

What is In-House Hospice?

In-House Hospice provides comprehensive hospice care to terminally ill residents of nursing homes and assisted living facilities throughout the Detroit Metropolitan area and lower Michigan. We offer many opportunities for volunteers to work closely with our hospice patients, providing companionship and performing many other acts of compassion.

Some of the communities we serve are:

- *Clinton Township*
- Warren
- Madison Heights
- Mount Clemens
- Port Huron
- Grosse Pointe

How can I be involved?

Student volunteers provide companionship to patients in several ways:

- reading to them
 - playing music or sharing other creative talents
 - encouraging life review by listening to patients and enjoying their stories
 - decorating their rooms for the holidays
 - bringing birthday surprises
 - sewing items for patients
 - creating video life reviews or memory scrapbooks for patients' families to keep
 - providing pet therapy (with a certified therapy dog)
- ...and much more!

What are the benefits of serving as a hospice volunteer?

- Volunteers become intimately familiar with the philosophy of hospice, which is complemented by **in-depth training** on empathy, communication, stress management and the grief process.
- Due to In-House's emphasis on holistic care, students benefit from **being a part of the hospice care team**, working with other health professionals to contribute to the care of their patients.
- While students may share the vitality of youth with patients, developing a personal relationship with the elderly also helps students **value the wisdom and history** that the elderly possess.
- Many volunteers experience **intense personal growth** by gaining insight into the needs of dying patients and their families. Normalizing death and accepting it as part of life's cycle, volunteers come to understand that we all live our dying and can choose to find joy, meaning and purpose until the end.

Are there other ways I can contribute to the hospice program?

YES! In-House is currently expanding its programming to further enrich the field of hospice:

- There are several opportunities for volunteers to **cultivate leadership abilities** and further explore their interests through the vast network of mentorship and support within In-House Hospice.
- **Internship opportunities** are available for students interested in social work or the health care field. While supervised by master's level staff, volunteers can participate in special departments such as bereavement or other field placements.
- **Educational outreach** to disseminate information about the hospice program is an option for students who are interested in giving presentations and educating other students and the greater community about hospice.
- **Visiting elementary schools** to organize art projects is a wonderful opportunity for volunteers who enjoy working with children. The artwork from these elementary students will be shared with our very own hospice patients.
- **The Student Advisory Council** is a newly formed group that is working to enhance the following target areas: patient-centered companionship, further integrating the volunteer program within the larger organization of In-House, and becoming more involved in the communities we serve through education and outreach.