The Living History Program®

Mission Statement
The Living History Program® is designed to improve the patient experience by providing an avenue for conversations to chronicle the fascinating lives of those staying at Duke University Hospital.

How the Program Works
1. Participants share basic biographical information, important life events, and passions with volunteers.
2. Participants may then choose to have the information developed into a Living History by a volunteer. This document can be shared with the medical team or be kept for the participant’s use.
3. When shared with the medical team, this powerful document enhances the patient experience by enabling staff to care for the heart and soul of the participant.

Background
This volunteer facilitated program was started by Sheila Brune, a nurse at Memorial Hospital in Illinois. The Living History Program® has been implemented in over 40 hospitals and healthcare clinics across the nation. A Living History can serve as a mechanism to strengthen connections between patient, family, and members of the care delivery team.

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