



## **Family Services and Care**

*Helpful hints for you to assist the family in times of need:*

- Leave a thoughtful note on the door of their home or send a card from your family to theirs.
- Provide meals for the family. (website: [takethemeal.com](http://takethemeal.com))
- Wash the family vehicles.
- Run errands...kids to sports, shopping, pick up equipment for memorial or funeral.
- Grocery shopping for family.
- Pick up relatives at airport or offer rides for in-area relatives.
- Care for pets.
- Staying at the home to allow them time to get away (house-sit). Be prepared to answer phones, receive flowers/gifts. Good to keep a record of all incoming business.
- Assist with housekeeping if family allows it. Just simple cleaning of the kitchen is a good start.
- Sometimes just your presence is the greatest gift you can provide. Many people mention that they were happy that someone stayed with them during their time of need.
- Ask "Is there anything that you would like done?" Think again of things that YOU would like to have done if you need to suggest them.

## **What to say to grieving family members**

- "I'm so sorry for your loss. I always respected/valued/appreciated \*name's\* friendship."
- "I remember a story about \*name\*..." (keep it under a minute or two)
- Stay silent after story, give family a chance to respond.
- Move on...there are many like you that would like to talk to family.