

MAY 2025

# **VolunteerNewsletter**

April was truly an extraordinary month! One of the highlights of my job is recognizing the accomplishments of our volunteers. We had the joy of honoring them at our Annual Volunteer Appreciation Dinner, which featured a delightful Luau theme! Acknowledging our volunteers who have dedicated 10, 15, and 20 years of service is a true testament to their steadfast commitment to making a positive impact in our community. Each of these remarkable individuals has devoted countless hours to support essential causes and initiatives, showcasing the spirit of generosity and compassion. As we transition into May, it promises to be just as thrilling. Be sure to explore the volunteer opportunities in this month's newsletter to see what lies ahead. These opportunities not only enable volunteers to make meaningful contributions but also allow them to learn and grow alongside others who share their passion for giving back. As we embrace May, let's take a moment to celebrate the small victories and cherish the connections we cultivate along the way. Together, we can continue to foster a vibrant and supportive community where everyone feels valued and inspired. Whether you're a seasoned volunteer or new to our team, your contributions are invaluable, and we eagerly anticipate all that we will achieve together this month. Here's to another month of making a lasting impact!

-Stephanie Wheeler

### Contact Info

Stephanie Wheeler Volunteer Services Manager Mobile/Text: (779) 861-4170 Office: (815) 732-2499 stephaniew@serenityhospiceandhome.org

# Volunteer Opportunities

# Gatherer Craft Group

Join us on **Wednesday, May 7th at 11 a.m.** in the Serenity conference room for our monthly volunteer crafters' group. This is a fantastic chance to connect with fellow volunteers and share your creative talents for our community projects. Whether you're a seasoned crafter or just starting out, there's a spot for you in our group. We will provide all the necessary materials, so all you need to bring is your enthusiasm and any ideas you'd like to contribute. We can't wait to see you there and craft together!

#### Celebrate Women in Military Life

We have a wonderful opportunity to honor women connected to military life, including veterans and those who have supported a military loved one. We invite these remarkable women to join us for a light breakfast, be recognized, and explore various resource vendors.

- Tuesday, May 6th
- 9:00 AM 11:00 AM
- Polo Senior Center

We are seeking volunteers to provide light breakfast items for our guests, as well as helpers on the day of the event to ensure everything runs smoothly.

## Garden Luncheon

The Garden Luncheon is a truly enchanting time of year. We are looking for volunteers to assist with the preparations for our Garden Luncheon Fundraiser. We need help on the following days:

- Thursday, May 8th at 9 a.m. Set up the venue.
- Friday, May 9th at 9 a.m.
  Complete the venue setup, then return to Serenity to prepare the desserts.
- Saturday, May 10th: Ensure the event runs smoothly by assisting with serving and managing the game station.

# Volunteer Opportunities

#### KNITTING AND CROCHETING

This months knitting and crocheting group will meet on **Friday May 9<sup>th</sup> at 10am at the Serenity Home.** We are very grateful to this group as they create beautiful prayer shawls and lap blankets for the patients we serve.

# Book Club

Our next book club gathering is scheduled for Thursday, June 19th at 8:30 a.m. at the Village Bakery. We will delve into Just a Regular Boy by Catherine Ryan Hyde, a heartwarming tale that is sure to inspire engaging discussions and reflections among us. Whether you've completed the book or are still reading it, everyone is encouraged to join and share their insights. Don't forget to treat yourself to a delicious pastry and a steaming cup of coffee as we immerse ourselves in our discussions.

We look forward to seeing you there for a morning filled with literary exploration and fellowship!

### Support Chat

Join us on **Wednesday May** 28<sup>th</sup> at 10:45am to check-in on how visits with patients are going. We'll gather in the Serenity conference room to share experiences, discuss any challenges, and celebrate the positive impacts we've made. Your insights and feedback are invaluable as we strive to improve our program and make it even more meaningful for everyone involved.

# Volunteer Opportunities

### Volunteer Education

Join us on **Wednesday, May 21st at 10:45 a.m.** in the Serenity conference room for this month's continuing education session. This event will aim to enhance your skills and knowledge in delivering compassionate care and support. We eagerly anticipate seeing you there!

## Front Desk Greeters

Our front desk greeters embody the warm and welcoming spirit of our organization. We are currently seeking volunteers for the following shifts:

- Sundays, May 18th and May 25th:
  8:00 AM 12:30 PM & 12:30 PM 4:30 PM
- Monday, May 12th: 4:30 PM 8:30 PM
- Wednesdays: 8:00 AM 12:30 PM
- Thursdays: 4:30 PM 8:00 PM
- Friday, May 9th: 4:30 PM 8:00 PM
- Saturdays, May 17th, 24th, & 31st:

8:00 AM – 12:30 PM & 12:30 PM – 4:30 PM

Your help would be greatly appreciated!

#### Crockpot Meals

Crockpot meals offer a wonderful source of comfort for the guests at Serenity Home. Our dedicated volunteers do an incredible job preparing heartwarming dishes. We are seeking volunteers to provide crockpot meals on the following Fridays:

- May 2nd
- May 9th
- May 23rd
- May 30th

# **Online Education**

This month's online education serves as a continuation of last month's session. It is titled "Supporting Caregivers of Veterans with Dementia at End of Life." You can view it here: (https://www.youtube.com/watch? v=KdkYrdWLZdc&t=2s).

Completing this session will contribute towards the three hours of Dementia training required for the year.