

Volunteers come from all ages and groups.
They are students, moms and dads,
homemakers, business professionals,
educators and medical staff.
Whatever the background, they have the
compassion and the energy to be a
volunteer and share.

Volunteers are caring and unselfish individuals
who give of themselves and their time
to enhance the lives of those around them.
A volunteer, by nature, is a generous person
who is tolerant and cognizant
of the needs of others.



Thinking about giving back to the
community and helping others?

Become a Hospice Volunteer



Great Lakes Hospice
1700 Peach Street, Erie, PA 16502
(814) 877-6120 www.hamot.org

Great Lakes
Hospice

Why

- Volunteers set their own time commitments based on their availability
- As a member of the Hospice Team, volunteers help by providing necessary care and compassion to patients and their families
- Volunteers often form close ties to patients and their families, becoming the eyes and ears for the Hospice Team
- Volunteers gain satisfaction from making a difference in people's lives and receiving their gratitude in return
- Volunteers gain spiritual growth from supporting a person through the process of dying. This experience can heighten a volunteer's own sense of spiritual values
- Volunteers gain valuable experience and challenging job skills
- Office volunteers who perform nonclinical work allow the professionals to focus their time and efforts on patient care
- Without volunteers, hospices could not continue to provide quality and compassionate care, which is so necessary at this difficult time of life



What

These are just a few of the things a hospice volunteer could help with:

- Running errands for patients and families
- Delivering supplies
- Sitting with the patient
- Visiting with the patient and their family
- Assisting with fundraisers and health fairs
- Helping with office functions
- Reading and listening to music with the patient
- Journaling with the patient
- Sending cards
- Community outreach and volunteer recruitment
- Helping with household chores
- Meal preparation

Who

A hospice volunteer:

- Is a special and necessary part of the team
- Is caring, open and accepting of life
- Has an understanding of the challenges that hospice patients and their families face when confronted with a terminal illness
- Affirms life
- Learns new interpersonal skills
- Knows integrity and trust by keeping promises to others
- Gives back to others
- Enriches their own life by enriching others
- Has the ability to listen and provide support
- Demonstrates patience and sensitivity
- Is emotionally mature
- Is comfortable talking about death and dying

How

- Potential volunteers are selected based on their personal choices, interests and talents
- Patient care volunteers must participate in a training program
- Office volunteers can participate in the full training program or a basic training program
- Call Brigitte Sullivan, Volunteer Coordinator at Great Lakes Hospice: (814) 877-6515