



WESTERN RESERVE CARE SOLUTIONS

Legacy Letters and Ethical Wills  
Sharing the Story of You



HOSPICE OF THE  
WESTERN RESERVE



*Stein  
Hospice*

AN AFFILIATE OF HOSPICE OF THE WESTERN RESERVE



HOSPICE OF THE  
WESTERN RESERVE

at



University Hospitals



**THE STORY OF YOU HAS BEEN WRITTEN**

since the day you were born. No one knows it as well as you do, not even those who know and love you the most. One of the most valuable gifts we can share with our loved ones is our story. Our memories. Our values. Our blessings.

The Story of You is your *legacy*.

*Pass it on.*

# What is a Legacy Letter or Ethical Will?

**A LEGACY LETTER OR ETHICAL WILL** is a concept that has been around for many generations. In some cultures, it is a written document. In others, personal values and life stories are passed down through spoken word, song or art.

While a legal will designates who will receive your material possessions, a Legacy Letter or Ethical Will bequeaths your precious personal values, reflections, advice and ideals to future generations. It can be created at any time of life. Consider sharing *The Story of You* in-person so your loved ones can ask you questions about your life and the unique experiences that made you the person you are.

Some individuals feel writing a Legacy Letter is an opportunity for self-reflection, as well as a way to share their private thoughts and personal values. Take as much time as you'd like to sift through memories, photos, old letters and mementos you've saved. Legacy work can take many forms. You may find yourself creating a compilation of music, family recipes or a work of art, writing an autobiography, making a quilt, scrapbook or memory box or even a video. Or, simply speak to your loved ones and let them record what is most meaningful to you to pass down.

*This workbook was created by the staff of Hospice of the Western Reserve to help you record *The Story of You*. We hope you find sweet memories, closure if you need it, and a lifetime of wisdom to pass to the ones you love.*



## Growing up

*Cities where I lived, my neighborhood, schools that I attended; my close childhood friends and favorite memories from my childhood*

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## Traditions

*Favorite holidays and special celebrations; poems or prayers; meals or recipes; traditions I would like to see passed on to my family and shared with friends*

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# Additional Assistance

## ON LEGACY WORK

Share a page from The Story of You on Facebook:  
[facebook.com/hospicewr](https://facebook.com/hospicewr)

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### **The Legacy Center**

[www.thelegacycenter.net](http://www.thelegacycenter.net) or 612-333-2833

### **Story Corps and the National Day of Listening**

[www.StoryCorps.me](http://www.StoryCorps.me)

### **Caring Connections**

[www.caringinfo.org](http://www.caringinfo.org)

### **Life Legacies**

[www.life-legacies.com](http://www.life-legacies.com)

### **Ethical Wills: Putting Your Values on Paper**

By Barry K. Baines, M.D.

[www.ethicalwill.com](http://www.ethicalwill.com)

### **So That Your Values Live On:**

#### **Ethical Wills and How to Prepare Them**

By Jack Riemer

### **Legacy: A Step-By-Step Guide to Writing Personal History**

By Linda Spence

*Hospice of the Western Reserve offers assistance with Legacy Letters and ethical wills to patients and loved ones in our care at any stage of a serious illness or bereavement. One of the most valuable gifts we can give to current and future generations are the treasures of our memories, our stories, our values, insights and special wisdom.*

*Legacy Letters and Ethical Wills -The Story of You is presented throughout the community free-of-charge through our speakers program. If you would like to have a speaker present this topic to your group, please contact us at 216.502.4440.*



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## OUR MISSION

Our hospices  
provide palliative and end-of-life care,  
caregiver support, and bereavement services  
throughout Northern Ohio.  
In celebration of the individual worth of each life,  
we strive to relieve suffering, enhance comfort,  
promote quality of life, foster choice in  
end-of-life care, and support  
effective grieving.

*Serving the Northern Ohio counties of Ashland,  
Ashtabula, Cuyahoga, Erie, Geauga, Huron, Knox,  
Lake, Lorain, Medina, Ottawa, Portage, Richland,  
Sandusky, Seneca, Stark, Summit and Wayne.*

800.707.8922 | [hospicewr.org](http://hospicewr.org)

Certified Medicare/Medicaid Hospice, Licensed in Ohio  
Accredited by the Joint Commission

