



## Employee Assistance Programs

Support people faced with caregiving, death and dying, loss and bereavement.

*A Finished Heart* is a one-man show of story, dialogue and poetry with a musical score. I perform the conversations I shared with my husband, Chris Chenard, as I helped Chris die of pancreatic cancer.



Elliott Cherry

*A Finished Heart* is a real-life example of a man embracing emotional awareness and expression to engage with many of the most intense realities we can face as human beings: devastating illness, caregiving, dying and grief. *A Finished Heart* demonstrates how cherishing even the most difficult emotions has allowed me to survive, transform and thrive.

By presenting *A Finished Heart*, you give audience members an opportunity to learn from a visceral experience of empathy. They are drawn into *authentic*, active listening and compassionate communication. As individuals connect with me, they are immersed in the beauty of extraordinary intimacy, bringing them to a quiet, deep connection with themselves, with each other, and with universal experience.

**Celebrate diversity. Build community. Boost morale.**

Through *A Finished Heart*, we join together to share a true story of two men in love who are devoted to each other. When you utilize this performance to build community and to foster caring, personal interaction – crucial goals for all regardless of sexual orientation, your LGBT colleagues feel a great sense of validation, inclusion and respect.

*“I felt like I was in the room – I felt like I was experiencing some of the same emotions, those raw emotions that are so precious to people who love.”*  
Camille Hopkins, Researcher, University of Chicago.

Your company will use *A Finished Heart*:

- to support emotional health;
- to foster empathy and caring communication;
- to demonstrate a welcoming, inclusive environment.
- Post-performance conversation with author/performer is always included.

First performed in 2009, *A Finished Heart* has been presented by university departments of nursing, social work, education, journalism and related fields. It has been used for clinical continuing education approved by the National Association of Social Workers (NASW) and as part of adult education programs for faith communities. In 2016, the work was invited for inclusion in New York's United Solo Festival.

**“How do I want to be loved as I die?”**  
*a concept brought forth in A Finished Heart*

Performances have been supported by many organizations that include AARP, Compassion & Choices, City of Portland and Multnomah County, Oregon and the Employee Assistance Program of University of Maine at Orono. Funding for performances has also been received from state and regional grants that include Portland, Oregon's Regional Arts and Culture Council, North Portland Neighborhood Services, SE Uplift Neighborhood Coalition, Maine Community Foundation, Maine Arts Commission, Maine Humanities Council and the JSL Foundation. See reviews at [afinishedheart.com](http://afinishedheart.com).

*“powerful, rich and raw -- absolutely mesmerizing from start to finish”*  
Susan Kocen, Q Center

**Request Booking Now:**  
[afinishedheart.com](http://afinishedheart.com)  
[afinishedheart@gmail.com](mailto:afinishedheart@gmail.com)



Chris Chenard & Elliott Cherry

*A Finished Heart is intended as an educational and community-building experience. It does not constitute therapy, or a medical or psychological service of any kind. Always seek appropriate professional services as needed.*  
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