



The University of Utah
Department of Internal Medicine

October 23, 2010

Dear Members of the Salt Lake City Interfaith Roundtable,

We are proud to announce that the University of Utah Palliative Care Service has been awarded a grant from the Hearst Foundation for the establishment of three dedicated palliative care rooms so that terminally-ill patients and their families can live their last days in a peaceful environment specifically tailored to their needs. The University plans to renovate these private rooms so they include comfortable chairs and sleep sofas, mini refrigerators, shelving for family pictures, ambient lighting, and aesthetic encasement of medical equipment. The rooms will be located on the general medicine unit, which will be staffed by nurses who specialize in end-of-life care.

Our mentoring site at University of California San Francisco created similar rooms several years ago. During our tour of these rooms we were impressed with a glass display cabinet found in each room. These cabinets housed religious and spiritual icons/symbols donated by several local religious/spiritual communities. For example there were rosary beads, a crucifix, a copy of the Koran, the Book of Mormon, as well as a statue of Buddha. Depending upon the preference of the patient and family certain items were moved to the top display level.

We would like to invite the members of the Salt Lake City Interfaith Roundtable to consider donating religious icons/symbols so that we too may also make these types of items available for patients and families. We believe this is an opportunity for members of the Interfaith Roundtable to live the mission of the Roundtable by nurturing and enhancing the spiritual lives of the people in our community.

We thank you for considering this opportunity and look forward to your contributions.

Susan Roberts, MDiv
University of Utah Chaplain

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