

## Hospice Care

Hospice of Chenango County is a not for profit agency that cares for those approaching the end of life. Patients are referred by their health care providers, or increasingly, by family members and loved ones, and receive care in their home, nursing home or hospital room.

Individuals come to Hospice with a variety of physical conditions. In the past, the majority of Hospice patients had cancer, but this is no longer true. We care for patients with end stage disease when the focus shifts from cure to comfort.

We take a team approach in caring for our patients and their families. RNs, LPNs, Social Workers, Bereavement and Spiritual Care Coordinators, and Volunteers provide physical, emotional, and spiritual support in the final days, weeks, or months of life.

To enter Hospice a physician certifies that an individual has a life expectancy of six months or less. However, it's impossible to precisely predict the course of a disease, and we continue to care for our patients as needed.

*If you wish to explore becoming a Hospice Volunteer, call 334-3556 to speak with our Volunteer Coordinator or visit our website at [www.hospicechenango.org](http://www.hospicechenango.org)*

# Hospice & Palliative Care of Chenango County

Hospice & Palliative Care  
of Chenango County  
21 Hayes Street  
Norwich, NY 13815

Mailing Label Here

Or Current Resident

## Volunteering For Hospice



**Some just require extra attention**

## Hospice & Palliative Care of Chenango County

*"We make a living by what we do, but we make a life by what we give."*

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Volunteers are the 'heart' of Hospice. They give of themselves to enhance the life of others. Whether you choose to become a patient/family volunteer, or decide to assist us in other ways, understand that we value each volunteer, and will match your time, talents, and creativity with an identified need.



There is no typical Hospice Volunteer.

They are men and women; young and not so young; city dwellers and rural folks; some hold down full-time jobs while others are retired. The one thing they have in common is their generous hearts.

If you have a giving spirit and would like to become an ambassador for Hospice in your community, we welcome your inquiries. As a Hospice Volunteer you will make a difference with your head, your heart and your hands; but perhaps most importantly, we promise that you will get back more than you give.

### Patient/Family Volunteers

Patient/Family Volunteers receive in-depth training to prepare them to make independent patient visits. As friendly helpers, volunteers may be asked to keep a patient company when their caregiver is unavailable; they may run errands; take a patient to an appointment; pickup medications; or simply act as a non-judgmental listener.

### Bereavement Volunteers

Bereavement Volunteers take the same in-depth training as the Patient/Family Volunteers. In addition, they receive specialized training about the grieving process. Volunteers often make phone calls to family members following a death. They may also be asked to help facilitate grief support groups.

### Administrative Volunteers

Administrative Volunteers assist in the day to day operation of Hospice. They are trained to answer phones, make copies, file and fax documents, and complete other general tasks that help the office run smoothly.

### Maintenance Volunteers

Maintenance Volunteers do manual jobs in and around the Hospice office. They may perform minor carpentry projects, hang a shelf, move furniture, or take on other 'handyman' tasks.

### Community Relations Volunteers

Community Volunteers assist the Development and Community Relations Department in fundraising and public awareness campaigns. You might help with a mailing, sit at a Hospice booth, or bake goodies for a Hospice function.

### **1. Who can volunteer for Hospice?**

Anyone in Chenango County who wishes to spend time with patients and families, or prefers to help with the daily operation of the agency.

### **2. If I become a patient volunteer How often will I make a visit?**

This depends on your availability, and the identified needs of the patient/family. Often a volunteer visits one day a week for a couple of hours.

### **3. Will I be assigned a patient in my Hometown?**

That is very likely, however, there are times when you may be asked to drive to another community. You will always have the option to turn down a request.

### **4. Can I be a Hospice Volunteer if I spend my winters elsewhere?**

Yes. We have many volunteers who head to a warmer climate for months at a time.

### **5. Will I be asked to physically care for a patient?**

No. You are invited into the home of a patient to act as a companion, or to relieve a caregiver. You will not give medication, or administer any type of direct personal care.

### **6. After I've completed training will I have to attend any other classes?**

Yes. There are annual mandatory continuing education in-services that are required by the NY State Department of Health.