

*Becoming a
Hospice Volunteer*



**Carroll
Hospice**

A Special Kind of Caring

About Carroll Hospice

An affiliate of Carroll Hospital Center, Carroll Hospice provides high-quality, patient-centered care to terminally ill individuals and their loved ones. Through specialized nursing services, along with spiritual and emotional support, Carroll Hospice helps patients live out the remainder of their days in dignity, in the warmth and familiarity of their own home, a health care setting or our beautiful inpatient facility. For grieving family members, Carroll Hospice offers a host of resources, including bereavement counselors, a comprehensive bereavement center with resource library (located in our inpatient facility) and support groups for all ages.

*How do I apply
or learn more?*

We ask prospective volunteers to submit an application with three references and interview with our volunteer coordinator.

To request an application or for more information, call 410-871-7228.



Volunteering for Carroll Hospice: a life-changing experience

Carroll Hospice volunteers play an important role in the lives of those with life-limiting illnesses and their loved ones. Whether working directly with patients and families, providing administrative and fundraising support or serving as a camper “buddy” at our annual retreat for grieving children, their contributions are invaluable. The benefits also extend to the volunteers themselves, many of whom cite hospice volunteering as one of the most rewarding experiences of their lives.

While some volunteer positions require preliminary training (provided by Carroll Hospice), the most important qualification is a genuine commitment to meeting the needs of terminally ill patients and their loved ones. A compassionate attitude and an open mind are also important. Volunteers do not need any previous hospice experience.

What opportunities are available?

Our volunteers serve Carroll Hospice in many capacities depending on their talents, interests and availability. Here are some of the ways they make a difference:

- *Patient care* – These volunteers serve as companions and helpers for patients and their families, either in private residences, Carroll Hospice's inpatient facility or health care settings such as nursing homes. Specific duties may include providing respite care to family members, running errands (e.g. picking up prescriptions or going grocery shopping), serving as a greeter or receptionist at our inpatient facility or simply spending time reading, talking and listening to patients. Patient care volunteers must be 18 years of age or older.
- *Fundraising and special events* – Carroll Hospice relies on volunteers to help organize and support key fundraising and outreach events that help us fulfill our pledge to care for all patients, regardless of their ability to pay. Volunteers are also needed to serve as Carroll Hospice representatives at community health fairs.
- *Administrative* – Office volunteers assist with a variety of tasks that help Carroll Hospice function smoothly, including filing, letter and electronic correspondence, fielding phone calls and other clerical duties.
- *Professional* – Carroll Hospice is grateful for the many professionals who donate their time and services for the betterment of our patients.

Professional volunteers include, but are not limited to, massage therapists, hair stylists, chaplains and music therapists. These volunteers must have a current license or certification in their area of expertise.

- *Camp T.R.* – A weekend retreat for children grieving the loss of a loved one, Camp T.R. combines recreational activities, such as art, swimming and music, with grief education and support. Volunteers are needed to serve as camper “buddies” and assist with logistics and planning.
- *Groups and donations* – We offer a variety of customized volunteer opportunities for service and church groups. Carroll Hospice also accepts donations of designated materials and supplies.

What about training and support?

Patient care volunteers and those working in our inpatient facility are required to take a seven-week training course (21 hours total). This course may be required or recommended for those volunteering in other capacities as well. Offered biannually, the course helps participants better understand a patient’s needs and prepares them for the issues they may encounter while serving as a Carroll Hospice volunteer. Topics range from facing your own mortality and grief and interacting with hospice patients to supporting caregivers and addressing end-of-life issues.



An affiliate of Carroll Hospital Center

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