

'Die-alogue' puts focus on illness, death, loss

THE CHRONICLE JOURNAL

Two Thunder Bay organizations are pleased with the first in a series of "die-alogue" events held this week.

Leadership Thunder Bay and Hospice Northwest hosted the session on Thursday aimed at educating and raising awareness of end-of-life topics in the community.

Focusing on what they call "bucket lists in everyday life," the forum attracted more than 70 participants.

Over the course of the evening, people had the opportunity to hear first-hand experiences of accepting the fragility of life and living more purposefully because of it. Community members who attended the event were also able to engage in respectful and thought-provoking die-alogues with fellow participants over refreshments and desserts.

"As an organization, Hospice Northwest strives to provide better access to quality end-of-life care within our community; Die-alogues is our most recent effort to achieve this through education and awareness," executive director Joan Williams said Friday.

"Most of us feel unprepared and helpless when someone we care for is facing an illness with no known cure," she said, noting that "our goal is to support people to find or rediscover ways to respond with compassion and understanding to the universal experiences of illness, death and loss."

Cynthia Olsen, a member of the Community Action Project with Leadership Thunder Bay, added that "we are really proud of the turn-out to the first event of this kind in Thunder Bay and are glad to have been part of making this a reality for Hospice Northwest."

For more information, or to be added to a contact list for upcoming events, contact Hospice Northwest at 626-5570.