

Hospice Volunteer Opportunities

Making a difference for Patients and their Family

What is the role of a Hospice volunteer?

Volunteers are an important member of the Hospice team of specially trained health care professionals working together for the patient and the family. Hospice offers the services of volunteers to all patients to help make the end-of-life experience wonderful and relaxing. Hospice offers the services of volunteers to all patients to help them live their remaining life with dignity and obtain the highest quality of life. Volunteers are not only for the patient, but also for the loved ones providing support to the patient.

What are some of the ways volunteers help patients and their family?

Volunteers may visit patients in the home, a nursing home, a hospital, or an assisted living facility.

They may provide respite care including:

- Sitting with the patient or providing a break for family members
- Running errands or accompanying someone shopping
- Transporting patients to an appointment
- Providing child care

Companion services may include:

- Entertaining and socializing or sitting and listening
- Listening to or playing music or playing a board game
- Reading the newspaper or writing letters
- Helping patients enjoy their hobbies
- Going for a walk, fishing, or golfing
- Reminiscing, telling stories, or watching television or a video
- Encouraging patient to journal or videotaping patient while asking questions
- Looking through photo albums and identifying names and dates
- Planning a party or special event

Volunteers may be asked to assist with activities of daily living:

- Helping with housework
- Preparing or assisting with meals
- Combing hair or applying make-up or manicuring nails

How are schedules arranged?

Hours and schedules are arranged according to patient/family needs.

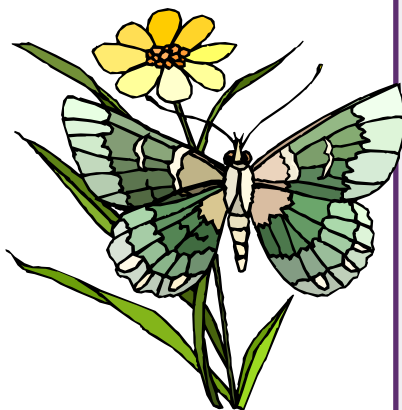
What training is offered to volunteers?

It is vital that volunteers understand the Hospice philosophy and that they are prepared to support the patient and family members. Our volunteers complete approximately 12-14 hours of training focusing on:

- The Hospice concept
- The role of the Hospice team
- Communication techniques
- Terminal illness and symptomatology
- Advanced Directives
- Stages of death and dying
- Infection control
- Stress management
- Volunteer limitations/boundaries
- Cultural diversity issues
- Spiritual aspects
- Funeral rituals
- Confidentiality
- Grief recovery and bereavement

How to receive additional information

Please give us a call at 608-357-2000 or 1-888-439-6680 if you want to learn more about becoming a Hospice volunteer.



A Hospice Volunteer Poem

*They come.
From all walks of life.
For all different reasons.
But for the same purpose.*

*To give of themselves.
To give from their hearts.
So as to fill their souls.
They do whatever we ask.*

*Run to Admitting. Stop by Dispatch.
Make copies, please. Help me feed him.
Will you hold her for me?
"Gladly," they say.*

*How about making fresh coffee?
And the phones!!
"May I help you?" They know.*

*When a family member
needs someone to listen.
A hand to hold. Silence to share.
When a nurse needs a hug.
They give. And give... And give.*

*With endless smiles. And bear hugs!
With homemade goodies
and little bowls of candy.
Bringing books to share. And recipes to try.*

*Hearts always open. Hearts overflowing.
They are. Dedicated. Fun-loving.
Warm. Admirable.
(Though they don't
describe themselves as such).
Treasures. All of them.*

—author unknown