The BRH Volunteer Newsletter

August 2025



Veteran Pinning Ceremony at Maplewood with Volunteer, Mike Remine. Wonderful event!

Reminders and Need to know info:

- If you would like to take a patient outside in nice weather this summer, please notify a facility staff member prior to taking them out.
- Reminder that visits should be made on a weekly basis to build relationship and to be compliant with the guidelines for hospice volunteer visits. If you are unable to make weekly visits, please let Karen know. Thank you
- To reach Karen 508-945-1611 ext 382 karenspangler@broadreachhealth.org
- Karen's hours: Mon, Tues, Wed, Fri 8am-4pm. (note Mon and Wed working remotely). Day off is Thursday
- When filling out report forms, please be sure they are signed, dated correctly, in BLACK ink and on clean paper. As they are scanned into patient's charts.
- Blank volunteer **report forms** are available by either stopping at the office, or by email
- Reminder to wear your ID badge when you visit. If you need a new one, please let Karen know

A Note from Karen.

Greetings everyone! I hope you are all having a nice summer and getting some time to enjoy family and friends.

Part of our partnership with the facilities we serve includes a monthly meeting with our clinical manager and team with the nursing and directors at the facility. The purpose is to review care plans, update patient condition and to nurture our relationship with the facility staff. I try to attend these meetings to represent the volunteer discipline and share with the teams the volunteer's activity with the patients. Recently at several of the meetings the facility staff have commented about how wonderful our hospice volunteers are. Needless to say, my heart goes mush and I am overwhelmed with pride. A couple of the memory care directors have noted how devoted the volunteers are and are so impressed by the quantity of time spent as well as the quality of the companionship visits. Whether you are showing the patient a picture book, taking them outside, playing music or simply holding their hand you are truly emulating what hospice volunteering is all about. To have the recognition of not only BRH staff but staff from the facilities is valued. I know I echo this often, but Broad Reach Hospice is beyond blessed to have you all on our team; those who have been with BRH for many years and those who have joined us for summer months. You are ALL amazing!

Be well, everyone, Karen





In June and July we welcomed... Patricia Cloonan (summer) Pat is seeing folks at Mayflower <u>Genna Mcdonald (summer)</u> Office volunteer <u>Scott Perron</u> Scott will be seeing folks at Liberty Commons <u>Ava Price (summer)</u> Ava visits folks at Liberty Commons

<u>Alyssa Davis</u>

Alyssa will be seeing folks in the Yarmouth/ Barnstable area <u>Aleksander M-Borkowski</u>,

a gifted high school piano player who will be playing for patients and at facilities.

We also had the pleasure of Nina Ganss (volunteer Tim's daughter) join us to help with the reflection books. Two additional volunteers will be going through the onboarding process in coming weeks.

Welcome all and thank you for your interest in hospice work!

Vigil Activity

Our need for vigil activity with our patients and families is always fluid. Thank you to all of you who designated that you would be willing to sit vigil. If Karen is not available at the time vigil services are requested, our administrator Jamie or other on call staff will jump in to contact volunteers to advise of vigil needs.

Also remember the Vigil bags for families that are sitting with loved ones in the dying process. They are in the office, feel free to pick one up to bring to a family.

Visit Report Forms

- Thank you for getting report forms to the office in a timely fashion.
 Karen is more than happy to meet you at facility or wherever to pick up... I'll treat to coffee!!!!
- Reminder to fill out one form for each patient, we scan these reports into each patient file
- Black ink is needed for the reports! Thank you Everyone!!!

REFLECTION BOOKLETS

Reflection Books for individual patients

- ✤ Hometown
- School/ college
- ✤ Military location
- Career location
- ✤ Hobbies



Our Reflection Book project has been well received by patients and families. They are a win- win effort! You, the volunteers gain a plan of care tool to use to enhance visits and the patient wins by connecting with a significant location from their past.

Thanks to our summer volunteers, Genna and Nina we will now have reflection books about general areas of interest for volunteers to use with patients. *The topics include Gardening, Cape Cod scenes, quilts, Boston sports, National Parks, dogs, cats, babies, birds.* Our year round office volunteer, Georgia will continue this effort with other topics.

When Karen receives the background information about a patient and learns of their interest areas, I will get a booklet out to you to use with the patient. I would ask that you keep the booklet with you and bring it to visits so that it doesn't get misplaced at a facility. As well, please return the booklet to the office when no longer needed so that it can be used by another volunteer. If you learn of a subject that you feel would be appropriate please let me know.

Also, thank you to those of you who dropped of books and magazines to be used for this project!!!! If you have any related to the subjects listed, we'd appreciate any donations!