

## **The Day I Met the Wiener Queen**

Pastoral and spiritual care is an essential part of Christian Care Communities. It is a distinguishing thread woven throughout our caring ministries. This care begins with our chaplains but includes every member of the Christian Care team. Sometimes spiritual care involves a prayer of hope. Sometimes it is the sound of laughter.

Chaplain Ward, the Director of Pastoral and Spiritual Care, was visiting a resident in one of Christian Care's Health Centers. He sat beside the bed of a resident who had lost hope and was expressing a readiness to die. He asked questions and then had the patience to wait for responses. "How is your day going? How long have you been here? Where was your childhood home? Where did you go to church?" There was no joy in her answers, just as there seemed to be no joy in her life.

Chaplain Ward, asked, "Where did you work?" "At Fishers Packing Company." she answered. "What did you do there?" "I made wieners." "Well, then that makes you the Wiener Queen!" And both broke out into laughter. Then she said, "That is the first time I have laughed in months."

Pastoral and spiritual care often deals with the weightier issues of life and death. Sometimes it simply involves a laugh of hope.