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Crossroads of Decision**

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News Release

How to Have a Caring Conversation

*Workshop promotes end-of-life conversation
before time of crisis*

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February 24, 2004

Some 50 professionals from the Kansas City area long-term care community will gather this Thursday, February 26, for training on "Caring Conversations," a Midwest Bioethics Center program designed to promote communication on end-of-life issues. The full-day workshop will take place at Community Christian Church on 32 East 46th Street. It is sponsored by the Center's Long-Term Care Ethics Consortium of Kansas City.

"The goal is to inspire these professionals to promote conversations about an individual's wishes at the end of life," says Helen Emmott, a program consultant at Midwest Bioethics Center. "After this workshop, they will be ready to speak about these issues in their communities or initiate such a program in their own facilities."

Emmott says participants in the workshop are leaders in the long-term care community in Kansas City. "They are a motivated group that really wants to do things right," she says. "To them, it's more than just complying with federal or state standards on advance directives."

Randy Stuber, chairman of the consortium, says too often family caregivers are forced to make decisions about end-of-life care when they do not know the wishes of their loved one, even if an advance directive exists. "When families have not discussed plans for end-of-life support the entire family can be put in crisis," Stuber says. "Caring Conversations is a method of finding out the wishes of all family members *before* such a crisis occurs."

For more information on Caring Conversations, call the Midwest Bioethics Center at (816)221-1100.

Midwest Bioethics Center is a national leader in practical bioethics. The Center helps people and organizations find real-world solutions to complex ethical issues in health and healthcare.