



Hospice Volunteer Training—Fall 2024

About Volunteering with Hospice

The service of a Volunteer is at the heart of what Hospice offers to families who are caring for a loved one who is dying, and for loved ones who have lost someone on our service. We also offer grief support groups to the community. This training is for **Volunteer Visitors (VV's)** AND **Grief Support Volunteers(GSV's)**.

Volunteer Visitors (VV's) are understanding listeners, the ones who extend a hand to hold, provide companionship and presence at the bedside that comforts patients, and often makes it possible for a caregiver to have a few hours of respite. VV's can also serve as Pet Companion and Massage Therapy VV's.

Grief Support Volunteers (GSV's) provide check-in calls, co-facilitate grief support groups for those who have already experienced a loss, and/or provide 1:1 grief support.

Hospice of Santa Cruz County (HSCC) needs specialized volunteers who are:

- Certified massage therapists
- Bi-lingual in English & Spanish and/or bi-cultural
- Pet companion visitors
- Veterans wanting to serve other veterans

The **16-19 hour training** on zoom is interactive and experiential, (video on/your presence required) and especially designed to prepare volunteers to perform these vital services. HSCC asks that candidates be able to make a volunteering commitment of 3-4 hours per week for at least one year; attend monthly support group when possible, and complete the mandatory annual education requirement that we provide. All training is provided free of charge by HSCC. Volunteers are currently required to have TB test (2 step or Quantiferon test paid for as part of the training), and background checks.

Some topics covered in the training include the following:

- Philosophy and practice of hospice care
- Spiritual dimensions of death and dying
- Grief processes and bereavement experiences
- Mindful-awareness practice as a support to service
- The art of visiting with patients; medicare regulations
- The role of the Social Worker & Chaplain
- Self-care; Communication; Boundaries

Our Mission: With compassion and excellence, we support all people of all ages through the journey of serious illness and grief , ensuring that no one walks this path alone.

Training Schedule - By Zoom

**First 5 sessions required for VV's*

**All Sessions required for GSV's*

Begins Wednesday Oct 2, 2024

Wednesday, Oct 26-9 PM

Wednesday, Oct 96-9 PM

Wednesday, Oct 16.....6-9 PM

Wednesday, Oct 23.....6-9 PM

Wednesday, Oct 30.....6-9 PM

Wednesday, Nov 6.....6-9 PM

Application due by September 18, 2024

To apply, go to: hospicesantacruz.org

For those who have experienced significant personal loss, it is recommended to wait at least one year before applying.

For More Information:

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**Apply to
Volunteer
Today!**