

Things To Consider When Applying To Be A Hospice Volunteer

Volunteer Services are an integral component of the Hospice Program. In considering whether hospice volunteering is a service you want to give at this time please consider the ideas expressed below:

- You have an interest in the hospice concept, and have the desire to serve others. You have some awareness of what is drawing you to hospice work, and are willing to explore this in depth.
- ▶ You are sensitive to the special needs of dying patients and their families, and have chosen to work to support them.
- ▶ You are aware of the losses you have experienced, and your way of grieving, and have a sense of perspective about life and death, loss and grief.
- ▶ You are open to others who may have different values, beliefs, and ways of living. You are able to listen well, and to validate others where they are, rather than where you might believe they should be.
- ▶ As you may be called on to work in a variety of areas and perform many different tasks, self-reliance, flexibility and adaptability are assets. Realistic awareness of your strengths and weaknesses, and the ability to set limits are important.
- ▶ You like working as part of a team, and are willing to explore ways of being supported by team members. You are dedicated to your own growth and on-going learning. Your personal strengths will include warmth, concern for people, and a sense of humor and approachability.
- ▶ You are willing to commit yourself to the training and to the volunteer responsibilities that follow, and to gaining an understanding of the standards and policies of a hospice program. You are willing to take direction from assigned staff member.
- ▶ You are not bringing personal agendas or “missions” to your hospice work, and understand that our work is not to change people, but to be with them where they are.
- ▶ If you have experienced a significant personal loss within the past year, please consider carefully your present ability to take on a demanding training program. This work can intensify your own grief. We will review each applicant individually in this regard.
- ▶ It is important that you have good support and ways of taking care of yourself, as working in palliative care can be very stressful at times.

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