



HOSPICE
MEANS
MORE CARE,
NOT LESS

Volunteer

NEWSLETTER

JUNE 2021

~ New Beginnings ~

Among the many challenges the pandemic brought was a Medicare waiver that temporarily lifted the hospice requirement for Volunteers. Our philosophy remains the same: Volunteers are indispensable members of our interdisciplinary team who bring their unique personalities and talents to bless our patients and their families. Nevertheless our Volunteers have been largely inactive for over a year now due to Covid19 restrictions. Many of our Volunteers have remained faithful by helping in small ways where they can, and waiting patiently until our partner facilities allow regular visitors again. We are excited that many of the pandemic restrictions are lifting as we head into the summer of 2021 with the vaccine rollout and reducing case numbers.

We are hopeful that 2021 will be a year of new beginnings for Bella Care Hospice's Volunteer department. Three of our branches are bringing on new Volunteer Coordinators. We are also beginning to get some of our Volunteers into facilities for the first time in a long time. Some of our branches have even trained a couple new interns and Volunteers. If the pandemic continues in this trajectory we expect to start getting most of our patient care Volunteers back to visiting patients in the coming months. If everything goes well, we will also begin recruiting new Volunteers to join our passionate team!

The pandemic has been hard. Our patients need companionship from caring Volunteers now more than ever. To meet rising challenges we will need endurance, creativity, and heart. With the many changes in the last year all our branches have reduced Volunteer teams, so we will be looking for new Volunteers to join our team in these new beginnings as we care for our patients and their families after a long year of difficulties.



Cincinnati Volunteer Tom Hopper out with some of the Bella Care Staff as restrictions start to lift.

Volunteer Appreciation Month

The week of April 19-23 was Volunteer Appreciation Week. At Bella Care Hospice, we always take time to celebrate and recognize the wonderful Volunteers who serve our patients! During the past year living through the COVID-19 pandemic, we recognize how much we miss our Volunteers being able to make weekly visits with our patients. Throughout the pandemic, some of our Volunteers have taken time to write cards, make phone calls, and do video chats with our patients due to not being allowed in the facilities. Others have continued to work in administrative roles, helping out where they can safely. We are thankful for the simple efforts that our Volunteers have made to touch the lives of our patients from a distance instead of meeting with them in person.



Due to the pandemic restrictions, we were not able to celebrate our Volunteers quite as much as we would like for appreciation week. Nevertheless, our branches sought to do something in gratitude for their dedication. We gave out mugs, thank you cards, and personalized gifts, and even took some Volunteers out for coffee as we were able. We are so glad Volunteers are part of our Bella Care family!

Words of appreciation:

Kendra Lambert, Volunteer Coordinator, Columbus:

Hospice Volunteers do a lot of behind the scenes tasks that sometimes go unnoticed but have an immediate impact for the patient and their families. In my time of being a Volunteer Coordinator, I have seen Volunteers provide a calm and peaceful presence as they sit bedside with a patient who is transitioning or actively dying. I have witnessed the deep care and support that Volunteers have offered to family members as they share stories and memories of their loved ones. I have also worked side by side with Volunteers as they came to our office to help wrap Christmas gifts, prepare certificates to honor our patients who are veterans, and make cards to take with balloons to celebrate each of our patient's birthdays. Hospice Volunteers add so much value and compassion through the time and presence they give to the patients they serve each day.

Kathy Mills, Volunteer Coordinator, Ashtabula:

I cannot help but feel Hospice Volunteers are extra special when it comes to being a Volunteer. That is not to say that not all Volunteers are valuable, but it takes someone special to be a Hospice Volunteer. Over the years, I have met and worked with many of these special people. Our Volunteers bring a unique and diverse talent to our program and patients. The most important talent is the ability to provide a personal touch to our patients and their families. Providing a calm presence, a listening ear, or a helping hand, these folks are such a vital part of our hospice team! Though we celebrate with you on Volunteer appreciation week, I am grateful year-round for the wonderful people who bring so much to our families. I want to give my personal thanks to each one of you for joining our team! *"Your heart has brought great joy to many. Those hearts can never forget you."* -Flavia Weeden

Volunteer of the Quarter Molly Weems



Our Volunteer of the Quarter comes from our Ashtabula office. Here is what Volunteer Coordinator Kathy Mills said:

"I've seen and met angles wearing the disguise of ordinary people living ordinary lives."

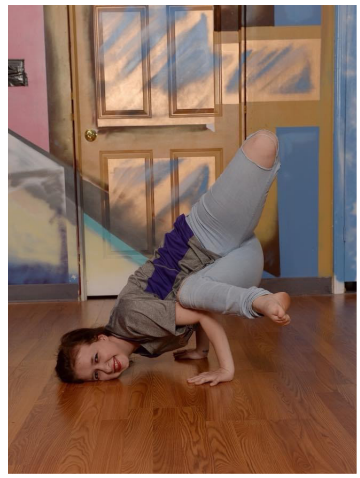
– Tracy Chapman

Here in lies a perfect description of a Hospice Volunteer!

Over the past, eight years I have met and trained many Volunteers. Many of whom are still with our program. I am truly grateful for all these folks! When asked to choose a Volunteer to nominate for Volunteer of the Quarter I was torn. I have so many wonderful Volunteers it is hard to choose. I finally decided on Molly Weems.

Molly has been a Volunteer for with us since October of 2016. This busy mom of three girls and her husband Matthew live in Trumbull County. She works full time and their girls are in sports. Molly also manages to find time to Volunteer for Bella visiting her patients four times a month. She is truly one of the angles of whom Tracy Chapman spoke! Thank you so much for everything you do Miss Molly!

New Volunteer Coordinator Dayton Branch



New Volunteer Coordinator
Savannah Ford showing
off her dance moves



Savannah meeting with
Dayton Volunteer
Rich Stackhouse

Meet Dayton's new Volunteer Coordinator: Savannah Ford! Savannah comes with a lot of enthusiasm and some relevant experience. She has worked as an assistant director of a dance studio, a supervisor of developmental disability homes, and as an activity leader at a nursing home/rehab facility.

Savannah comes from a military family and was born in San Vito al Tagliamento, Italy though eventually moved to Wright Patterson Air Force Base in Dayton. She started dancing at the age of 2 and became a competitive dancer at 7. She was homeschooled because she was doing between thirty-forty hours a week of dance and started teaching it while in high school. While not working, she loves to go fishing, hunting, four wheeling, bonfires, anything adventurous, and much more. "I love helping others and meeting their needs to make them feel comfortable. I love being around people and getting to know them. I became a Volunteer Coordinator because I wanted to inspire future and current Volunteers. I also want to bring support and comfort to those in hospice. I am excited to get creative with the team and build an amazing program. I am excited for my future here at Bella Care."

Welcome to the team Savannah!

Welcome to the new Volunteers joining our extraordinary team!

Cincinnati Branch

Holly Holtkamp, 5/20/2021

Cincinnati Branch

Julia Meeker, 5/3/2021
Hannah Slenska, 5/13/2021
Jessica Micheletti, 6/2/2021

Please join us in Celebrating the Anniversaries of the Volunteers below:

Ashtabula Branch

Joyce Misnec	2/3/2020	1 yr.
Tracy Miller	4/11/2013	8 yrs.
Edith Jonas	4/23/2015	6 yrs.
Carol Flinn	5/8/2019	2 yrs.
Trudy German	5/1/2018	3 yrs.
Alexander Radzin	6/20/2019	2 yrs.

Cincinnati Branch

Lisa Lawless	5/19/2018	3 yrs.
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Cleveland Branch

Yolanda Lee	1/29/2018	3 yrs.
Kelly Dryfield	1/31/2017	4 yrs.
Kathleen Agosta	2/13/2018	3 yrs.
Melissa Griffie	3/1/2018	3 yrs.
Debbie LeWalk	4/5/2019	2 yrs.
Marquita Benn	4/11/2019	2 yrs.
Lacy Sharratt	4/11/2018	3 yrs.
Carolyn Hubbard	6/10/2019	2 yrs.

Columbus Branch

Lydia Robertson	1/3/2020	1 yr.
Wayne Belford	2/13/2020	1 yr.
Lisa Swisher	2/13/2020	1 yr.
Jennifer Neutzling	2/13/2020	1 yr.
Susann Nagy	2/23/2015	6 yrs.
Mandy Morton	3/6/2019	2 yrs.
Yashu Tanneru	3/21/2019	2 yrs.
E Darnel Clapp	3/27/2019	2 yrs.
Ashley Everhart	5/16/2019	2 yrs.
Nyya Jones Manion	5/29/2019	2 yrs.
Courtney Mundy	5/29/2019	2 yrs.
Linda Mizer	5/30/2018	3 yrs.
Sathvika Kasarla	6/12/2019	2 yrs.
Todd Bollenbacher	6/15/2016	2 yrs.

Dayton Branch

Richard Stackhouse	1/11/2019	2 yrs.
Gabrielle "Gabby" Gonnella	1/24/2019	2 yrs.
Teresa Miller	2/15/2019	2 yrs.
Amy McCloud	2/17/2020	1 yr.



Bella Care Hospice Volunteer Birthdays:

Ashtabula Branch

Jeanne Williams 1/1
Molly Weems 1/2
Tracy Miller 1/4
David Derk 1/15
Mallory Winters 3/6

Cincinnati Branch

Lisa Lawless 5/29

Cleveland Branch

Carolyn Hubbard 1/3
Marquita Benn 1/8
Jennifer Mihalick 2/15
Jennifer Narraway 3/24
Rachel Vanek 3/24
Kelly Dryfield 4/8
Lacy Sharratt 4/15
Kimberly Keener 4/22
Haley Gunter 4/25
Kiera O'Dwyer 4/28

Columbus Branch

E Darnel Clapp 1/9
Valeria Reyes 1/21
Nyya Jones Manion 1/23
Betsy Green 3/9
Sathvika Kasarla 3/18
Patricia Bobo 3/25
Saanvi Billakanty 4/16
Lisa Swisher 6/2
Michael Howell 6/22
Wayne Belford 6/26

Dayton Branch

Richard Stackhouse 1/23
Barbara Ochsner 1/27
Gabrielle "Gabby" Gonnella 3/19
Giovanna Konya 5/24
Linda Portillo-Ramos 6/4
Amy McCloud 6/23

