



Hospice Volunteer Training—Fall 2025

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, and for loved ones who have lost someone on our service. We also offer grief support groups to the community. This training is for **Volunteer Visitors (VV's)** AND **Grief Support Volunteers (GSV's)**.

Volunteer Visitors (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.

Grief Support Volunteers (GSV's) provide check-in calls, co-facilitate grief support groups for those who have already experienced a loss, and/or provide 1:1 grief support.

Hospice of Santa Cruz County (HSCC) needs 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 **15-18** hour training on zoom 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 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

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- Hybrid: In person & By Zoom.

**First 5 sessions required for VV's*

**All Sessions required for GSV's*

***= In person (9/30 and 10/28)**

* Tuesday, Sept 30.....6-9 PM

Tuesday, Oct 7.....6-9 PM

Tuesday, Oct 14.....6-9 PM

Tuesday, Oct 21.....6-9 PM

* Tuesday, Oct 28.....6-9 PM

Tuesday, Nov 4.....6-9 PM

Application due by September 10, 2025

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:

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**Apply to
Volunteer
Today!**