



St. Patrick's Home of Ottawa Inc
VOLUNTEER SERVICES

DESCRIPTION OF VOLUNTEER PARTICIPATION

Position: PASTORAL / PALLIATIVE CARE VISITOR

Purpose: To assist staff in providing pastoral / palliative care visits.

Tasks and Responsibilities:

1. Provide a presence for critically ill and dying residents and their family, as directed
2. Provide emotional and spiritual support to resident and family through active listening, quiet presence and prayer (when appropriate)
3. Visit residents as assigned by the Coordinator of Pastoral/Palliative Care
4. Provide respite time for family members (ie, when off to supper, etc.) Help the palliative team in identifying needs of the resident and family
5. Visit hospitalized residents, attend wakes and funerals when possible
6. Report pertinent information to the palliative care contact person orally and in writing via the palliative log book
7. Assume responsibility for self development through participation in educational and spiritual programs, workshops, etc.
8. Keep Coordinator informed of changes in time commitment

Time Commitment: Flexible - minimum of 4 hours/week

Skills and Qualifications:

- A deep respect for the needs of others in crisis
- A respect of religious convictions
- A good listener
- Emotional stability
- Sensitive to changing needs of resident
- Ability to work independently as well as cooperatively with the team
- Ability to pray with and for the resident
- A deep respect for differences in cultural and religious values
- Compassionate
- Ability to respect confidentiality

Orientation and Training:

- 20 hours St. Patrick's Home Palliative Care training course or equivalent
- Interdenominational pastoral care course is an asset
- General orientation to the Home including wheelchair safety and etiquette, and Code Blue emergency procedures will be provided prior to beginning your responsibilities
- Professional Educational programs are provided
- "On the job" training is provided by the Pastoral Team
- Volunteer Handbook will serve as a reference book

Health and Safety:

- Volunteers should not come to work if they are ill, have a rash, cold or other infectious disease.
- Handwashing is the best infection control
- All workers under the Occupational Health and Safety Act have the responsibility to observe safe work practices, avoid risks and to use common sense. Any hazardous conditions or accidents, whether anyone is hurt or not, should be reported immediately to your supervisor, unit nurse or Coordinator of Volunteer Services.
- Influenza immunization is strongly recommended

Limits and Boundaries:

- Confidentiality must be maintained at all times
- Volunteers who do not adhere to the rules and procedures of the Home or who fail to satisfactorily perform their volunteer assignment are subject to dismissal

Accountability: Palliative Care Coordinator and/or Pastoral Care Coordinator

Benefits:

- Exposure to the agency operation and field of gerontology
- Self satisfaction of helping those who are going through difficult times
- Increased knowledge and experience working with the elderly in their later stage of life
- Free parking is provided to volunteers
- Meal or beverage ticket is provided if you meet the criteria
- References can be given if a volunteer has been engaged in volunteering for more than 40 hours
- Recognition events throughout the year