



## Nanaimo Community Hospice Our Vision:

At Hospice we believe that dying, caregiving, and grieving are three of life's greatest challenges. Our Vision is that the dying will experience dignity and peace; their caregivers will receive the help they need; and their families and friends will be supported in their grief.

## Volunteer Training Program

# Volunteer Training Program

*The generosity of our community enables us to offer our palliative and bereavement programs at no cost to the participants*



### Nanaimo Community Hospice Society (A United Way Agency)

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NANAIMO COMMUNITY  
HOSPICE

*Caring • Commitment • Compassion*

## HOSPICE VOLUNTEER OPTIONS

Hospice Volunteers come with a wide range of life experiences and skills that enable them to offer practical assistance and supportive care to meet the special needs arising out of the physical, emotional, spiritual, social and economic stresses experienced during the final stages of living, and during caregiving and bereavement.

Hospice Volunteers work as part of the Hospice Palliative Care Team (consisting of the patient, their family and friends, healthcare professionals and volunteers) to ensure the needs and choices of those dealing with end-of-life issues are sensitively met.

Volunteers who have completed the training program are eligible to work with clients and their families providing compassionate care and support in the community in a variety of settings. They may work as:

- ❖ A home visiting volunteer providing support & respite for the terminally ill, their families, and caregivers.
- ❖ A volunteer on the Palliative Care Unit at NRGH.
- ❖ A bereavement support volunteer working in formal or informal group programs.

Individuals, who wish to contribute on a volunteer basis without taking the training program may become "Friends of Hospice" and participate in non-client related activities such as:

- ❖ Board Membership
- ❖ Fundraising Activities
- ❖ Office & House Support
- ❖ Thrift Shoppe

Hospice is not only a place - it is a philosophy of care. We believe that life is a precious and fragile journey of growth and development and that, although death may be a time of sadness and separation, dying is a part of life's journey that can be embraced with dignity, serenity and hope.

*At some time, in some way, we must all face the end of life, and most of us share a common hope that when death comes to us, or to a loved one, it will be peaceful. We hope to be surrounded by those we love, feeling safe, comfortable and cared for. When our life has ended, we hope that our loved ones, who are left behind, will be comforted and supported through their grief."*

Living Lessons



## VOLUNTEER TRAINING

Hospice volunteer training is usually offered twice a year – in spring and fall. A comprehensive manual is provided in advance of program sessions.

The training is experiential in nature and active participation in the group process is necessary. Facilitators provide a safe environment for participants to share and are available for debriefing after and between training sessions.

Training includes:

- ❖ Communication Skills
- ❖ Comforting Skills
- ❖ Community Palliative Care Team
- ❖ Issues of Death & Dying
- ❖ Dealing with Grief & Loss
- ❖ Palliative Care Unit of NRGH
- ❖ Care of Self
- ❖ Care of Spirit

Following 40 hours of training, volunteers receive orientation and work with patients and families on the Palliative Care Unit at NRGH with the support and supervision of an experienced hospice volunteer.

### **Prior to the commencement of training, applicants will:**

- ❖ Participate in a **screening interview**.
- ❖ Complete a **Criminal Record Check**. Hospice will provide a link and unique security code for an online application.
- ❖ Provide **2 letters of reference**. The points to be considered in these letters are: the applicant’s reliability, flexibility, freedom from bias, ability to set and respect personal boundaries, and ability as a team player. Please include the referee’s phone number for follow up purposes.

There is a training fee of \$135. Upon completion of 100 hours of volunteer work (does not include training hours), volunteers are eligible for a refund of \$75.

***For dates and times of the next scheduled training program please call us at 250-591-8811***

To ensure a place in the next session, you will be required to pay a deposit of \$60 after the screening interview.

## **VOLUNTEER TRAINING APPLICATION**

*Please print*

Date of Application: \_\_\_\_\_

Last Name: \_\_\_\_\_ First Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Street: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ Postal Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: Home: \_\_\_\_\_ Other: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Emergency Contact Name and Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Birthdate (dd/mm/yyyy) : \_\_\_\_\_

Has someone close to you died in the past year? \_\_\_\_\_

Related work experience and/or education:

Previous volunteer work:

Payment (\$140 or \$60 deposit) may be made by cash, cheque or credit card.

Please indicate card type: Visa \_\_\_\_\_ MC \_\_\_\_\_ Amount \_\_\_\_\_

Credit Card No: \_\_\_\_\_ Expiry Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Name on Card: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_