

Home Care and Hospice

Ways to Volunteer

Hospice Patient/Caregiver Support Volunteers

Help with practical needs of terminally ill patients and their caregivers.

Length/time of visits: 1-4 hours weekdays or weekends, day or evening

Frequency of visits: 2-4 times per month (unless otherwise arranged)

Tasks:

- Stay with patient to allow caregivers a break.
- Provide companionship for patients (such as talking, reading, playing games).
- Give hand massage (training is provided by Fairview Hospice).
- Perform light housekeeping and meal preparation.
- Run errands.
- Do special projects (such as writing holiday cards and sorting/organizing).

Check-In Call Volunteers

Provide support and comfort through weekly phone calls to hospice patients and caregivers.

Length/time of visits: 1-2 hours Thursday morning or early afternoon

Frequency of visits: 1 time per week

Tasks:

- Make phone calls from the hospice office or your home using scripted questions.
- Document your calls through an encrypted email address set up by Fairview.

Pet Therapy Volunteers

Provide comfort and relaxation to hospice patients through visits with trained therapy animals.

Length/time of visits: Up to 1 hour weekdays or weekends, day or evening

Frequency of visits: 2-4 times per month

Guidelines:

- Pet therapists will not visit homes with other dogs, cats, or uncaged animals.
- Pet therapy dogs will not visit patients with active bacterial infections.
- You must obtain your pet therapy certification through an outside agency such as TDI or Pet Partners.
- Copies of training records and your pet's health records must be provided to Fairview Hospice.

Massage Therapy Volunteers

Provide relaxation and pain relief to hospice patients through full or partial body massage.

Length/time of visits: Up to 1.5 hours weekdays or weekends, day or evening

Frequency of visits: 1-2 times per month (unless otherwise arranged)

Guidelines:

You must be a trained, certified massage therapist and provide proof of training.

Energy Work Volunteers

Provide relaxation, calming, and pain relief to hospice and/or palliative care patients through energy work. Energy work volunteers may also choose to provide sessions for bereaved caregivers after the death of a patient. These sessions are focused on physical energy work. Volunteers do not serve as mediums.

Length/time of visits: Up to 1.5 hours weekdays or weekends, day or evening

Frequency of visits: 2-4 times per month (unless otherwise arranged)

Guidelines:

- Volunteers may use reiki, healing touch, or other forms of energy work.
- Volunteers may teach basic techniques to caregivers for use between visits.
- You must be trained in energy work and provide proof of training.

11th Hour Volunteers

Provide companionship and support to hospice patients in the final 24-72 hours of life.

Length/time of visits: Up to 8 hours weekdays or weekends, day, evening, or overnight

Frequency of visits: As needed

Tasks:

- Sit with patients who are alone or agitated.
- Stay with patients overnight so caregivers can rest.
- Read, pray, hold hands, play music, etc. as requested.
- Support caregivers who want assistance/guidance.

Guidelines:

- 11th hour volunteers must have at least 6 months of hospice care experience. This may be obtained by first volunteering as a Patient/Caregiver Support Volunteer.

We Honor Veterans (WHV) Volunteers

Provide unique end-of-life care for veterans while honoring their service to our country.

Length/time of visits: 1-4 hours weekdays or weekends, day or evening

Frequency of visits: 2-4 times per month (unless otherwise arranged)

Tasks:

- Vet to Vet visits (share stories and reminisce). You must be a military vet to make this type of visit.
- Lead pinning ceremonies honoring veterans for their service.
- Create patriotic pillowcases to be given to veteran patients.
- Assist families in applying for presidential memorial certificates.
- Assist patients with recording their stories for the veteran history project.

Do Re Mi (DRM) Volunteers

Provide enjoyment and relaxation by playing musical instruments and singing to hospice patients.

Length/time of visits: Up to 1 hour weekdays or weekends, day or evening

Frequency of visits: 2-4 times per month (unless otherwise arranged)

Guidelines:

- DRM volunteers are not necessarily professional musicians.
- DRM volunteers must audition with a music therapist on our staff.

Summer Medical Explorer Volunteers

Provide support to hospice patients during the summer months. This is an ideal opportunity for those exploring a medical career.

Length/time of visits: 1-4 hours weekdays or weekends, day or evening

Frequency of visits: 2-4 times per month (unless otherwise arranged)

Guidelines:

- Must volunteer at least 8 hours per week from mid June-mid August.
- Attend 8 weekly in-services presented by medical professionals.
- May continue to volunteer after summer.

Palliative Care Patient Support Volunteers

Provide support to palliative care patients in their homes. These patients are not in the hospice program and may have a longer life expectancy. They are people with a serious, life-limiting condition who want to focus on comfort care and additional support.

Length/time of visits: up to 2 hours weekdays or weekends, day or evening

Frequency of visits: 2-4 times per month (unless otherwise arranged)

Tasks:

- Provide a break for patient caregivers
- Provide companionship to patients such as talking, reading or playing games
- Run errands for patients or caregivers
- Perform household tasks such as laundry, dishes or meal preparation
- Assist with special projects such as writing holiday cards

Human Resources/Volunteer Coordination Intern

Support the volunteer department by recruiting, interviewing, placing and evaluating volunteers. Internships are available from September-May and June-August.

Length/time of shifts: 15 hours per week, mainly during weekday business hours

Frequency of shifts: 2-3 days per week

Tasks:

- Assist with recruitment of volunteers through social media and other online sources
- Interview potential volunteer candidates
- Evaluate volunteer performance through on site co-visits with FHCH patients and volunteers
- Evaluate volunteer performance through phone calls to FHCH patients and caregivers
- Administrative and database support
- Generate statistical reports tracking volunteer activity
- Provide back-up coverage for Volunteer Specialists on vacation including placement of volunteers
- Perform other duties as necessary

Office Support Volunteers

Assist with the day-to-day operations of the hospice program.

Length/time of shifts: 2-4 hours Monday-Friday from 8:30 a.m.- 4:30 p.m.

Frequency of shifts: 1-5 times per month (typically once a week)

Tasks:

- Filing, data entry, copying, special projects

Training:

- One hour of training is provided by Fairview Hospice in addition to training on specific tasks.

Special Projects Volunteers

Create handmade gifts for hospice patients.

Length/time of shifts: Flexible

Frequency of shifts: Flexible

Tasks:

- Sew catheter bag covers.
- Sew lap quilts and/or patriotic pillow cases for patients.
- Sew adult bibs.

Guidelines:

- Must know how to sew.
- Must provide your own materials.

Training:

- One hour of hospice training is provided by Fairview Hospice.