



HOSPICE
MEANS
MORE CARE,
NOT LESS

Volunteer

NEWSLETTER

JUNE 2022

Celebrating Growth

The first half of this year has flown by! There's been a lot going on in Bella Care's volunteer department. So far 2022 has been a real season of growth for us; it's exciting to be a part of. Since last December we have brought on 3 new Volunteer Coordinators, each with incredible experience and talents. We've also gained over 30 new volunteers across the state! This feels so refreshing after all the department has been through in the last two years, we'd like to share some of that excitement with you.

April is always a special month for us as we celebrate Volunteer Appreciation week. This is a chance to thank our amazing team of volunteers and to feature their work to others. This year we ordered new Bella Care bags for our volunteers and treated them to goodies, lunches, and more. We're so grateful for all those who freely give of their time to help us support terminally ill patients!



Volunteers are an integral part of our team who contribute to our care in so many ways. This year we were able to celebrate adding a diverse group of new volunteers including administrative volunteers, companionship volunteers, a pastor, a counselor, veterans, musicians, pet therapists, Reiki practitioners, college students, retirees, young professionals, and internationals. It's inspiring to see so many people from different walks of life want to help.

We were also celebrating in April because we had record breaking months across the state. March was the busiest month we've had since the pandemic started. We recruited more new volunteers and our volunteers saw more patients than any other month in two years! When we started 2022, I wasn't sure we would be able to get this close to our department goals even by the end of the year. I'm more hopeful now than ever for our ability to build the volunteer department back strong after the pandemic. More than anything, I'm excited for patients who are benefiting from more companionship and all the unique talents and personalities our volunteers bring.

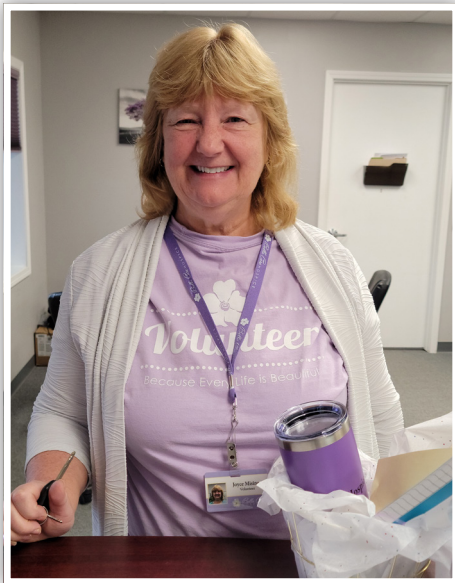


Scott Gorbold
Director of Volunteer Services



Volunteer of the Quarter Q2 2022

Joyce Misinec



Joyce has been a volunteer with Bella Care Hospice since February 2020. She joined just before the start of the pandemic and visited with patients at one of our partner facilities. Since facilities shut down to visitors that year, Joyce began making Bereavement calls to families that lost a loved one on our services. She calls dozens of family members every month and does an amazing job connecting with them, checking in on their grieving process, and passing along any concerns to our chaplains. This year she started doing companion visits again, both in a nursing facility and in the home. She has also assisted sitting bedside for stepping stones in patients' final hours. All this while continuing to make bereavement calls!

Joyce is very active in other volunteer groups such as the Jefferson United Methodist Church and at the Cleveland Playhouse. She is a big Ohio State fan and enjoys quilting, sewing, wine making, walking, golf, pickle ball, and boating. She is such a joyful, dependable, and quality volunteer, we're grateful to have her on the team!

Bringing Prom to the Nursing Home

Our patients love youth volunteers! Visits from a friendly student can help them feel young again. One of our newest volunteers, Kylie Klug, is a student at Lakeside High School. This May she wanted to share the excitement of her high school prom with our patients at Saybrook Landing. After getting ready for her dance she surprised some of the ladies she visits there. They were thrilled! The pure joy was captured in this picture. The patient, Kathleen, wanted to share her fan with Kylie because it matched her dress.

We are so excited by the connection Kylie has been able to make with Kathleen and the young energy she's able to share with our patients as they face the end of life. *Thanks Kylie!*



Appreciating Volunteers Old and New

Our volunteer coordinator in Cincinnati, Karen Wittmer, has been quickly settling into her new position. Her previous experience in volunteer management, both in townships and with another hospice, has enabled her to really hit the ground running. So far, in just a few months she has added 6 new volunteers to the team and has more than 6 others going through our onboarding process. She has also made friends with Cincinnati's longest-standing volunteer: Tom.

For Volunteer Appreciation Week this year, Karen treated all these volunteers to a lunch. It was a great chance to celebrate the new growth and to bond as a team! The Cincinnati office is so grateful to welcome all these new faces and of course for Tom's years of service! Karen wanted to share a bit about her volunteers:

Tom and his dog, Mickey, have been on our volunteer team for over 5 years and see patients nearly every day. Jennie and Jan are mother/daughter. Jennie found us on VolunteerMatch.com and loved us because she has a dog named Bella; then she recruited her mom to join us too. Jan recently moved back from Florida and is still getting acclimated to the weather but loves being closer to family. Nadelynn is an Army Veteran who is certified in Reiki and recently received her Masters at UC to become a licensed Counselor/Therapist. Erika is a UC Blue Ash student and is studying pre-med, she loves cooking, baking, and sewing plushies. Cindy is going to be helping the office by offering phone support and will start making Tuck-in calls to check on the needs of our caregivers. Debbie is our new office volunteer; she is here with her husband, whose job brought him to Cincinnati all the way from England!

In their words:

"I have a passion for the elderly, love to make them feel special, while taking in their great wisdom!"

- Cindy P.

"I believe that God works through people and I am honored to be a part of the team. How lucky am I that I get to meet such fantastic patients and hear their stories? Very lucky!"

- Jennie R.



Volunteer of the Quarter Q1 2022

Nancy Parker



Nancy has been a volunteer with us since October 2021. She was the first new volunteer our Volunteer Coordinator Melissa brought onto the team. Nancy jumped right in visiting patients on the west side of Cleveland. In her first 6 months, she has been one of our most consistent volunteers in the whole state, going out twice nearly every week. She now visits two different nursing facilities and does a great job of connecting with patients from a variety of backgrounds. Nancy is a retired Human Resources Executive. She is originally from Cuyahoga Falls and has been involved with her church and different volunteer work around Cleveland. Her niece Lisa is one of our social workers. Nancy's compassionate attitude embodies the hospice spirit. We are thrilled that she is on our team!

In her own words: "Both of my parents were in hospice care and I noticed several other patients did not have any visitors. I thought this would be a good opportunity to visit others who are in similar situations. I am so honored to be the Volunteer of the Quarter!!! It has been very rewarding to spend time with several Bella Care patients and develop relationships with them."

Bella Care Hospice Partners with K-9 Caring Angels Volunteers



One of my first goals as Volunteer Coordinator was to get at least one pet therapy volunteer. I kept hearing how much joy patients got from these visits and how much current patients would benefit from it. So I began looking and soon realized it was hard to find this type of volunteer in the area who were interested in volunteering for hospice, had the time, and were not put off by the training requirements. I was determined and reached out to every pet therapy organization I found contact information for. I got lucky and one of those emails went to Jackie of K9 Caring Angels! Jackie had experience as a hospice pet therapy volunteer before. She sent the opportunity out to her contacts and soon had 4 solid leads for me that turned into 3 new volunteers and their dogs (pictured here: Dina/Abbey, Stephanie/Lola, and Tricia/Charlie). We are so excited to start them on our team! K-9 Caring Angels is a nation-wide nonprofit whose mission is to provide service through many channels. Here in Northeast Ohio, K9CA Pet Therapy Training is offered through Sit Means Sit Dog Training.

Submitted by Cleveland Volunteer Coordinator Melissa Sutton

Spiritual Care Volunteers



As I have worked with volunteers in ministry and at Bella Care, I've come to learn the importance of being present with others. I have learned to be a better listener and to understand one's life story. I know I don't have to try to fix or give advice just to fill the void of silence in the room; just being present and attentive to a person's needs is a priceless gift. At Bella Care, we try to train our volunteers to be present with each patient they support.

Dr. Henri Nouwen has been one of my favorite authors over the years. I have learned so much about compassion, and caring deeply for those who are suffering. I believe this quote from his book, *Out of Solitude: Three Meditations of the Christian Life*, reflects the important work our Spiritual Care Volunteers can offer: "When we honestly ask ourselves which people in our lives mean the most to us, we often find that it is those who, instead of giving advice, solutions, or cures, have chosen rather to share our pain and touch our wounds with a warm tender

hand. The friend who can be silent with us in a moment of despair or confusion, who can stay with us in an hour of grief and bereavement, who can tolerate not knowing, not curing, not healing and face with us the reality of our powerlessness, that is a friend who cares."

Wayne Belford has been a volunteer with Bella Care since 2020. Wayne sees his volunteering as an extension of his faith journey. This year Wayne has been visiting a patient named John who has some behavioral issues that have been difficult for the nursing staff at times. Wayne has been very intentional in his approach to connect with John with a calm friendly presence. He has listened to John's frustration and anger due to his disease. By continuing to offer caring support, John has opened up to Wayne and begun to share his own spiritual journey. This is what Wayne shared:

"At first John was quite gruff and didn't really want my visitation. I persisted and began to grow trust with him. I think at times he challenged me to see if I was genuine or just lip service. I think as his children moved away, he found himself more isolated and that most likely I would be the last friend this side of Heaven that he would have. His guard began to drop and let me in to his thoughts a little bit more. I always carry my Bible and he asked about it. We talked and he asked me to pray for him. He always repeats over and over how he can't do anything. I let him know that I can read to him and that there are things we can do together. We started reading Bunyan's "Pilgrim Progress." It seemed to calm him and allow his mind to think on things other than his situation. I would add that when he quizzed me about his health and approaching death, that I was open and honest about it and asked him to think about things too, so he would be better prepared. I think that was when our friendship began."

Wayne is just one example of the many volunteers we have on our team who are intentional in offering companionship and spiritual care to our patients. We appreciate all of our volunteers at the Columbus branch as each of them provides the gift of presence, care, and support to our patients and their families.

We Love Student Volunteers!



We appreciate our volunteers so much and all the ways that they contribute to our mission. With as much as they freely give to us, we hope that they also benefit from their service with us in some way. This may mean fulfilling a desire to serve their community, a chance to use their skills while helping others, a sense of spiritual fulfillment, a way to honor the memory of a loved one, and more.

One of the things we love about student volunteers is the way our experience can benefit them. Visiting with elderly patients who are in the final stages of life is a stretching and growing opportunity for our young volunteers. As they visit with our patients and hear their life stories, students gain new perspectives. As they learn to offer quality companionship, students gain new life skills. As they serve with our hospice team, students get work experience that will help them in their future careers. Students also often use their hours with us to fulfill service requirements for school or student organizations, receive letters of recommendations from our staff, and put the experience on their resumes or college applications.

Our Dayton Volunteer Coordinator, Lauren Hill, wanted to spotlight one of our high school student volunteers on her team. Maddie Thomas started volunteering with us in July of 2021. She has been very consistent in her service almost every week. While some of our volunteers prefer to stay in the office and others prefer to visit patients, Maddie is one of the few that regularly helps with both. She started visiting patients at Randall Residence of Centerville, but also wanted experience in the office. Maddie has made a great connection with a patient named Linda that she has been visiting most of her time with us; they read together, play music, socialize, and sometimes Maddie just sits as a comforting presence. In the office Maddie helps with pretty much anything our staff asks such as filing and organizing.

Lauren says:

"Madeleine is a wonderful volunteer and asset to Bella Care Hospice. Her willingness to help in the office with any task along with her dedication to her hospice patients is unmatched. She is a joy to be around and always very friendly with staff."

In Maddie's words:

"I really think our society needs to change its conception of dying and think of it as more of a natural process. People on hospice have value, and they are going through a difficult time. They need support, and that sometimes simply means a friendly face to talk to. My favorite memory of volunteering with Bella Care Hospice is when I was able to speak with a woman who was formerly a teacher. We talked together about teaching, since I'm planning on becoming a teacher myself; it was a heartfelt moment of connection which I appreciated very much."



Join Bella Care Hospice in celebrating those volunteers with birthdays and anniversaries throughout the months of January 2022 – June 2022.

Ashtabula Branch

Birthdays

Tracy Miller January 4th
David Derk January 15th
Caitlin Sukalac June 20th

Anniversaries

Joyce Misinec February 3rd – 2 years
David Derk March 20th – 1 year
Tracy Miller April 11th – 9 years

Cincinnati Branch

Birthdays

Jennie Rulli April 30th
Erika Cayabyab May 29th
Jan Rulli June 18th

Cleveland Branch

Birthdays

Carolyn Hubbard January 3rd
Marquita Benn January 8th
Debra McCready February 2nd
Elise Keshock February 16th
Jennifer Narraway March 24th
Nancy Parker June 5th

Anniversaries

Marquita Benn April 11th - 3 years
Carolyn Hubbard June 10th – 3 years

Columbus Branch

Birthdays

Darnel Clapp January 9th
Swathy Shankarganesh January 15th
Hannah Slenska January 31st
Lexus Lunguy February 9th
Jeff Wilcox February 9th
Julia Sims Haas February 23rd
Tara Vorst June 2nd
Brooke Royster June 4th
Michael Adomako June 12th
Wayne Belford June 26th

Anniversaries

Jennifer Popovics February 13th – 2 years
Wayne Belford February 13th – 2 years
Sue Nagy February 23rd – 7 years
Darnel Clapp March 27th – 3 years
Hannah Slenska May 13th – 1 year
Linda Mizer May 30th – 4 years
Jessica Micheletti June 2nd – 1 year
Todd Bollenbacher June 15th – 6 years

Dayton Branch

Birthdays

Richard Stackhouse January 23rd
Lukah Varghese January 23rd
Lewis McCarter March 1st
Linda Portillo-Ramos June 4th

Anniversaries

Richard Stackhouse January 11th – 3 years
Lukah Varghese June 25th – 1 year





Welcome to all the new volunteers joining our extraordinary team!

Ashtabula:

Phyllis Hanson
Kathleen Schmidt

Cincinnati Branch

Jennie Rulli
Jan Rulli
Erika Cayabyab
Debbie Dennis
Cindy Prunty
Nadelynn Finn

Cleveland Branch

Anne Lewanski
Elise Keshock
Dina DiDonato
Stephanie Payne
Tiffany Hair
Tricia Frank

Columbus Branch

Michael Adomako
Jeanette Accorinti
Brooke Royster
Alyssa Mattern
Heather Ables
Karen Budd
Lynn Graham
Jeff Wilcox
Beverly Kubat
Tara Vorst
Lexus Lunguy
Tom Fought

Dayton Branch

Tifaine Sansonnet

INTERESTED IN JOINING OUR VOLUNTEER TEAM?

We are always looking for compassionate and committed individuals who want to give of their time to help our team. Hospice volunteers bring their unique personalities and talents to bless our patients. There are many different ways you can help and there are opportunities at each of our branches. Volunteering not only improves the care we provide, but also brings a sense of fulfillment to those who serve. Perhaps you or someone you know could be our next volunteer?! We would love to get to know you and talk about the process for joining the team.

Inquire at
bellacarehospice.net/information-for-volunteers

