



Serenity
HOSPICE & HOME

VOLUME 3 ISSUE 1

Valued Volunteer

Happy Spring!

Our volunteers have truly excelled in ensuring a successful first quarter of the year. Your dedication to various roles, from supporting patients to assisting at Serenity Home and Angel Treasures, is immensely inspiring. Your commitment makes a significant impact on the lives of many in our community. Your selflessness in dedicating time and energy to spread positivity is truly admirable. As we welcome the season of renewal and growth, we value your continuous support and generosity. Together, we can achieve remarkable things and continue to promote kindness and compassion. Thank you for showcasing the power of volunteering and for your contributions to enriching our community. Each and every one of you is the reason we have one of the best volunteer programs. With the new season come exciting volunteer opportunities, and I am eager to share these in our upcoming newsletter.



**CONNECT
WITH US!**

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WHATS BEEN HAPPENING



Each quarter, our dedicated volunteers unite to achieve remarkable accomplishments. The recent quarter was no exception, as our hearts were warmed with love despite the winter chill. At the start of the year, our volunteers diligently recommitted to their roles, taking the time to complete commitment forms and submit all necessary documentation. These documents are vital components of their volunteer files and are mandatory requirements.

Annually, our volunteers who engage with patients, assist at the Serenity Home, or serve in administrative capacities are expected to participate in ongoing training. This training is conducted in-person monthly at the Serenity Home, with additional online opportunities shared via email. Volunteers are mandated to undergo 3 hours of Dementia training and 3 hours of role-specific training each year. We have conducted three in-person sessions focusing on Dementia, HIPAA, and bloodborne pathogens and SDS sheets. These classes offer valuable knowledge enhancement for all participants and open to all volunteers in any role.

Through our We Honor Veteran program, we organize Veteran Cafes for veterans within our community. Since January, we hosted cafes at the Rock River Center in Oregon and Liberty Village of Rochelle. These gatherings provide a relaxed setting for veterans to share their stories over doughnuts and coffee, fostering a sense of camaraderie.

At Serenity, our groups have been actively involved in various projects such as crafting prayer shawls and lap blankets. Volunteers serve on committees to contribute to the organization's growth, engage in Bingo sessions at Senior Centers, create Valentine's Day gifts, and prepare for fundraisers. Additionally, our direct patient volunteers convene monthly to exchange ideas and provide mutual support.

Our Krafty Angel Group recently came together to assemble 500 Easter Eggs for the Winnebago Easter Egg Drive. This event was a resounding success, with volunteers decorating their vehicles and engaging with all participants throughout the day.





MEET OUR VOLUNTEER

Marddi Rahn was born and raised in Polo, IL. She joined the Navy after high school. She entered the Navy as a Corpsman. After four years of service, Marddi attended Catholic University of America and became a registered nurse. She was a nurse in the Navy for 13 years traveling around the US and internationally, including Rota, Spain and deployment to the Persian Gulf. The Navy then put her through NIU's nurse practitioner program and she served another 7 years where she was deployed on a humanitarian mission to Fiji, Papua New Guinea, Philippines and Vietnam and back to the middle east. After her retirement in 2020, she returned to Polo. She is married to Troy Rahn and has 5 beautiful children.



MARDDI RAHN





Volunteers Needed

FRONT DESK GREETER

Front desk greeters play a crucial role in creating a welcoming atmosphere as they are the initial point of contact for visitors. We are currently seeking volunteers for upcoming dates to provide support and create a positive impact on our visitors.

- ***Sundays from 1230P-430P***
- ***Tuesdays from 4:30P-8P***
- ***Wednesday April 3rd from 8A-1230P***
- ***Friday April 5th from 4:30P-8P***
- ***Saturdays from 1230P-430P***

CROCKPOT MEALS

Our volunteers at Serenity Home play a crucial role in providing comfort and support to our patients and their families. The simple act of bringing in a crockpot meal not only nourishes the body but also warms the heart. If you are able, we kindly invite you to join us in spreading joy on one of the upcoming Fridays.

- ***Friday April 5th***
- ***Friday April 26th***
- ***Friday May 3rd***





Volunteers Needed

SERENITY HOME CLEANING

Our house mom, Carmen, will be away on vacation from April 1st to April 6th. We are seeking volunteers to assist with cleaning at Serenity Home on Tuesday, April 2nd, and Saturday, April 6th.

VOLUNTEER TRAINING

We have scheduled our volunteer training sessions for new volunteers on Tuesday, April 2nd and 9th. If you are aware of someone interested in becoming a volunteer at Serenity Hospice and Home, there is still a chance to join the upcoming training. The training sessions will cover all the necessary information and skills needed to support our residents and their families with compassion and care. Whether you have prior experience or are new to volunteering, we welcome individuals from all backgrounds and walks of life.





Volunteers Needed

GATHERER GROUP

Come and join us on Wednesday, April 3rd, at 11 am for our Gatherer Craft group meeting in the Serenity conference room. Our community of crafters gathers monthly to contribute in various meaningful ways. From creating decorations for fundraisers to crafting gifts for patients, staff, and nursing homes, they come together to share laughter and enjoy each other's company.

KNITTING/CROCHETING AT THE SHED

Each month a group gathers at the Shed to work on different knitting/crocheting pieces for the patients at Serenity Hospice and Home.

On April 12th at 10am, new and experienced crafters alike are invited to come together, share stories, and contribute their creativity to this meaningful cause. Whether you're a seasoned knitter or just starting out, your presence and effort will make a difference in someone's life.





Volunteers Needed

ANNUAL VOLUNTEER IN-SERVICE

Serenity Hospice and Home volunteers are mandated to attend in-services annually as per CMS regulations. To streamline the process, we will conduct a one-day training session this year for volunteers who wish to complete their training for the year. This mirrors the successful in-service session held last year, which saw a fantastic turnout.

The in-service training day is a wonderful opportunity for our dedicated Serenity Hospice and Home volunteers to come together, learn, and connect. It's a chance to enhance our skills, deepen our knowledge, and ultimately improve the care and support we provide to our residents and their families.

The upcoming training day promises to be as engaging and informative as ever, building on the success of previous sessions.

Taking place on Tuesday, April 23rd from 9 am to 4 pm in the Serenity Conference room, it will be a day filled with valuable insights, practical tips, and meaningful discussions. as ever, building on the success of previous sessions.

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We understand that your time is valuable, which is why we are providing a light breakfast and lunch to keep you fueled throughout the day. Your presence and participation are greatly appreciated, so please remember that **signing up in advance is necessary** to ensure we can accommodate everyone effectively.

Let's come together, learn together, and continue to make a positive difference in the lives of those we serve. Your dedication and commitment truly make a difference, and we look forward to seeing you at the training day!



Volunteers Needed

VOLUNTEER APPRECIATION

Volunteer Appreciation Week falls on the week of April 21st. This special week presents a wonderful opportunity to honor and celebrate the remarkable individuals who generously devote their time and energy to support our incredible organization. It's a time to express our profound gratitude for their hard work, commitment, and selflessness. From assisting at events to sharing their expertise and skills, our volunteers play a crucial role in positively impacting the lives of others. To show our gratitude, we invite you to a volunteer luncheon on Thursday, April 25th. Keep an eye out for your personalized invitation arriving soon.

BOOK CLUB

Serenity's book club is a warm and welcoming group of book lovers who enjoy lively discussions and sharing their love for literature. The Village Bakery provides the perfect cozy setting for their meetings, with the aroma of freshly baked goods adding to the inviting atmosphere.

On Thursday, April 25th, gather at 8:30 am to delve into the pages of "Look Again" by Lisa Scottoline.

So mark your calendar and get ready for a morning filled with engaging discussions and the joy of shared reading experiences.





Volunteers Needed

VOLUNTEER SUPPORT CHAT

Our dedicated direct patient volunteers gather monthly in the Serenity conference room to brainstorm ideas on enhancing support and companionship for our Serenity Hospice and Home patients. You are welcome to join us on Wednesday, March 24th, at 10:30 am in the Serenity conference room.

At these meetings, our compassionate volunteers share heartwarming stories, exchange valuable insights, and collaborate on ways to make our patients' stay at Serenity Hospice and Home as comfortable and uplifting as possible. We believe that every small gesture of kindness and companionship can make a significant difference in the lives of our patients and their families. Whether you have a skill to offer, a listening ear to provide, or simply a warm smile to share, your presence and contributions are truly valued. Together, we can create a nurturing and supportive environment that brings comfort and solace to those in need. We look forward to welcoming you to our next gathering on Wednesday, March 24th, at 10:30 am in the Serenity conference room.

VETERAN CAFE

We invite our veteran volunteers to join us on April 30th at 10am for a Veteran Cafe at the Rock River Center in Oregon. At the Veteran Cafe, we will celebrate the bravery and sacrifices of our veterans while enjoying coffee, pastries, and engaging conversations. It will be a wonderful opportunity to connect with fellow veterans, share stories, and create lasting memories. We look forward to seeing you there as we honor and appreciate your service to our country.





Volunteers Needed

ANGEL TREASURES

Furthermore, our Winnebago and Dixon locations are always on the lookout for dedicated volunteers who can spare some time to help us in our mission. If you have the availability and the desire to make a positive impact in your community, we would be thrilled to have you join our team at Angel Treasures. Your support and contribution will undoubtedly make a significant difference in the lives of those we serve. Thank you for considering being a part of our cause.

Help us get the word out: At Angel Treasures, we appreciate your generosity and willingness to donate furniture to those in need. Calling ahead before dropping off donations helps us ensure that we have the capacity to accept them and properly allocate them to those who require assistance.

SERENITY SHED

The Serenity Shed is in need of volunteers who can offer their assistance. Typically, help is needed two days a week, primarily on Mondays and Fridays, when our bereavement staff is visiting families. Volunteers will be tasked with welcoming and engaging with visitors, providing tours, and potentially assisting with sales.





Volunteers Needed

ONLINE EDUCATION

This month's online educational feature is a short film titled "All Through The Night" sourced from ALZ.org. The 20-minute film features actor Tim Daly from "Madam Secretary" as Alexander, a character grappling with Alzheimer's, and Luke Slattery from "Boys in the Boat" portraying his son, Neil.

Read more here: <https://www.alz.org/blog/alz/march-2024/short-film-all-through-the-night-focuses-on-a-fath>

Watch the film here: <https://vimeo.com/530779109>

RADA ORDERS

Serenity Hospice and Home has is doing a Rada fundraiser. To access the catalog, visit www.helpourfundraiser.com and search for Serenity Hospice. You can place orders directly on the website. However, if orders are sent to us, we can all benefit from reduced shipping charges. Please note that a \$2 processing fee is applied to orders we submit to assist with covering shipping costs.

