



About Arcturus

Arcturus Hospice, an Arc Hospice company, is committed to increasing access to high-quality hospice care. We collaborate with patients and their loved ones to create customized care plans tailored to each patient's needs, ensuring a dignified and compassionate hospice experience. Our aim is to provide the highest quality care while celebrating our patients' lives.

Overview of Hospice

Hospice care is a specialized form of medical care focused on providing comfort, support, and dignity to patients in the advanced stages of terminal illnesses.

Unlike traditional medical care, which often concentrates on curative treatments, hospice emphasizes pain and symptom management, ensuring the highest quality of life for patients in their final days, weeks, or months. Hospice care understands that the end-of-life experience is not just about dying but also about living as fully as possible despite a life-limiting illness.

The hospice philosophy believes in a holistic approach, catering not only to the physical needs of the patient but also addressing emotional, spiritual, and social concerns. This comprehensive care extends to the patient's family and loved ones, offering them support during this challenging time and guidance in the bereavement period that follows. Hospice teams are interdisciplinary, consisting of physicians, nurses, nursing assistants, social workers, spiritual advisors, and volunteers, all collaborating to ensure the holistic well-being of the patient and their family. The goal is to foster an environment where patients can pass away peacefully, surrounded by their loved ones, in a setting of their choice, most often at home.



Role of a Volunteer

Volunteers play a significant role in hospice care, often serving as the bridge between clinical staff and families. Their role is multifaceted, embodying not just assistance, but also companionship and a kind ear. While medical professionals address the clinical aspects of care, volunteers are there to listen, share stories, and offer a hand to hold, emphasizing the importance of human connection in the final stages of life. Their presence often alleviates the feelings of loneliness and isolation that many patients experience. By offering solace and a gentle reminder of the broader community's care and concern.

Volunteers bring a unique perspective to the hospice environment, as they are not bound by routine clinical responsibilities that other members of the team have. Volunteers have the flexibility and the time to engage with patients on a more personal level. This allows them to understand and cater to individual needs. Their voluntary commitment to the well-being of others epitomizes the spirit of altruism and often serves as an inspiration to those around them.

The role of volunteers extends beyond just patient interaction. They often provide essential respite for exhausted family members, giving them the opportunity to take a break, attend to personal matters, or simply rest, knowing their loved one is in caring hands. Additionally, volunteers often assist with administrative tasks, community outreach, and other logistical aspects. In essence, while their roles may vary, the core remains the same: to enhance the quality of life for those in hospice care and support their families during an emotionally challenging period.



Duties a Student can do as a Volunteer

Students can do many things as hospice volunteers, including providing companionship, helping with technical tasks, and assisting the nurse:

- Companionship

Volunteers can play cards, read books, go on outings, and prepare light meals. They can also offer transportation to appointments or the store and provide respite for the primary caregiver.

- Technical tasks

Volunteers can help with data entry, file management, mailings, photocopying, and answering phone calls. Patient care

Volunteers can listen to and talk to patients, read to them, and encourage them through difficult times. They can also keep family members informed about certain situations.

Volunteering can be a great way for nursing students to gain hands-on experience and share their talents with others. They can also learn about the emotional requirements of hospice care and how to be attentive listeners, patient, and respectful of patients' desires.



Why a Student Should Volunteer

- Making a difference

Hospice volunteers can have a significant impact on the quality of life of patients and their families.

- Building meaningful relationships

Volunteering at hospice can help students form deep connections with patients and their families.

- Personal growth

Volunteering at hospice can be a source of personal growth and self-reflection.

- Learning

Hospice volunteering can help students learn about death and dying, and how to interact with patients.

- Career development

Volunteering at hospice can look good on a resume, especially for students planning to pursue a career in healthcare or social work.

- Widening perspective

Hospice volunteering can help students broaden their perspective of the medical field.

- Discovering purpose

Many hospice volunteers describe their work as a source of purpose and fulfillment.

Hospice care focuses on the comfort, quality of life, and care of people with serious illnesses who are approaching the end of their lives.