

Benefits of Student Volunteerism at Great Lakes Caring Hospice

Why would you encourage students to volunteer with Great Lakes Caring Hospice? We would like to take this opportunity to share some of the experiences a student might encounter and the benefits that would result for the student.

Experience	Benefit
Learning about the concept of hospice	Obviously, students working with our organization will come to understand the philosophy of hospice as well as the fiscal, societal and personal implications of this field.
Exposure to terminally ill patients in a long term care facility	Many young people are never exposed to the elderly who are terminally ill. Normalizing death and accepting it as part of life's cycle are healthy concepts for all of us. Students will learn that we all live our dying and that we can choose to find joy, meaning and purpose until the end.
Developing a relationship with the elderly	Society too often sees senior citizens as lacking value. This up-close experience will help students value the wisdom and history that the elderly bring to the fabric of society. This may also be a substitute grandparent experience for those students who lost grandparents earlier in their lives.
Being part of a team	Volunteers often contribute valuable information to the health professionals on our hospice team. Your student will see how their role interacts with other professionals in a meaningful way.
Exposure to the health care field	Your students will work on a team with Nurses, Physicians, Social workers, Chaplains, Certified Nursing Assistants as well as office staff coordinating the program. They will be exposed to the intricacies of these fields and have the opportunity to learn more about each profession.
Extensive training program for those students choosing to work with patients	All volunteers in hospice are required by federal guidelines to learn about hospice and have basic skills for working with patients. They will be exposed to empathy and communication skill building, understanding loss, stress management and dealing with grief.
Leadership development through building personal skills and sharing talents with others	Developing personal skills is the first step toward becoming a responsible adult and taking on leadership roles in the bigger world. By being exposed to a new environment and being challenged by new experiences, students will grow in their own unique and valuable way.
Exposure to an office setting	Some students may choose to work in the office instead of with patients. They provide invaluable support through computer skills, clerical skills as well as creative projects which directly benefit patients.