



AWARENESS

LIVE, LOVE AND CELEBRATE PALLIATIVE AND HOSPICE CARE

Hospice is about more than just caring for very ill people. Sometimes, it's about marriage.

The Chronicle Live news website reported on a married couple, one of whom was terminally ill, who renewed their vows in the hospice. David, paralysed by prostate cancer, said that people think you come to hospice to lie in bed and wait to die.

However, 'it's actually about coming here to live, to make the most you can out of the life you've got left' he says.

He went on to say 'Since I've been here there's never been any feeling of sadness or negativity ... people are laughing and having fun'.

Something to celebrate

'On World Hospice and Palliative Care Day we will celebrate palliative care, showing the world how vital it is, and why we must make sure everyone has access, no matter where they live, who they love, what their age or their background.' This is from the Worldwide Hospice Palliative Care Alliance (WHPCA).

The alliance says the day will be about hearing the voices, as people speak out, 'telling compelling stories to make you laugh, cry and think!'.

Reaching out to more who need and deserve this

'Leave no-one behind - equity in access to palliative care' is the slogan for this year's World Hospice and Palliative Care Day. The World Health Organization (WHO) shows how great the need is:

- every year, approximately 40 million people need palliative care; 78% of them live in low- and middle-income countries;
- worldwide, only about 14% of the people who need palliative care, are lucky enough to get it.

It's remarkable that hospice is where you may rediscover your joy and really live. The last place you'd expect.

Do you know anyone who might need hospice or palliative care? Should you be planning for it, just in case?

Why not contact your local hospice to find out more? If you wish to contribute you can donate money or even volunteer some of your time to this wonderful institution built on compassion.