



Deaconess VNA HOSPICE

Do You Have a Gift for Caring?

Become a Hospice Volunteer

What Is a Hospice Volunteer?

Hospice volunteers are vital members of the health care team who help terminally ill patients and their families in their homes and also in our inpatient hospice centers. Volunteers contribute their time and compassion to enhance patients' comfort and to provide family members with the additional support they need.

Volunteers Reach Out

Volunteers may help patients with tasks, including:

- ▶ Running errands
- ▶ Relieving family members or caregivers
- ▶ Preparing meals
- ▶ Providing companionship
- ▶ Writing letters
- ▶ Playing cards
- ▶ Performing light household chores.

Volunteers are also needed for reception and clerical support in the inpatient hospice centers and in the hospice office.

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Is Volunteering in Hospice the Right Fit for You?

The qualifications for a hospice volunteer are simple—but important. Volunteers must be sensitive and have concern for others, their beliefs and their values. Equally important is empathy for the patient's situation and a desire to maintain his or her dignity and self-worth during the course of the illness.

Hospice volunteers must complete a training program that examines the hospice philosophy, the psychosocial needs of terminally ill patients and their families, and more. Continuing education is also offered several times a year.

Once training is complete, our volunteer coordinator matches the volunteer with a patient, taking into consideration personality traits, location, the volunteer's availability and the family's needs. Volunteers typically commit one to four hours per week to a family or to help in the inpatient centers or hospice office. Volunteers may also provide support following a patient's death through bereavements visits and phone calls. All volunteer efforts are supervised and evaluated by the volunteer coordinator.

Join the Deaconess VNA Hospice Team

For more information, please contact Tina Hale, Hospice Volunteer Coordinator, at 812-425-3561.
