



4 July 2008 – RCF report – JALMAV LOIRE OCEAN

Journalist: As part of the "Finishing Touch" programme, the BNP Paribas Foundation is supporting associations that are the subject of reports by RCF Radio. Today we're going to hear Jacqueline Souron, the customer services manager of BNP Paribas Lease Group in Carquefou, who is also a volunteer with the JALMAV Loire Océan association, an organisation that is committed to doing away with the loneliness and sadness often felt by elderly people.

Voice-off: An RCF report produced in partnership with the BNP Paribas Foundation.

Journalist: Jacqueline Souron is 52 years old. She joined JALMAV as a volunteer after herself mourning the death of someone dear to her. To make the end of a life also a time for communication between two human beings, and to banish the loneliness of people who are dying, she committed herself to this association after a year and a half or two years of intensive training. Since then, every Wednesday evening, she gives a talk in a cancer treatment centre to those who wish to hear her.

Jacqueline SOURON: Supporting a person at the end of their life can actually take on many different aspects. You can be called upon to accompany a person for several weeks or even months. That's happened to me in several institutions, particularly in retirement homes, but sometimes you have to stay with someone for just one evening. I remember being with an elderly lady for an hour and a half. During our conversation, she told me several times that she might die that very night and, in fact, that is what happened. She was very lively and alert during our exchanges. She gave me a synopsis of her life. She told me anecdotes that were sometimes rather sad about certain aspects of her life and others that were very amusing about her youth, her life as a cook in a very comfortably-off family near Paris. Anyway, it was like a discussion, as if we'd always known one another, although I'd never met her before. I think I was simply there to receive her account of her life.

Journalist: For four years now, Jacqueline has also been monitoring a group of volunteers who support mourning children and adolescents. They meet for two hours every month in particularly appropriate conditions.

Jacqueline SOURON: You find that, in fact, children and adolescents are rarely listened to, and that grieving in young people scares adults. Here, we give them a space where they don't feel controlled or observed and where they can freely express what's at the bottom of their hearts.

Journalist: JALMAV Loire Océan is part of a network that supports people at the end of their lives. The network is itself a member of a European palliative care association.