintenance
- Educational maintenance



LESSONS LEARNED

- Funding Woes
  - Show your work!
- Supply chain woes
  - Keep it simple
  - Downside of service projects
- Staff turnover
- Volunteer turnover
- Find your campions and collaborators

For additional Legacy resources, use the QR code.

THANK YOU FOR ATTENDING!

TO EVALUATE THIS SESSION, USE THE QR CODE.

Society for Healthcare Volunteer Leaders

Breakout Session Evaluation