

# **Volunteer News**

April - May - June 2023

# The Value of a Volunteer

Volunteers in many cases are people who make things happen. They commit to a cause and sacrifice what is needed to meet the need. They are people who when working together, can accomplish incredible results. Volunteerism has played a major role throughout history. The verb "volunteer" was first originated in 1755. Volunteerism in the United States stems all the way back to the Revolutionary War when civilians made time to support the war effort. The American Red Cross, one of the most influential humanitarian organizations in the world, was founded by visionary leader Clara Barton in 1881. The Great Depression saw a mass mobilization of volunteers to assist the unemployed and impoverished. When looking into the value of a volunteer you can start by identifying services offered in your community to people, and if you look close enough you will see volunteer roles in many of those services. One example in our community is the volunteer work of Meals on Wheels. In February 1973 this volunteer group started to deliver meals to those in need and this year marks 50 years of committed service.

When we look around our region, it's easy to find examples of how volunteer work benefits us all. Volunteers add value to our community; if they disappeared many of the services and activities in our area would be impacted. When you begin to identify the services requiring volunteers you quickly develop a very long list. As you go through your day, ask yourself "where is a volunteer?" You will begin to notice them in many areas of our community as you move throughout your day. You may see them in places you never realized before. Many events, activities and services are the result of committed volunteers determined to make a difference in their community. Hospitals, schools, churches, senior centers, food pantries, youth sports, Meals on Wheels and many other services, with assistance of volunteers, add value to our community. Collectively volunteers are an amazing team that brings out the best in others.

In 2022 Marshfield Medical Center-Beaver Dam volunteer team had 119 volunteers serve 17,128 hours. Thank you to every volunteer who gets up every day and looks for a way to make our community a great place to live!

#### "The best way to find yourself is to lose yourself in the service of others." – Mahatma Gandhi



### **Volunteer Celebration Event**

Nationally, volunteers are recognized in April as they provide tremendous support to many organizations. We are looking forward to hosting an onsite volunteer celebration event in late summer at Marshfield Medical Center-Beaver Dam and will communicate those details via invitation.

Celebrating volunteer service provides an opportunity to reflect on this year's accomplishments. Every volunteer plays a critical role. Your contributions of time and talent ensure continued success in fulfilling the vision and mission of MMC-BD.

In 2022, volunteers served in the hospital gift shop, information desks (main lobby, 2nd floor waiting area and Hillside Manor reception area), human resources, HealthWORKS, meal recovery, Kids Care, hospice, piano playing, accounting, Hillside Manor beauty salon, Hillside Manor activities, chapel services, Eagle's Wings, Remembrance Home, pharmacy delivery, rehab, foot clinic, clergy, and home knitting.

Thank you for volunteering!

#### **Thank You Hospice Volunteers**

The team here at Hillside Home Care and Hospice would like to thank all of the hospice volunteers for everything you have done this past year. Without you we could not be where we are today. We are still succeeding our monthly goal and I know this could not be possible if it wasn't for the time and dedication that you put into your volunteer role. To work with people

who so selflessly give up their time to help others in the last chapter of their lives is very rewarding. You are a huge part of our team and I am beyond grateful to know all of you.

The definition of a volunteer is, "a person who voluntarily undertakes or expresses a willingness to undertake a service." In hospice, a volunteer undertakes a special service. They sit side by side with those who are dying. They dedicate their time to ensure a patient has companionship and



Cassie Rockefeller Hospice Volunteer Coordinator

socialization. They dedicate their time to ensure a caregiver can run their errands, or complete simple tasks like going to get their hair cut, tasks that mean so much to a caregiver who is by their loved one's side for 24 hours a day otherwise. Volunteers are invaluable members of the hospice team. We cannot thank them enough for what they give of themselves to patients. I am sure they leave a lasting imprint on both patients and caregivers alike. So thank you hospice volunteers, whom undertake such a special service.

Our hospice volunteer team is always looking to grow. If you or anyone you know has interest in volunteering or just want to know more about hospice; please reach out to the Hospice Volunteer Coordinator at 920-887-4185 or email at <u>Rockefeller.cassie@marshfieldclinic.org</u>

## **Volunteer Opportunities**

MMC-BD is looking for new volunteers who want to become part of a caring team. Listed below are volunteer opportunities available during the week. If you are interested or know of someone who is, please contact Volunteer Services at moritz.daniel@marshfieldclinic.org or call 920-887-5988.

**Gift Shop:** Primary responsibilities include friendly and welcoming customer service with use of phone and cash register. Gift shop is open Monday through Friday with morning and afternoon shifts available. Volunteers will serve in teams of two for each shift to provide an excellent shopping experience to patients, visitors and staff.

**Information Desks: Primary responsibilities include** being friendly and welcoming, showing courtesy and respect for a vast array of patients and visitors, greeting and interacting with patients and visitors, providing direction, walking and pushing wheelchairs. Morning and afternoon shifts are available.

Volunteer information desks are located in the hospital's main lobby and 2nd floor waiting area.

**Pet Therapy: Primary responsibilities include** emotional support and comfort provided to patients by a therapeutic interaction with pets. Pet therapy volunteers must be 18 years of age and registered with Therapy Dogs International or Pet Partners with Delta Society, Alliance of Therapy Dogs or Love on a Leash.

**Kids Care: Primary responsibilities include** assist with rocking, soothing, feeding, help with toddlers and assist in providing quality care. Serve with staff to provide activities to school aged students.

**Hospice:** Primary responsibilities include spending 2-4 hours a week with patient and family in their final moments of life. Hospice volunteers are key to the success of the Hospice team. They may choose to volunteer directly with patients and families or to provide support to the operations of Hillside Hospice. To learn more, contact Hospice Volunteer Coordinator at 920-887-4185.

**Eagle's Wings and Remembrance Home: Primary responsibilities include** reading to residents (devotionals, daily newspaper, trivia, books), bingo and playing cards. Activity staff will work with you to facilitate events and activities throughout the week/weekend with times during the day and evening.

Hillside Manor Beauty Salon: Primary responsibilities include transporting residents from room to beauty salon and assisting staff to provide residents with shampooing and hair styling.