

Volunteer scheduling

It is up to the volunteer how much time they would like to give. Some people make a weekly commitment while other work only on special events or help during certain seasons of the year.

Why volunteer for Hospice?

This is a unique opportunity to give time and talents to your community. To enhance life, to make the time remaining as rich as possible for all concerned.

Hospice volunteers also have an opportunity to learn and grow as a person through interaction with people who are in a very difficult time of their life ... and to truly make a difference.

“What I enjoy most about being a Hospice volunteer is the opportunity to interact with many individuals, all with different needs and all at varying stages of life, but all with gifts to share.” - Hospice volunteer

Hospice Volunteers



Orange City Area Home Health & Hospice
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Hospice Volunteers



*Serving those who are in
the last stages of life*

Volunteering for Hospice

A circle of caring

What is Hospice?

Hospice is the concept of caring for a person in the last stages of life. It is not a place, but rather a system of care. It is the most comprehensive service available to meet the needs of the individual and his or her family.

The Hospice team works together to provide a holistic approach to end-of-life care focused on comfort, hope, dignity, and respect ... while also focusing on the mind, body, and spirit.

We encourage creative and positive outcomes by assisting patients and families in setting and achieving personal goals and living life as fully as possible.

The volunteer role

The Hospice team consists of a medical director, physician, registered nurses, home health aides, social workers, pastors, volunteers, and bereavement services.

Hospice volunteers are an integral part of the Hospice team concept of care. As team members, volunteers cooperate and assist family members to care for their loved ones during the last days and months of life.

The patient's comfort is a key factor.

Volunteers provide a wide range of direct and indirect services to support and comfort patients and their families in the home, hospital, or nursing home. Some volunteers are active supporting the bereaved for a year after their loved one dies. Others volunteer their time by assisting with office duties.

Volunteer abilities

Hospice volunteers are special people. They are able to respond to patients with empathy. They are able to actively listen to others, as well as provide practical support. They are able to affirm life in the face of suffering and death. They respect the rights, privacy, and property of others.

Volunteers are able to maintain a high level of confidentiality. They are able to give of their time, energy, and talents to service those in their communities who are facing their final days.

Hospice volunteers are able to say and mean "I will be there."

What can a volunteer do?

- **Patient support.** socialization and companionship, actively listen, and encourage life review.
- **Companionship.** Read books, play games, watch TV, fix puzzles.
- **Respite care.** spend time with patients while caregivers take a break.
- **Journaling.** Help patients write/journal in a memory book.
- **Spiritual support.** Pray with the patient, read the Bible aloud, encourage patient to talk about their faith.

*For more information call Orange
City Home Health & Hospice at
712.737.5279*

- **Activities.** read books, play games, fix puzzles, write letters or cards with the patient, errands, shopping, light housekeeping, or meal prep.

- **Bereavement support.** Visit family members following the death of their loved one.

- **Indirect support.** Assist in the office, be involved in special projects or events such as the newsletter or memorial service.

How to become a Hospice volunteer

All Hospice volunteers complete a volunteer training designed to equip them to work with patients and their loved ones. Topics covered in training include the hospice philosophy, end-of-life care issues, proper documentation, and confidentiality. This is usually a 7-8 hour training, which can be done in one day or over several weeks.

To sign up to become a Hospice volunteer, visit ocHealthSystem.org, and fill out the application form under Hospice. Or call us at 712-737-5279.



They have so much experience and are trained to be so caring and helpful at the end of ones life. We appreciated them so much and felt their support."

-Family of a Hospice patient