**Hospice Volunteer Visitor Training-Spring 2023**

# About Volunteering with Hospice

The service of a Volunteer is at the heart of what Hospice offers to families who are caring for a loved one who is dying. Volunteer Visitors are understanding listeners, the ones who extend a hand to hold, provide companionship and presence that comforts patients, and often makes it possible for a caregiver to have a few hours of respite.

Hospice of Santa Cruz County (HSCC) has particular needs for specialized volunteers who are:

* Certified Massage Therapists
* Bi-lingual in English & Spanish and/or bi-cultural
* Pet Companion Visitors
* Veterans wanting to serve other veterans

The 15-hour training is especially designed to prepare Volunteers to perform this vital service. HSCC asks that candidates be able to make a volunteering commitment of 2-4 hours per week for at least one year; attend support groups and complete the mandatory annual education requirement that we provide. All training is provided free of charge by HSCC. Volunteers are currently required to have a covid vaccine and booster; TB test (2 step test paid for as part of the training), and background checks which HSCC provides.

Some topics covered in the training include the following:

* Philosophy of Hospice
* Spiritual dimensions of death and dying
* Grief processes and bereavement experiences
* Mindful Awareness practice as a path to service
* Basics of care and safety
* Family systems dynamics
* Self-care and personal/professional boundaries

Hospice of Santa Cruz County honors the choices of individuals and families by providing exemplary end-of-life care and grief support to our community.

**Training Schedule-**

**\*All sessions required**

Begins: Wednesday, May 3 by Zoom

Wednesday, May 3 .......... 6–9 PM

Wednesday, May 10 .......... 6–9 PM

Wednesday, May 17 .......... 6–9 PM

Wednesday, May 24 .......... 6–9 PM

Wednesday, May 31 .......... 6–9 PM

# Application due by: Wednesday, April 19

\*For those who have experienced significant personal loss, it is recommended to wait at least one year before applying.

# Information and application

Forbes Ellis, MFT

Director of Volunteer Services Hospice of Santa Cruz County 831-430-3045

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Please note: This training will be held by Zoom.

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**Apply to Volunteer Today!**

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hospicesantacruz.org

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