

# LIFE: ACT 2

OFFERING INDEPENDENCE TO RECOVERING SENIORS



United Way  
of Northeast Florida

## TRANSITIONS HOME

### What is Life: Act 2?

Life: Act 2 is a community collaboration, led by United Way, that focuses on providing greater independence for seniors in Northeast Florida after they have been discharged from a hospital stay.

### Why Do We Need Life: Act 2?

One of the most common times that an elder needs help is when he or she is recovering from an illness. Often our frail elderly do not have enough resources, friends and family members, to help them get back on their feet after an extended stay in the hospital. Research shows that the first two weeks is crucial to a frail elder's successful recovery.

Life: Act 2's Elder Care Advocate program works with hospital discharge planners to arrange appropriate in-home care for seniors, as well as purchasing short-term services for seniors to aid in the transition home. This can include home-delivered meals, emergency response systems, and other relevant help.

- ❖ The Elder Care Advocate program was launched in May of 2007 at Baptist Health
- ❖ In September of 2007 it was expanded to SHANDS Jacksonville.
- ❖ In February 2013, with funding from VITAS, the Elder Care Advocate program was launched at Memorial Hospital.
- ❖ Funding from the Jim Moran Foundation allowed the program to enter St. Vincent's hospital in November 2013.

### Results of Life: Act 2

Baptist Medical Center chose to sustain and expand the Elder Care Advocate program and has established an Elder Care office, hired both a full-time Elder Care Advocate and part-time Elder Care Consultant, and created a transitional services funding pool.

Life: Act 2's second hospital partner, SHANDS Jacksonville chose to sustain the Elder Care Advocate in January 2011. This year the program has assisted in securing home-delivered meals, housekeeping services and medical equipment for 1,127 seniors after being discharged from Baptist, UF Health and Memorial Hospitals.

### SUCCESS STORY

At 66 years old, Thomas Cunningham was diagnosed with a heart condition that required daily trips to the hospital for tests. He's also a single parent with young children and no means of transportation. Though he would always arrive at his specified time, he would often find himself waiting hours before starting a rigorous six hour test that caused him to spend the night at the hospital.

The Elder Care Advocate was able to arrange transportation to and from the hospital, as well as coordinate having a room blocked off so he could receive his testing in a timely manner and get back to his children.