

Hospice Volunteers:

- Provide emotional support to the dying patient and his/her family by being available to listen actively.
- Provide companionship.
- Assist with various aspects of caring for patients and family members, including visiting, writing letters, reading, and helping with meals.
- Provide supportive services such as running errands, picking up medications, and helping with household tasks.
- If interested, may provide project-based supportive services for the overall Hospice program.

The Hospice program is based on the dignity of human life and the preservation of that dignity until the moment of death.

- Hospice Volunteer

Volunteering with Northfield Hospice

A program of care for terminally-ill patients and their families

Volunteer Coordinator:
Kelly Burge
507-646-1457

Hospice Director:
Kari Cistera
507-646-1457



Office Address:

1604 Riverview Lane
Northfield, MN 55057
northfieldhospital.org



About Volunteering with Northfield Hospice

What is Hospice?

Hospice is a program of care for patients who are considered to be in the last phase of life. It provides support and help for these patients and for their families.

Hospice is not a place, but a philosophy of care that recognizes that death is likely near and that improving the quality of life has greater importance than increasing the length of life. The program focuses on helping the patient live well until death comes.

Hospice services attend to the emotional needs as well as medical issues. They are provided by a team consisting of physicians, nurses, social workers, pastors, the coordinator of volunteers and Hospice volunteers. All members of the Hospice Team are specially trained in helping people with terminal illness. They know and understand the emotional responses to illness, and they do all they can to be sure that everyday life happens as much as possible for the patient and his/her family.

What Does Hospice Do?

Northfield Hospice strives to reach the following goals:

- To provide compassionate, respectful care for the patient, helping him or her to manage symptoms such as pain, nausea, and weakness.
- To preserve the dignity of each patient and to ensure the integrity of his/her personal choices.
- To focus the care on the physical, emotional, and spiritual needs of the person and his/her family.
- To provide continuity to the caring process, whether at home, in a long-term-care facility, or in the hospital.
- To support family and friends during the period of grief and bereavement.



How Can I Become a Hospice Volunteer?

If you are interested in learning more about hospice volunteering, you may contact our Hospice Volunteer Coordinator.

Prospective volunteers attend an interview session and complete a Hospice volunteer training program.

Volunteers also meet monthly to discuss experiences with patients and families and to participate in ongoing training in end of life care.

Northfield Hospice considers volunteers to be an integral part of our care team. We welcome your questions and your interest!

Volunteer Coordinator:
Kelly Burge
507-646-1457