

HOSPICE VOLUNTEER INFO SHEET

The role of a volunteer is very important in the philosophy of Hospice. Volunteers are able to do things that other team members are not able to in their roles, such as offer companionship and creating memory books. Volunteers bring an added layer of comfort and peace to patients and families.

There are different ways to serve in Hospice. The most needed support is companionship, taking the time to visit and talk with patients and/or caregivers. Here is a list of ideas:

Direct Patient Services

- *companionship to patient or caregiver
- *read to patient
- *play music
- *play an instrument
- *bring a certified animal
- *professional services: lawyers, accountants, beauticians, massage therapists (hand massage), nurses and notaries
- *light household chores
- *light cooking
- *light errands (\$20 or less patient/family needs to pay) – get a receipt
- *home repairs
- *lawn mowing
- *interview patient or family for a memory book
- *playing games
- *arts and crafts
- *watching tv
- *give the caregiver a break
- *bereavement - provide support to grieving families via phone calls or assisting with support group

Administrative Services

- *phone calls to patients and families
- *data entry
- *mailings, birthday cards
- *clerical projects
- *community outreach– Help increase public awareness about hospice and palliative care by networking, staffing information tables and providing presentations.
- *gift baskets, blankets (would not count towards 5%)

Volunteers do not:

- *move/transfer patients
- *give medication
- *give water or food
- *give medical advice
- *drive patients or caregivers

Commitment

- *at least 1-2 hours per week
- *at least a 6-month commitment
- *complete 12-hr training
- *complete Background Check, TB test and other documents