



Hello August

Volunteer Newsletter

As we celebrate eight months of unwavering companionship, support, care, and dignity for our patients, let's take a moment to reflect on all that has been accomplished together. In the last eight months, you have managed calls, kept paperwork organized, participated in successful fundraisers, sorted and categorized donations, baked numerous cookies, created beautiful prayer shawls, and contributed in countless other ways.

The contributions made by our hospice volunteers are truly unparalleled. As I work with future volunteers at Serenity, I am continually reminded of how much each of you brings to the organization, the community, the staff, the patients, and their families. It's awe-inspiring to see the impact you make. Every single one of you demonstrates dedication and gives your utmost effort. You are truly remarkable, and the impact you make is substantial.

Thank you for being who you are. Thank you for choosing to share your servant heart and time with Serenity Hospice and Home. Thank you for your commitment to continuing education, ensuring you are the best volunteers possible, and for being punctual with your notes and time sheets. Most importantly, thank you for being you.

With deepest gratitude, we eagerly anticipate a future illuminated by your unwavering commitment and generous hearts.

Stephanie Wheeler

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Meet our Volunteer



Kathy Michel



Meet Kathy Michel (pronounced Mitchell). After growing up in the Upper Peninsula of Michigan and making several job related moves, my husband and I settled in Byron. I have now lived here for almost 40 years. I

enjoy gardening, feeding and watching birds, reading and volunteering for various groups. I am an advocate for and enjoy working with older adults. My first experience as a hospice volunteer were rather unusual. I did not first meet with a patient. Rather along with other volunteers, we assembled 600 dessert cups and then serving them at the Garden Luncheon. I look forward to meeting you and being a hospice volunteer.



Meet our Volunteer



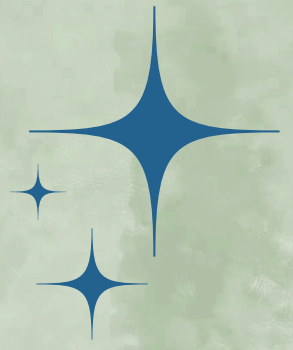
Judith G.



I'm pleased to be volunteering here as I believe in the importance of Hospice choices. My background has included working in the Trust Administration and Investment fields. In the past I have volunteered for VITAL, CASA, and GFWC. I was married to my late husband for 47 years and am blessed with a daughter and grandson. I enjoy going to LaCross games, playing MaJong, flower gardening, reading, antiques, and traveling. Hope to meet more of you soon!



Meet our Volunteer



We will all face end of life at some point. Some of us will pass suddenly while others may become ill and be faces with passing sooner rather than later. This can take a toll on not only the patient, but also the family.

Stacey G

Now that I am semi-retired and have some additional time, I wanted to start focusing some of my energies on making this world a little better for others. I just was not sure what I wanted to do. A friend of mine had a niece who died at a young age from cancer, and my friend could not say enough good things about Serenity Hospice. This triggered memories of losing my own mother when I was only 25 years old. She had hospice at the end, and I remember that being such a huge help to our family.



At that moment, I knew how I wanted to help, so I contacted Serenity to see I could cook meals for the families of hospice patients. I was thrilled to hear the answer was yes!

I love taking my dogs for walks, cooking, playing semi-professional poker, and working on my small garden. But most importantly, I also want to focus on helping others in any way I can and volunteering with Serenity is one of many ways I can help.





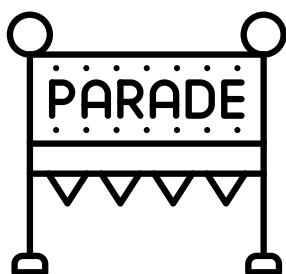
Volunteer Opportunities

GATHERER CRAFT GROUP

- **Date: Wednesday, August 6th**
- **Time: 11 AM**
- **Location: Serenity Conference Room**

We invite you to be part of our monthly Gatherer Craft Group! This is a wonderful chance to connect with volunteers from various roles at Serenity Hospice and Home.

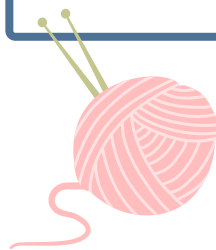
This month we will work together to create beautiful cards for the Veterans in our community.



Join Us for the Monthly Knit and Crochet Group!

- **Date: Friday, August 8th**
- **Time: 10 AM**
- **Location: Serenity Shed**

If you have a love for knitting or crocheting, we warmly invite you to join us at the Shed for our meeting. Crafters of all experience levels are welcome, whether you're an expert or just beginning your journey. Remember to bring your yarn, hooks, needles, and your cheerful spirit—refreshments will be provided. We look forward to sharing a morning filled with creativity and camaraderie!



KNIT & CROCHET GROUP

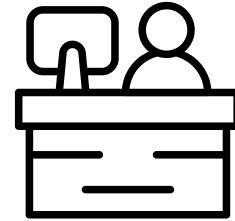
AUTUMN ON PARADE 2025

We are thrilled to participate in Autumn on Parade each year, and we couldn't do it without your generous donations! I am currently collecting **individually wrapped candy (please, no chocolate)** and fun trinkets for children. Here are some suggestions for trinkets:

- **Colorful stickers**
- **Mini puzzles**
- **Temporary tattoos**
- **Bouncy balls**
- **Bubbles**
- **Small toy figurines**

If you have any other creative ideas or items you'd like to contribute, please feel free to add them as well. Every donation plays a vital role in making our event a success and brings joy to many. Thank you for your kindness and support!

Volunteer Opportunities



FRONT DESK

We are seeking a friendly and organized individual to assist at the front desk of Serenity Home. Your responsibilities will include:

- Greeting visitors
- Managing phone calls
- Assisting with various administrative tasks

We require help on the following days:

- **Saturday, August 16th: 12:30 PM - 4:30 PM**
- **Thursdays: 4:30 PM - 8:00 PM**



BOOK CLUB

- **Date: Thursday August 21st**
- **Time: 830 AM**
- **Location: Village Bakery**

Join us at book club! In August, we'll be diving into "Iona's Version: Rules for Commuting" by Clare Pooley. It's an engaging read that explores the nuances and quirks of daily travel, wrapped in Pooley's signature wit and warmth. Whether you're a seasoned commuter or simply curious about the unique stories that unfold between bus stops and train stations, this book is sure to resonate.

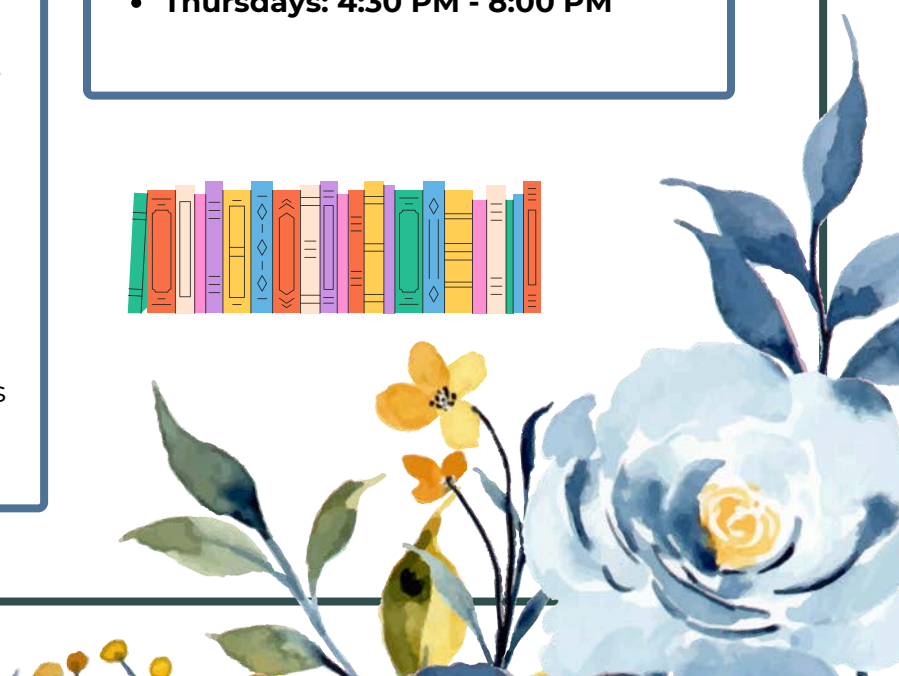
CROCKPOT MEALS



Preparing a crockpot meal for families visiting Serenity Hospice Home is a heartfelt way to offer comfort during difficult times. The inviting scent of a home-cooked meal can provide a sense of normalcy and solace amidst their emotions. Sharing food fosters connections and support, allowing families to gather, share stories, and find moments of joy and solace together. Each Friday we are lucky to do just that. If you are interested in donating a meal; sign up for one of the dates below:

Friday August 22nd

Friday August 29th





Volunteer Opportunities



ONLINE EDUCATION

Our online education this month is on applying a diversity lense at end of life, located here:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mY03KPVUR3g>

This resource delves into culturally diverse viewpoints regarding end-of-life care and the various approaches to death and dying within different communities. It includes case studies from the PICAC Alliance, showcasing insights from leading organizations that examine the intersection of cultural sensitivity and end-of-life care.

VOLUNTEER SUPPORT CHAT

- **Date:** Wednesday, August 27th
- **Time:** 10:45 AM
- **Location:** Serenity Conference Room

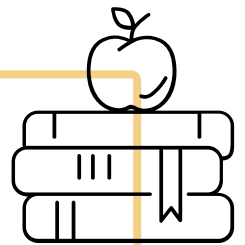
Volunteering your time and effort to support hospice patients is a profoundly noble and compassionate gesture. This gathering presents an excellent opportunity for all volunteers to come together, pose questions, and broaden their understanding of how to provide optimal support to those in need. By exchanging experiences, insights, and helpful tips, everyone can enhance their skills and deliver better care and companionship to hospice patients.



VOLUNTEER IN-SERVICE

- **Date:** Wednesday, August 20th
- **Time:** 10:45 AM
- **Location:** Serenity Conference Room

Please join us for our volunteer hospice education on Cultural Diversity and Ethics in the workplace. This session will focus on understanding and respecting the diverse backgrounds of both patients and colleagues, ensuring that everyone feels valued and understood. We'll explore key ethical considerations in hospice care, discussing how cultural differences can influence patient needs and preferences. Through interactive discussions and case studies, participants will gain practical insights and strategies to apply in their volunteer roles. Together, we can foster a more inclusive and compassionate environment that honors the unique stories and traditions of those we serve. We hope to see you there, ready to learn and share in this vital aspect of hospice volunteering.



Volunteer Opportunities

Do you have a passion for baking? Our patients and their families absolutely adore cookies and baked treats. We're seeking volunteers who can come to Serenity Home and whip up some cookies for our families.

Whether you're an experienced baker or simply enjoy the delightful scent of freshly baked cookies, this is a fantastic opportunity to share your love for baking and bring joy to others.

If you're interested in dedicating your time and skills to make a meaningful difference, we would love to welcome you to our team. Together, we can create a truly sweet impact!

COOKIE BAKING



The Serenity Shed is on the lookout for crafting supplies! They would greatly appreciate any extra sets of **scissors**. Other needed items include:

- **Cotton balls**
- **Yarn**
- **Twine**
- **Fabric scraps**
- **Hot glue**
- **Washi tape**
- **Duct tape**
- **Miscellaneous beads and buttons**



In addition, the Serenity Shed is in need of bakers who would be interested in making cookies for their bereavement and community groups.

Lastly, they are searching for a volunteer to assist at the Serenity Shed on the second and third Fridays of each month from 8:30 AM to 12 PM. If you have availability, please reach out for more information!

SERENITY SHED

VETERAN CAFE

Join us on Monday August 18th at 1pm at the Rock River Center, Oregon for our Veteran Café ice cream social. It's a wonderful opportunity to connect with fellow veterans and enjoy some delicious ice cream in a friendly and welcoming environment. Bring your stories, share your experiences, and make new friends. We look forward to seeing you there!

