



On Our Own Terms
Moyers on Dying



Important Information

Commissioner Jeff Germany- Birmingham's newest honor

Birmingham Health Care In National Spotlight- September 13th, 8-9:30pm

BIRMINGHAM, AL- September 4, 2000- The fourth episode of a highly anticipated PBS series will center around a health care system in Birmingham and showcase it as a model for change. Balm of Gilead hospice, which is a part of Cooper Green Hospital, will be used as an example of an innovative, positive approach to palliative care. The hospice is unique not only in its approach to care, but in its recognition of patients, regardless of their ability to pay. The story of Balm of Gilead and the progress it has made in caring for those nearing death is featured as part of the PBS series, **ON OUR OWN TERMS: Moyers on Dying**, which premieres September 10-13 at 8 p.m. C.S.T. (ch 10 in Birmingham). This is a tremendous honor for Birmingham as it is used as an example for the country. Please alert your constituents of this event, each of us should be aware of the cutting edge developments in health care occurring in our own city.

The series features Emmy Award-winning journalist Bill Moyers as he reports on the intimate, end of life journeys of more than a dozen individuals, their families and their caregivers as they struggle to infuse the end of life with compassion and caring. Filled with honesty, courage and humor, the series breaks through the culture of denial to wrestle with how we can die better in America. The series has already generated excitement across the country as it promises to deal with sensitive, crucial issues in a profoundly open manner. **PBS has launched a state of the art web-site about the series (www.pbs.org/onourownterms)**. Please encourage everyone you know to tune in and watch our city featured as a model for change.