

Becoming a Hospice

volunteer



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. 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 extensive 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. 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 (Dove House) or health care settings such as nursing homes and assisted living communities. Specific duties may include providing respite care to family members, running errands or simply spending time reading, talking and listening to patients. Patient care volunteers must be 18 years of age or older.
- **Doula** – Our inpatient facility welcomes the use of doula volunteers to sit with patients in their final moments of life. Our specially trained volunteers offer comfort and a supportive presence at that time.
- **Veterans** – A participant in the We Honor Veterans program, Carroll Hospice has implemented a variety of programs to educate staff and the community about the needs of veterans and to recognize their contributions. Military veterans are needed to visit with and honor veteran patients for their dedicated military service to our country.
- **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.
- **Administrative** – Office volunteers assist with a variety of tasks that help Carroll Hospice function smoothly, including filing, letter and electronic correspondence, fielding phone calls or serving as a greeter or receptionist at our inpatient facility 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, Reiki practitioners and music therapists. These volunteers must have a current license or certification in their area of expertise.
- **Pet therapy** – The unconditional love and attention from a pet help bring smiles and comfort to our patients. Those who have trained, or would like to train, their pet by a pet therapy organization may volunteer to visit patients in their homes, assisted living facilities or our inpatient facility. The volunteer coordinator can help facilitate choosing a training program if needed.
- **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. A one-day training session is required.
- **Groups and donations** – We offer a variety of customized volunteer opportunities for service and church groups.

What about training and support?

Patient care volunteers and those working in our inpatient facility are required to take a six-week training course (21 hours total). This course may be required or recommended for those volunteering in other capacities as well. The training helps participants better understand a patient’s needs and prepares them for the issues they may encounter while serving as a Carroll Hospice volunteer.

Interested in volunteering?

To learn more about volunteering or to arrange an interview, please call our volunteer coordinator at 410-871-7228.



About Carroll Hospice

Serving patients in Carroll, Frederick and Baltimore Counties.

An affiliate of Carroll Hospital, Carroll Hospice has been providing high-quality, patient-centered care to terminally ill individuals and their loved ones for more than 30 years. 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 a resource library and support groups for all ages. Carroll Hospice is accredited by the Community Health Accreditation Program (CHAP).

It is encouraged that surviving family members wait a minimum of one year following the loss of a loved one before volunteering.



Home hospice | Inpatient hospice | Bereavement support
Serving Carroll, Baltimore & Frederick counties

A non-profit affiliate of Carroll Hospital, a LifeBridge Health center

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410-876-8044 from Baltimore

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CarrollHospice.org



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HOSPICE
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