

Volunteer Voices

HOSPICE OF NEW YORK

Autumn 2023

Dear Friends,

As we dive into the Autumn Volunteer Voices newsletter, let me tell you a little bit about myself.

This Autumn marks my 15th year of service here at Hospice of New York. Over the years, my role has shifted like the changing seasons, and these past few years I've had the privilege of being your Volunteer Coordinator.

In this role, I've had the honor of working with a remarkable group of individuals dedicated to the comfort and well-being of our patients. They're the heart and soul of our organization.

Our volunteers fill various roles, from patient/family care volunteers offering companionship and support in various settings, to administrative volunteers keeping our office running smoothly, and bereavement volunteers offering crucial support to families dealing with loss.

Our volunteers come from all walks of life, from students to adults, and some have dedicated over two decades to our mission. They all share a common commitment to provide comfort to our patients and their families during end-of-life challenges.

*"Fading autumn leaves
whispers of a life well lived
hospice's quiet grace."*

Manny B.



Joining our program can be a fulfilling experience. Many of our dedicated volunteers often find that they receive far more than they give. If you know someone eager to contribute their time and compassion to our community, please send them my way.

Thank you for your support and interest in our volunteer program. I appreciate your involvement as we embrace the changing seasons together.

Anthony Castaldo, Volunteer Coordinator

Come make a difference...

Join our Volunteer Team Serving: Queens, Brooklyn, Bronx, Manhattan, and Nassau County

- **Patient Care Volunteers ~ Provide support to patients and their loved ones in your own communities.**
- **Bereavement Volunteers ~ Support families who have lost a loved one.**
- **Administrative Volunteers ~ Assist personnel in Medical Records, Human Resources, etc. at our Long Island City office.**

Our Autumn Volunteers

Efe Alibo	Sandra Hollingworth	Rachel Pao
Muhammad S. Ansari	Fabliha Hussain	Bernard Parker, Sr.
Zachary Azrael	Janice Jachero	Sheena Pearce
Petra Bauer	Lydia Jackson	Tiffany Pineda
Nicholas Carbone	Janntaul Kawnine	Anna Potempska
Vicky Chang	Jan Keith	Jenna Price
Timothy Cho	Amit Krishnan	Jordan Reif
Robin Cohen	Christine Lacey	Alexandria Savinskaya
Andrew Cross	Nathan Magel	Andrea Soares
Richard Davila	Lee Malecki	Rachel Sullivan
Johnell Derrick	Tanya Matthew	Dhiya Vaddigiri
Sydney Grant	August Meyer	Tina Varela
Beth Griffenhagen	Marlene Mrakovic	Kristin Wilson



Autumn Birthdays

Andrew Cross 10/8
Zachary Azrael 10/23
Andrea Soares 10/24
Vicky Chang 11/11
Nathan Magel 11/16
Jordan Reif 11/18



Happy Birthday to our incredible Hospice volunteers! Your warmth and compassion bring light to the lives you touch. Thank you for your unwavering dedication. Wishing you a day filled with joy and heartfelt appreciation for all you do.

HONY Staff

A Hospice Volunteer

Being a hospice volunteer is a profound and compassionate commitment, centered around providing support, comfort, and companionship to individuals and their families facing end-of-life journeys. Here's what it means to be a hospice volunteer:

Compassion and Empathy: Hospice volunteers possess a deep sense of compassion and empathy. They understand the emotional and physical challenges that individuals and their families experience during the end-of-life process. Their empathetic presence offers solace and understanding.

Companionship: A crucial aspect of hospice volunteering is providing companionship. Volunteers spend quality time with patients, engaging in conversations, sharing stories, or simply offering a comforting presence. This companionship helps alleviate feelings of loneliness and isolation.

Active Listening: Hospice volunteers excel in active listening. They create a safe space for patients to express their thoughts, fears, and joys. By lending a compassionate ear, volunteers help individuals navigate the emotional complexities that often accompany the end of life.

Respect for Dignity and Autonomy: Volunteers uphold the dignity and autonomy of each individual. They recognize and honor the unique life experiences and choices of patients, ensuring that their preferences and values guide the care they receive.

Support for Families: Hospice volunteers extend their support to families, acknowledging that the journey of end-of-life care involves not just the patient but their loved ones as well. They offer a helping hand and a compassionate presence to family members facing the challenges of saying goodbye.

Flexibility and Adaptability: Hospice volunteers navigate a range of situations with flexibility and adaptability. They may be involved in various tasks, from assisting with daily activities to providing emotional support. Their willingness to adapt to the changing needs of patients and families is crucial.

Training and Professionalism: Many hospice volunteers undergo training to equip themselves with the necessary skills to provide quality care. They approach their role with professionalism, respecting the boundaries of their responsibilities while recognizing the impact they can have on the lives of those they serve.

Creating a Peaceful Environment: Hospice volunteers contribute to creating a peaceful and comforting environment for patients. This may involve simple acts like playing soothing music, arranging flowers, or ensuring that the physical surroundings contribute to a sense of tranquility.

Being a hospice volunteer is a calling rooted in kindness, love, and the understanding that every life deserves to be honored and cherished until the very end. It's about making a positive difference in the lives of those facing the challenges of terminal illness, providing comfort, and promoting a sense of dignity and peace. Are you ready to....



The Changing Seasons...



Now is the time to volunteer. Call us.

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To Comfort Always...



Hospice of New York