

# Volunteers Offer Care. Comfort. Choice.

## Hospice Helps People

Hospice is a special kind of palliative care focusing on relief of pain, symptom control, spiritual and emotional support. The majority of hospice care takes place in the home, where the person can be surrounded by family and familiar settings. At Interim HealthCare® Hospice, we offer a team-oriented approach to care. This team, which includes hospice volunteers, provides the support needed to ensure patients are maintaining the highest quality of life possible and the needs of both the patient and family are being met.

## Volunteer Education

Being a hospice volunteer is an intensely rewarding experience. Volunteers are required to complete a pre-training interview and orientation class. Surviving family members or friends wishing to join the volunteer staff will be strongly encouraged to wait a minimum of one year following the death of their loved one. As a volunteer, you will also have access to ongoing educational opportunities to ensure you feel comfortable with your role. Hospice education covers:

- Philosophy of hospice care
- Services offered by hospice
- Physical, emotional, social and spiritual issues encountered at the end of life
- Effective communication when speaking with patients and family members
- Comfort care
- The dying process
- Basic information about grief and loss

As a hospice volunteer, you will be given the choice as to what types of things you want to do and how much time you want to contribute. Typical volunteer responsibilities include:

## Support for Patients

- Visiting and companionship
- Reading and taking walks
- Writing letters
- Visiting with pets
- Bringing in music
- Vigil sitting

## Support for Families

- Respite relief
- Shopping and errands
- Meal preparation
- Light housekeeping

## Bereavement Support

- Participation in memorial service
- Assisting in support groups

## Office Work

- Assisting with mailings
- Computer data entry
- Administrative duties

## Other

- Making special craft items
- Baking

## Hospice Needs Volunteers

Volunteers provide important services to the community. Whether it's providing companionship to a person in the final months or weeks of life, offering support to family members and caregivers, providing assistance in the office, or helping with community outreach; the contributions of volunteers are an essential part of Interim HealthCare® Hospice.

Our goal is to provide excellent end of life support to each patient and family. Volunteers are at the heart of our goal. Serving people at the end of life's journey allows hospice volunteers to make a difference every day.





# Hospice Volunteers

Hospice volunteers provide companionship to people living with a life-limiting illness and help their family caregivers in a variety of ways. In addition to providing assistance with patient care and bereavement support, hospice volunteers help with office work and community outreach. Hospice volunteers provide an invaluable service.

**Hospice is not about giving up, but instead focuses on quality of life — making the wishes of the patient and family caregivers a priority.**



## About Interim

Interim HealthCare, founded in 1966, is a leading home care, hospice and medical staffing company.

Our independently owned franchises are committed to providing the most compassionate and professional care available in the communities they serve.

## Contact Us

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**PROVIDING HOME CARE NATIONWIDE FOR OVER 50 YEARS**