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Mesa View Hospice would like to explain, briefly, how important a volunteer can be.

Volunteering with Hospice

Volunteers often get involved with hospice in order to give back to their community by helping terminally ill patients and their families during a challenging time. In return, many hospice volunteers discover that their service can lead to a deeply touching and meaningful experience.

Mesa View Hospice volunteers have an opportunity to serve in a variety of ways. They can serve as part of a team of medical professionals, provide administrative support, participate in community outreach programs, or lend their professional expertise in areas needed by the hospice, just to name a few.

Mesa View Hospice volunteers fill the gap between loved ones and professional caregivers. Volunteers will be there even when friends and family find it difficult to do so. Volunteers don't have the same emotional attachment as that of family members. Volunteers are trained to meet the needs of patients and families. Volunteers visit on a schedule, yet are open to change as dictated by the patient's health and interests. Volunteers are unpaid, yet priceless.

Here are some of the basic requirements for volunteering:

- Communicate effectively
- Provide current driver's license and auto insurance
- Meet local health regulations, such as a tuberculosis screen
- Submit to a criminal background check
- Undergo fingerprinting
- Ongoing training throughout the year

Each hospice patient is assigned to a team of clinical professionals, as well as a volunteer. While physicians and nurses can provide expert medical care, hospice volunteers provide a unique support system to the patients and their families.

A volunteer can help a hospice patient and their family in a variety of ways including:

- Provide a time of rest for family members or caregivers
- Provide companionship for the patient or caregiver
- Run errands or shop for groceries
- Since volunteers are unpaid employees of Mesa View Hospice, a volunteer will be asked to sit with patient or caregiver no more than a maximum of 4 hours at a time, although, most opportunities to sit with a patient or caregiver is much less than 4 hours.