



HOSPICE OF JEFFERSON COUNTY

NEWSLETTER/SPRING 2020

HOSPICE VOLUNTEERS HELP TO MAKE EVERY DAY MATTER

Hospice Volunteers: A Life of Giving

"Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful committed citizens can change the world; indeed, it's the only thing that ever has." – Margaret Mead

Volunteerism is one of the most selfless acts that we as citizens contribute to the well being of our community. Organizations such as Hospice of Jefferson County are always looking for volunteers to help carry out our mission to make the greatest difference possible for our patients and their families. Our dedicated and unrelenting volunteer staff is a formidable part of the Hospice family who work every day to enhance the lives of our terminally ill patients. A Hospice volunteer has the ability to help our patients make every day matter and navigate their last journey in a loving, memorable and peaceful way.

"Volunteering is at the very core of being a human. No one has made it through life without someone else's help."
– Heather French Henry



In this newsletter, we will highlight some of our seasoned volunteers who for years have been unwavering in their quest to serve, support and enhance the lives of our patients who face life's greatest journey. This Spring edition acknowledges the countless hours of service that every Hospice volunteer has so selflessly given and honors their on-going hard work and compassion. Everyone at Hospice is truly grateful for their support and we take this time to celebrate their service and work of the heart.



**Hospice
Volunteers**
help make every day matter

*We are pleased to introduce our
2020 Volunteer Logo:
Work of the Heart*

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Diana K. Woodhouse, Ph.D., RN

A MESSAGE FROM OUR CEO

We are so grateful for the many services our volunteers provide. One of my measures of success for an organization is the strength of their volunteer program. People do not volunteer for an organization that they do not care about or that does not have a meaningful mission. Volunteers have always had a prominent role in hospice and many of the early hospices, including ours, were started and run by volunteers. Leona Brown Baker, Mabel Walker, and Dr. Poggi were our original volunteers who met countless hours discussing how to bring a hospice to Jefferson County. They were supported by Betty Andrews, Connie Deirlein, Betty Fibison, David Knowlton and several public health nurses. The place to meet was Howard Johnsons because the manager, John Smith, always provided a free room and coffee for their meetings; a quiet volunteer rarely recognized. This formidable group continued to gain community support as they moved forward to charter the organization that would become Hospice of Jefferson County, Inc. in 1985. We are eternally grateful for their work and commitment.

The passage of the Medicare Hospice Benefit in 1985 was the first (and remains the only) set of regulations that requires that volunteers be part of the care team. The requirement for volunteers is so specific that each year we must submit the number of volunteer hours and salary dollars saved and that amount must equal or exceed 5% of the direct care giving expenditures.

Each homecare patient and family is offered a volunteer to help with the needs of the patient and family. Activities such as being with a patient so a family member can keep outside appointments or get their hair cut, light housekeeping, grocery shopping, or being a companion to support patient interests. Volunteers also help care for patients in our Residence and support the staff by restocking rooms with supplies or doing laundry.

Volunteers also work in many non-patient care areas by covering for the receptionist, helping in medical records or working with the Hospice Foundation at our events. We have some unique Volunteer programs such as the *We Honor Veterans and Pet Peace of Mind* which are highlighted in this issue. The members of our Hospice Board and Foundation Board are also volunteers who provide expertise and community support.

Our Director of Volunteers, Nancy Morrow, has been with the agency for 20 years, beginning her journey at Hospice as an intern. Nancy exemplifies the spirit and energy of a true leader and works tirelessly to support our many volunteers. Their dedication and unwavering compassion, is unsurpassed. Our Volunteers make a difference in the lives of our patients, their families and our staff. We all thank you.

Best Regards,

Diana

Diana Woodhouse, CEO, dwoodhouse@jeffersonhospice.org 315-788-7323

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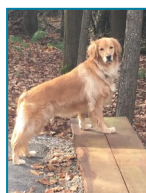
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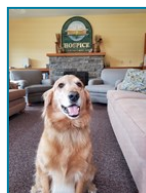
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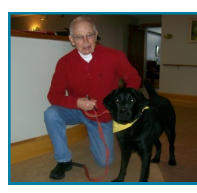
Hospice Furry Volunteers



Lucy Thornton
Hospice Therapy Dog



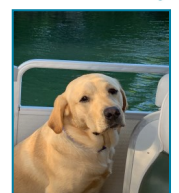
Floyd Smiley
Hospice Visiting Dog



BoSox Deuson
Hospice Therapy Dog
(with Tom Deuson, Volunteer)



Jack Kellogg
Hospice Administrative Dog



Casper Thornton
Hospice Therapy Dog



PARALLELS: SHINING EXAMPLES OF DEDICATION AND SERVICE



Sylvia J. Buduson

Hospice Volunteer for 32 Years

Volunteer work at Hospice includes:
Residence Support
Event Volunteer



Sally Grzesiak

Hospice Volunteer for 27 Years

Volunteer work at Hospice includes:
Office/Administrative Support
Event Volunteer

1. What motivated you to become a Hospice volunteer?

After losing so many immediate family members in my life, there was never any closure. I decided to volunteer at Hospice, took the next available training course and that was 32 years ago.

2. What do you enjoy most about your work at Hospice?

I love the patients and the staff. The staff is caring, compassionate and helpful. They make volunteers feel special.

3. What advice would you offer to young adults about volunteering?

I would try to explain that death like birth is very much apart of our lives and encourage them not to be afraid of people who are terminally ill. Patients' faces light up when we walk into the room to visit.

4. Who inspires you?

My faith in the good Lord is my biggest inspiration. Hospice staff and volunteers continually assure me the little acts of kindness and compassion comfort patients in a way that matters. (Make Every Day Matter)

5. What one change would make this world a better place?

This world would be a better place if everyone had a bit of faith. Treasure the little things in life. You don't have to be rich or have a college degree to experience the kindness and genuine caring of people.

1. What motivated you to become a Hospice volunteer?

I had just retired and was looking for something to do and I took the Hospice volunteer course. I began working in the Hospice office and as a home patient volunteer. I've been working in the office for the past several years.

2. What do you enjoy most about your work at Hospice?

I enjoy the staff at Hospice. They are all there for the same reason and find true joy in what they do. They are fulfilled in their work.

3. What advice would you offer to young adults about volunteering?

I would share that it is so rewarding to help others. God gives us so much. We need to share the gifts that we have with those who may not be able to do for themselves. It is the greatest gift you can give yourself.

4. Who inspires you?

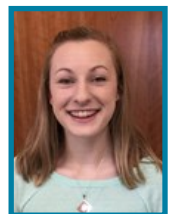
Nancy Morrow, Director of Volunteers. Nancy is a beacon of light to all volunteers. She never complains, motivates everyone and there is not one job she is not willing to do. She is truly a good, good person.

5. What one change would make this world a better place?

If everyone believed in God this world would be a better place. It is time we all realize where the good in this world comes from and give thanks for all gifts life has to offer.

Meet Our Youngest Volunteer: Stephanie Boon

Stephanie Boon began volunteering in memory of her grandmother who loved volunteering for local organizations. While working on her bachelor's degree in social work, she joined the volunteer ranks at Hospice to give her time and talents to an organization she truly cares about. "Hospice is a great organization, and I love to help out. It's a satisfying experience working with people who really need and enjoy my help," explains Stephanie. To date, Stephanie has baked for Hospice patients and families, visited with patients, has done some light cleaning and office work. Stephanie is also a trained bereavement volunteer. Thank you, Stephanie for helping to Make Every Day Matter for our Hospice patients.





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Look for updates on all
Hospice events.



Save The Date

August 1 & 2- Hospice Charity
Cup Regatta, Crescent Yacht Club,
Chaumont, NY

August 8 – Dick Guyette Golf Tour-
nament- Cedars Golf Course

August 8 – Hospice Hustle,
Henderson Harbor

September 11 – Swing for Hospice
Golf Tournament, Ives Hill

October- Hospice Wing Ding

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HOSPICE VOLUNTEERS: A WORK OF THE HEART



Pat Palmer has a way of making every patient feel special.



Gary Charlebois is a shining example of a Hospice volunteer. Gary is at the Residence every Monday night and helps to train our new volunteers.



Tom Kitto is a trained patient and bereavement volunteer who never turns down an assignment. We are also grateful that Tom helps out in the Residence with various building maintenance projects.



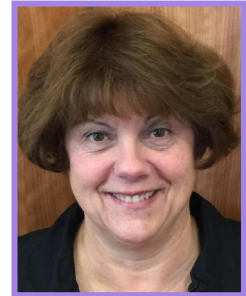
Anna Clemmons has been volunteering for 17 years, and there is no job at Hospice too big or small for Anna. She visits with patients, helps with the laundry and kitchen duties, works on events and mailings and is a Pet Peace of Mind volunteer. 17 years of compassion and giving.



Susan Storms is a trained patient volunteer who also bakes every week for our Residence patients.



Cab & Jan Burns volunteer together visiting patients in the Residence and at home and also help at various events.



Jeanette Hillick helps out in so many ways including cooking for residents when needed.



Allison Gorham is our master gardener and lends her incredible talent for decorating at our Foundation events and the Hospice Residence and offices.



A Note of Thanks from Director of Volunteers, Nancy Morrow

Words cannot express my gratitude for the commitment and service of every Hospice volunteer. It is a privilege for me to work alongside these selfless people every day. Their gift of time is not one I take for granted. It certainly takes a special individual to open their hearts and spend time with a dying person. Although end of life care is a scary time for each patient and their family, when a volunteer enters their home, they have a way of making life a little easier and are able to give that family some peace of mind. Hospice currently has over fifty volunteers and each of them bring their own special talent to the organization. I am beyond grateful for their dedication and look forward to another productive year ahead. — Nancy

To learn more about our Hospice events or other ways to support our organization and the services we provide to the community contact: Kathy Arendt, Director of Community Relations karendt@jeffersonhospice.org - 315.788.7323

Spotlight: Gary Robbins, We Honor Veterans Volunteer



The national awareness and action program, **We Honor Veterans**, assists Hospice in helping our veterans to know they are not alone during their end of life journey. Through our dedicated **We Honor Veterans** volunteers, Hospice supports not only the veteran but the veteran's family by individual visits which include presentations of the **We Honor Veterans** commemorative pin, blanket and framed **We Honor Veterans** service certificate. Retired radiologist, Dr. Gary Robbins has served as a **We Honor Veterans** volunteer for the past five years. He served in the Navy for several years during the Vietnam war.

"When I am visiting a veteran, I let them lead the conversation. Some are not comfortable initially so I find some points we might have in common and let it flow from there," explains Dr. Robbins. "I remember these great men and women who have served our country. They are usually very modest about their service. It's our privilege to be able to give them our thanks for what they have done."

"My advice to young people is to begin volunteering now. Be genuine and help others feel that someone cares for them. It's so rewarding to me that I feel like I should be paying Hospice for the privilege." When asked about the Hospice staff, Gary responded, "The entire Hospice staff and the volunteers impress me. They treat all the patients and their families with loving respect. All of them deserve high praise."



It Takes A Village: The Henderson and Henderson Harbor Hospice Volunteer Legacy

For the past twenty-five years, community members of the villages of Henderson and Henderson Harbor have been supporting the Hospice mission with community based fundraising events. During the first five years, a small group of volunteers introduced the *Hospice Hustle Walk-A-Thon*, a three mile walk through their scenic and idyllic neighborhoods to raise funds for Hospice.

Twenty years ago, Henderson resident, Penny McCrea took the lead on this endeavor. And, with the help of dedicated neighbors has formed one of the longest running fundraising events dedicated to supporting the Hospice mission. The Henderson events have grown to include the *Spring Fling* and the *Hospice Wing Ding*.

"I felt the community needed to bring the Hospice Walk-a-Thon back to life. My connection with Hospice is a very personal one. My mother was on Hospice service 15 years ago and the comfort and passion Hospice gave my mother and our family has always held a special place in my heart," said Penny. "We are blessed with the surrounding communities' participation every year. They are very generous with donations and participate in all three of our events. We are always looking for new volunteers. Come on out and enjoy the fun while helping a great organization."

Penny McCrea with her grandsons, Parker, Bryce and Jonas.

