



VOLUNTEER NEWSLETTER AUGUST 2024

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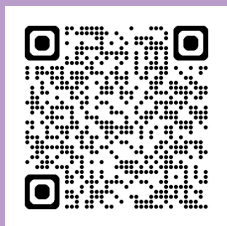
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The Value of Volunteering

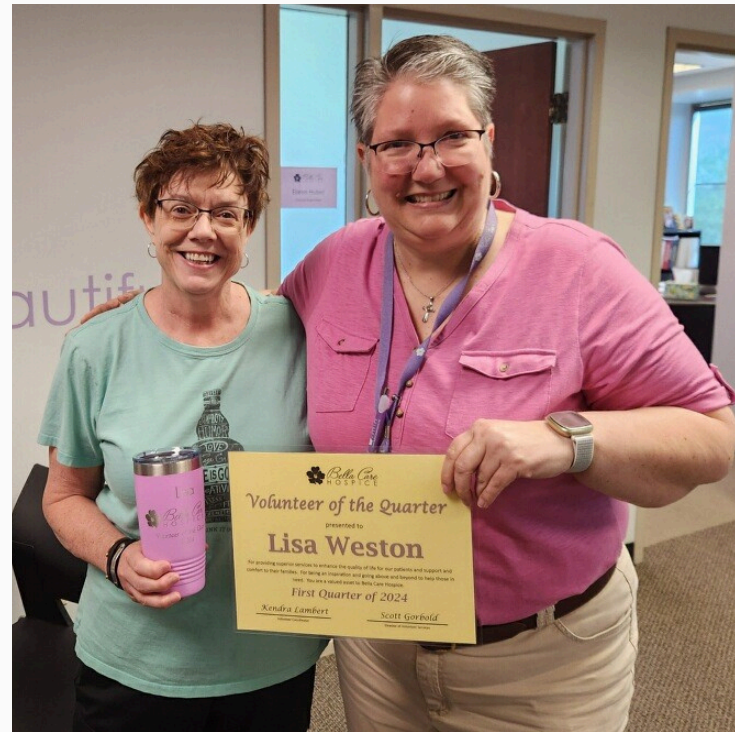
Every April we celebrate National Volunteer Week and give gifts to honor the service of our volunteers. They give freely from their own time and life experience to lift up others and we can't say "thank you" enough! The Presidential Statement on Volunteer Week says, "Volunteering brings people together, uniting us around our common belief in the dignity and equality of every person and giving us a chance to learn from others we might otherwise never meet." We recognize the incredible value of volunteering in hospice. Our team not only helps us accomplish tasks and visit patients, but also reminds us of the significance of our care as a way to provide community and meaning to the lives of those we touch. We hope that our volunteers also benefit by finding a sense of purpose, growing in compassion, and forming bonds they will always remember.



VOLUNTEER OF THE QUARTER

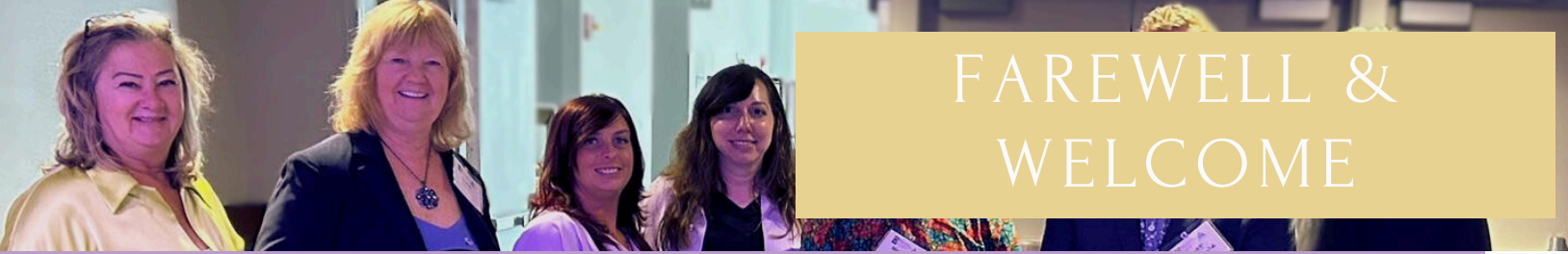
Lisa Weston - Quarter 1 2024

Lisa is passionate about volunteering and getting involved in her community. She found us through Project Harmony, a nonprofit choir in Columbus that promotes volunteering. She has served with Bella Care since April 2023 visiting patients in Sunbury where she brings conversation and a comforting bedside presence. Lisa also comes to our office to help with projects from time to time. She recently got 125 donated CDs for our Music & Memory program. She is a blessing to our volunteer team and always looking for ways to get involved. She once attended the funeral of a beloved patient to support the family and has also attended the Bella Care annual Memorial Service. She is an encouraging presence in the office and brings kindness and support to patients. Thank you for your dedication, Lisa, we appreciate you!



Drew Degross - Quarter 2 2024

Drew is a Navy Veteran and semi-retired businessman who runs a pet boarding and behavior school with his wife Michelle. Drew volunteered with another hospice before the pandemic and was ready to get back to service this year. We are grateful that former staff member Lisa recommended Bella Care Hospice! Drew is passionate about serving others and using his therapy dog service to lift up those who are in a difficult season of life. Since January, he has faithfully visited our patients with his therapy dog Quinn. His positive attitude and Quinn's joyful presence bring a smile to patients' faces. We are excited to have Drew on our team with all the experience and gifts he brings.



FAREWELL & WELCOME

Farewell to a Good Friend

A faithful servant crossed the Rainbow Bridge in July. Cincinnati's beloved companion dog, Mickey, passed away after many active years of service with his best friend and owner, Tom. Tom and Mickey have been a dynamic Volunteer duo with Bella Care since 2016. In that time, they visited with hundreds of hospice patients bringing joy, comfort, and companionship. Mickey has been loved by so many and gave back through his patient, kind and friendly presence. He will be missed by patients and our staff alike. Thank you, Mickey, for your dedication. We will surely miss you. Run free.



"How lucky I am to have something that makes saying goodbye so hard." – Winnie The Pooh.



Welcome Katie Fulks!

We're excited to introduce our newest Volunteer Coordinator to the team: Katie Fulks. Katie comes to us with a diverse variety of relevant experience. She was an STNA in long-term care facilities for many years. She is a professional photographer/business owner. She volunteers a lot herself and won a volunteer of the year award from NFL player Michael Jordan for her work with Youth Sports Camps! Katie is a mom of four and all of her children are heavily involved with volunteering. She has many connections with the community and with other organizations that promote volunteering, so she comes in with a lot of recruitment ideas. Katie is ready and eager to lead the Cincinnati volunteer team in providing excellent service. Since starting at the beginning of June she has already jumped in, getting to know her team, recruiting more new volunteers, and attending events. She is a strong team player and always willing to lend a hand. Please help us welcome her to our Bella Care team!



BEDSIDE PRESENCE

The Power of Presence

In our patients' Plan of Care, volunteers are assigned to "provide support through companionship and socialization." Volunteers are not there to be experts or fix patients' problems, rather to come alongside as a friend and companion in the journey toward life's end. Volunteer support can look like many things, but often "just being" there is enough. Being present with patients, even when they cannot communicate or fall asleep, can be a significant support. Persons with a terminal illness often struggle with feeling lonely or isolated. Our companion volunteers let patients know that they are not alone; and assure them that they are cared for. There is a power in presence. Being fully present with someone brings encouragement, humanization, and strength. We want to highlight a few of our companion volunteers who are wonderful at offering bedside presence.



Kelly in Dayton

Kelly goes above and beyond the requirements for volunteer service. She is kind, compassionate and takes time for long visits with patients. She takes patients around the facility, sits with them at mealtime, enjoys friendly conversations, and writes notes when patients are asleep. Kelly is always looking for additional ways she can assist patients and brings Celebrate Life items and treats to them. She recently helped a patient to celebrate her son's birthday together. Kelly also volunteers with Dayton Sewing Collaborative and has assisted others sew sensory blankets for our patients with memory impairment. She is a wonderful asset to our team!



John in Ashtabula

John joined our team this April. His mother passed away on hospice and he was moved by the care she received; he vowed that one day he would join a hospice team to be part of caring for others. Since joining, John has faithfully visited a couple of men on our service each week to offer companionship and support. It is a blessing for these patients to have another man be present with them, someone who they can connect with to share their struggles and joys.



Carolyn in Cleveland

Longtime volunteer Carolyn is a well-known face in the facilities where she visits patients. She enters the building with a warm presence and is friendly with staff, residents, and families. As Carolyn offered support to a beloved patient for several years, she became close with her daughter also. Meanwhile, the daughter got to know the wife of another hospice patient who was at the same facility. After both patients passed away, these 3 ladies stayed in touch to continue offering support; they still get together for lunch about once a month or so. This exemplifies what hospice volunteering is all about – making connections with patients and families; and being there for each other during a very challenging time.





ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANCE

Helping out behind the Scenes

Our hospice team relies on the support of office staff to ensure we have all the necessary resources to provide quality care. While Administrative volunteers often don't see patients face-to-face, they can still play a vital role behind the scenes by helping our offices to run smoothly. Admin volunteers can take over many basic functions of the office. They free up our staff to focus their efforts on the most pressing matters, while not falling behind on important tasks that tend to pile up. Volunteers can also put more time and effort into creative projects that staff members might not be able to afford. Admin volunteers frequently help us improve Celebrate Life offerings, birthday gifts, and event planning that can make our care special for patients and families.



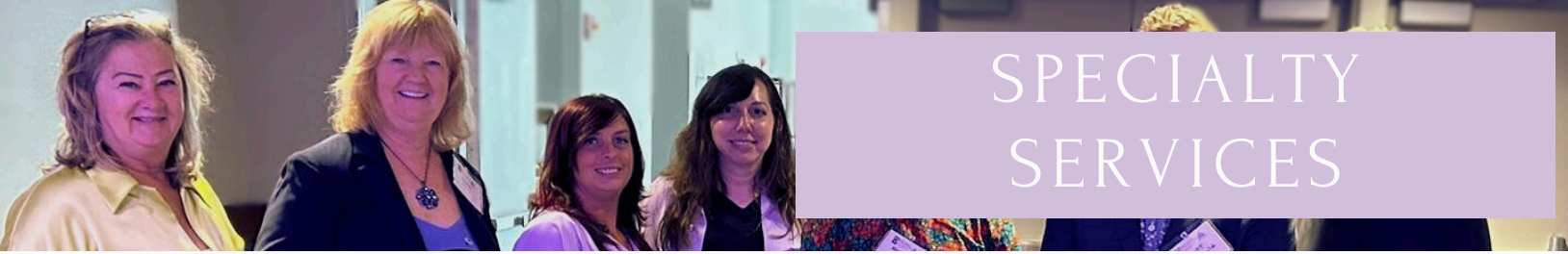
Paris and Patience in Cleveland

It's a family affair here at Bella Care Cleveland! Executive Director LaKisha's daughters, Paris and Patience, started volunteering in the office this summer to develop their own work skills and to see first hand how their mom's hard work helps to improve the lives of those on hospice. They are photographed here putting together admission packets, which is one of the most important administrative tasks in the office. Thank you, ladies, for ensuring our patients and families have everything they need from Bella Care!

Deb in Cincinnati

Deb began volunteering with us at the start of this year on the recommendation of her friend Cindy who volunteers making bereavement calls for us. Deb became a fixture of the office right away coming in each week with a smile and positive attitude. She is always willing to take on extra tasks and accomplishes anything given to her with professionalism and kindness. In her own words, "volunteering at Bella Care is a joy. The staff members and volunteers have made me feel welcome and appreciated. I love the office work that I am doing from filing to mailings. The best part of volunteering is getting to work with the caring, patient staff members and volunteers. Volunteering with Bella Care makes me want to appreciate each day more and love the people in my life. Also, knowing that there are caring people ready to help at difficult times, makes asking for help easier."



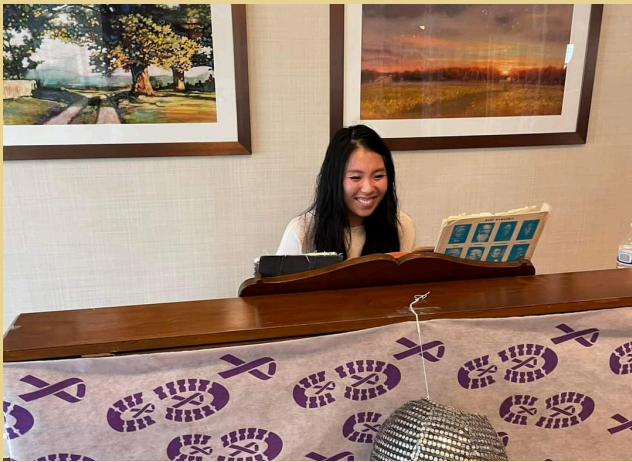
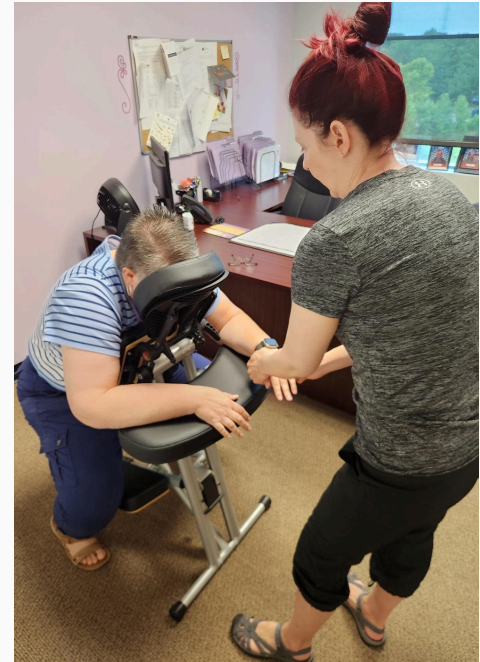


SPECIALTY SERVICES

Massages in the Columbus office!

The week of July 15 the Columbus office had a Wellness week. Contract Massage Therapist, Michelle Robison, and Volunteer Massage Therapist & Reiki Specialist, Julia Sims Haas, came to the office to offer 10-15 minutes of shoulder or hand massage sessions. This was a great way for staff to take a few minutes to relax and unwind from their stressful work!

Julia has been a volunteer with Bella Care Hospice for the past 3 years. She serves at Darby Glenn and Norwich Springs. She has great connections and conversations with her patients. She can offer companionship, presence, give a hand or foot massage if the patient is feeling up to it. She is also a Reiki specialist. Reiki is a non-clinical, alternative therapy originating in Japan. It is a relaxation technique using a form of energy work to improve the body's natural healing abilities. Through light hands-on touch and a warm presence, Julia and our other Reiki volunteers are able to promote physical and emotional well-being and peace to our patients.



Music & Memory - Live

On June 20th, our Cincinnati partner facility, Traditions at North Bend, held a “Longest Day Prom” for their Memory Care residents. This was a great opportunity for residents to get dressed up and enjoy some special food and festivities. Live music was provided from Bella Care Hospice volunteer Melissa Eng! Music is a wonderful gift for patients suffering from memory impairment, as it activates and improves neurological function, while at the same time bringing positive emotions like joy.



Melissa has been a volunteer with us since March of 2023. She is classically trained on the piano and loves the opportunity to play for hospice patients. Most of her volunteer service so far has focused on companionship visits, providing socialization and emotional support. Patients have said she is wonderful and kind, and they love her visits.

SUPPORTING SPECIAL EVENTS



Summer Fest in Hamilton

This July Bella Care's Cincinnati branch cohosted a Summer Fest at partner facility Huntington Court. This event is an opportunity for residents, their loved ones, and community members to have a day of fun and connection. The residents chose this year's theme of "Pink Flamingos."



Three Bella Care Volunteers showed up to help run the event: Tom Hopper, Erika Caybya, and Hannah Erb. We had a great time working together. There was food and carnival games. Our volunteers shared that they especially loved the chance to get to know one another as they served and the chance to interact with more residents. Fun was had by all!



Memorial Service



On June 27, the Columbus Branch had its annual Memorial Service at Sharon Woods Park. 6 families attended to honor their loved ones who had passed away. It was a beautiful time of remembrance, sharing stories and memories. Four of our volunteers attended the service: Lori Schiefer, Julia Sims Haas, Debbie Merz, and Michael Adomako. Each one shared how touched they were to hear family members share about their loved ones and the support they felt from the Bella Care team.

Bereavement Coordinator D'Juana also asked volunteers to share about their experience offering companionship to our patients. Lori shared that it was an honor and blessing to get to know and hear the life journeys of the patients she visits at The Landings of Westerville. Debbie reflected on her interactions with patients at Meadow Grove. She mentioned that her conversations with a patient who had recently passed away offered wonderful stories about the patient's love for her family.

The evening included light refreshments, a homily given by Chaplain Joe Aguello, prayer, and participants putting ribbons on the memorial wreath to honor their loved ones. This special wreath hangs in the Columbus office as a reminder of the wonderful privilege we have to serve and love the patients within our hospice care.



ANNIVERSARIES

Celebrating volunteers who reached an anniversary this year!

1 Year

- Vidhi Bar, Companion, Columbus
- Nate Frederick, Pastor, Dayton
- Deborah Chestnut, Reiki, Dayton
- Caitlin Weible, Companion, Dayton
- Heather Rose, Companion, Columbus
- Rina Pilli, Companion, Columbus
- Melissa Eng, Musician, Cincinnati
- Lisa Weston, Companion, Columbus
- Beth Trice, Companion, Ashtabula
- Randy and Sherry Smith, Companion, Columbus
- Bridget Fritzpatrick, Companion, Columbus
- Myron Welch, Companion, Columbus
- Kelly Wolfe, Companion, Dayton
- Reilly Cochran, Companion, Cincinnati
- Amer Charif, Companion, Columbus
- Maureen Hansen, Companion, Dayton

2 Years

- Michael Adomako, Pastor, Columbus
- Karen Budd, Musician, Columbus
- Carol Flinn, Companion, Ashtabula
- Jeff Wilcox, Companion, Columbus
- Beverly Kubat, Companion, Columbus
- Tara Vorst, Companion, Columbus
- Jennie Rulli, Companion, Cincinnati
- Erika Cayabyab, Companion, Cincinnati
- Cindy Prunty, Bereavement, Cincinnati
- Jan Rulli, Companion, Cincinnati
- Lori Schiefer, Musician, Columbus
- Jodie Jordan, Pet Therapy, Cincinnati
- Lydia Crone, Musician, Cincinnati
- Dawn Poremba, Administrative, Columbus

3 Years

- David Derk, Companion, Ashtabula

4 Years

- Joyce Misinec, Companion, Ashtabula
- Wayne Belford, Veteran, Columbus

8 Years

- Todd Bollenbacher, Musician, Columbus

9 Years

- Sue Nagy, Administrative, Columbus

11 Years

- Tracy Miller, Administrative, Ashtabula





WELCOME NEW VOLUNTEERS

Welcome all the volunteers who joined our team this year!

Asthabula

- John Holmes, Companion

Columbus

- Debbie Merz, Companion
- Jacey Pathri, Musician
- Will Kerr, Musician
- Alyssa Torres, Companion
- Emily Schmidt, Musician
- Ruby Mitchell, Companion
- Anne Leone, Musician
- Annemarie Fetick, Companion
- Jillian Rush, Companion
- Dan Sedmak, Companion
- Usha Kasiraman, Reiki

Cincinnati

- Deb O'Bryan, Administrative
- Wayne Stein, Companion
- Hannah Erb, Companion
- Mason Stover, Companion
- Jessica King, Reiki
- Byron Quiett, Companion

Cleveland

- Ela Mueller, Companion
- Drew Delgross, Pet Therapy
- Tim Pajik, Musician
- Rhonda Snyder, Companion
- Denise DiSalvo, Reiki
- Paris Todd, Administrative
- Patience Todd, Administrative

Dayton

- Kristina Gambill, Massage
- Lillian Scarborough, Companion
- Mollee King, Youth
- Nichole Martin, Reiki
- Taylor Thoma, Companion
- Claire Touray, Companion
- Courtney Medlin, Companion
- Allison Hess, Companion
- Heena Dave, Companion
- Christina Goodwill, Companion

