

Experience the Difference!

"Speak tenderly to them. Let there be kindness in your face, in your eyes, in your smile, in the warmth of your greeting. Always have a cheerful smile. Don't only give your care but give them your heart as well."

– Mother Teresa

Write a Letter
Share a Smile
Honor a Veteran
Help in the Garden
Relieve a Caregiver
Provide Clerical Support
Lend an Ear

Volunteers are truly the heart of Hospice.

Their assistance with a wide variety of patient and family support duties enables Hospice of Northwest Ohio to make every patient's end-of-life journey a meaningful family experience.

Volunteers represent all religious and ethnic backgrounds and have a wide variety of life experiences. They are drawn to hospice work for a variety of reasons, but the characteristics that define them are compassion and the desire to serve the dying by helping them live their final weeks and months to the fullest.

"Volunteering for Hospice of Northwest Ohio has educated me; it has made me think, feel, empathize, and put life in perspective. It presents real life to me, and settles me. To be a volunteer is life-affirming, real!"

We welcome your inquiries!

To discuss volunteer opportunities more in depth, please contact the Volunteer Department at 419.661.4001.



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Become a

Volunteer



HOSPICESM
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Becoming a Hospice Volunteer

Hospice of Northwest Ohio volunteers play an integral role in our program and are a part of the interdisciplinary care team. For this reason, anyone who wishes to be a volunteer must complete our comprehensive training course. While providing information about the role and duties of the volunteer, the course also covers key aspects of hospice care including the hospice philosophy of care, health and safety precautions, supporting the terminally ill and much more. In addition, volunteers who are assigned to assist our clinical staff with patient care receive further, specialized training.

Basic volunteer training classes are held numerous times throughout the year. Prior to attending one of these sessions, prospective volunteers will share in a "shadowing" experience so they may gain an understanding of the role of the hospice volunteer.



Home Care Volunteers provide respite for the caregiver, companionship for the patient and general support as needed.

Vigil Volunteers bring a calming presence for patients who are near the end of their journey. It is our goal to ensure that, based on patients' wishes, no one dies alone. Vigil volunteers also provide valuable support for family members as they experience their loved one's final hours.

Inpatient Care Volunteers schedule a specific time weekly to visit patients and participate in a variety of supportive activities to enhance the daily lives of patients living in the Hospice Centers. They also provide assistance to staff as needed. Additional hands-on training is provided for those wishing to volunteer in this area.

Transportation Volunteers assist in transporting family members to the Hospice Centers for visits. Special arrangements also may be made for other needs.

Bereavement Volunteers follow up by phone with bereaved family members to check on their wellbeing and explain our bereavement support opportunities.

Veteran Volunteers are specifically trained to meet the unique needs of veteran patients at the end of life through our *We Honor Veterans* program.

Teen Volunteers add a wonderful intergenerational component to the care provided to patients and families in the Hospice Centers and nursing homes. They visit with patients, assist staff and help visitors and families in a variety of ways.

Additional opportunities do exist! We are always in need of licensed hair dressers and massage therapists as well as notaries and volunteers who are willing to sew comfort pillows and quilts for patients. If you have a particular area of interest, just ask!

The Greatest Need

While specific needs change over time, we are always in need of volunteers who are willing to spend time with patients in their homes and in nursing homes. Our service area includes all of Lucas County, and portions of Wood, Ottawa and Fulton Counties in Ohio as well as all of Monroe County, Michigan.

Challenging and Rewarding

The volunteer team works closely with the Hospice staff and plays a role in the patient's care plan. As such, being a volunteer can be challenging and requires a genuine commitment to the mission and values of our organization and, ultimately, the needs of our patients and families.

Volunteers will benefit from coming together for mutual support, recognition and education at various times throughout the year. Our volunteers tell us that it is some of the most rewarding and life-affirming work they have ever done.

