

ABOUT THE PROGRAM

Palliative Care is the provision of skilled, compassionate interdisciplinary professional and volunteer care for people whose disease does not respond to curative treatment.

Palliative Care focuses on comfort and quality of life. Palliative Care is not a place with four walls, but rather an emphasis of care that focuses on a philosophy of care aimed to provide comfort at end of life.

Palliative Care is presently provided throughout the region in hospitals, personal care homes and in the home, by a variety of caregivers including physicians, nurses, pharmacists, home care workers, pastoral care, families, friends and volunteers. The goal is the best possible quality of life for clients and their families.

WHAT A VOLUNTEER CAN DO FOR YOU?

Provide Emotional Support – at times it is helpful to be able to talk to someone outside of the family unit. Volunteers are able to actively listen. They understand that a visit need not be filled with conversation. Sometimes just being present is all that is needed.

Provide Help With Needed Tasks – shopping, assistance in writing letters, and running errands

Provide Time Off For Caregivers – volunteers can provide short periods of relief to family members so that they can rest.

Provide Companionship – by chatting, playing cards or a game, reading, listening to music, or watching a movie with you.

ABOUT VOLUNTEERS

- Are a part of a multi-disciplinary health care team
- Have gone through a screening process
- Are highly qualified
- Have completed a nine week training program on Palliative Care volunteering
- Are involved in ongoing events and education
- Are sensitive to personal, cultural, and religious beliefs, values, and practices.