



Hospice Volunteer Visitor Training—Spring 2024

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 offer companionship at the bedside, and sometimes respite for a caregiver. VV's serve in people's homes, and in care facilities.

VV's are understanding listeners, the ones who extend a hand to hold, provide companionship and presence at the bedside that comforts patients, and often makes it possible for a caregiver to have a few hours of respite. VV's can also serve as Pet Companion and Massage Therapy VV's.

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 16 hour training on zoom, including an in person meeting after the zoom portion concludes, is interactive and experiential, (video on/your presence required) and especially designed to prepare volunteers to perform these vital services. HSCC asks that candidates be able to make a volunteering commitment of 3-4 hours per week for at least one year; attend support groups as able, 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 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 support to service
- Basics of care and safety
- Communication
- Self-care and personal/professional boundaries

Training Schedule - By Zoom

**All Sessions required*

**The training does fill up, so the sooner you apply the better. Once your application is received, an interview will be scheduled.*

Training Begins Wed. May 1, 2024

Wednesday, May 1.....6-9 PM

Wednesday, May 8.....6-9 PM

Wednesday, May 15.....6-9 PM

Wednesday, May 22.....6-9 PM

Wednesday, May 29.....6-9 PM

Application due by April 15, 2024

To apply, go to: **hospicesantacruz.org**

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

For More Information:

Forbes Ellis, M.A., LMFT
Director Community Programs

✉ **fellis@hospicesantacruz.org**

☎ **Forbes Ellis: 831.430.3045**

Mailing Address:

**Hospice of Santa Cruz County
940 Disc Drive
Scotts Valley, CA 95066**

**Apply to
Volunteer
Today!**