



# Volunteer Newsletter

## December 2025

### December: A Month of Giving and Gratitude

As the final month of the year arrives, we are reminded that December is a month dedicated to giving. But at Serenity Hospice and Home, giving isn't just something we do once a year—it's something you do every day. Each month, you give your time, your energy, your talents, and most importantly, your heart to the patients and families we serve. You offer comfort, friendship, and hope during some of life's most challenging moments.

As the winter chill sets in, your warmth and kindness shine even brighter. Every act of compassion, no matter how small, has a profound impact. This December, as we reflect on the past year, we celebrate the countless ways you've touched lives, eased burdens, and brought light to those in need. Your dedication and compassion inspire us all, and we are deeply grateful for your unwavering support.

Looking ahead to the new year, let us continue to spread joy, kindness, and care.

Together, we create a community where compassion thrives, and every act of love, no matter how simple, helps make the world a better place. Thank you for being the heart of Serenity Hospice and Home.

*-Stephanie Wheeler*

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# Volunteer Opportunities

## GATHERER GROUP

Join us on Wednesday, December 10th at 11 a.m. for our monthly Gatherer Craft Group in the Serenity Conference Room. Let's celebrate the season together with a delightful cookie exchange! Please bring two dozen cookies along with your recipe to share at the meeting. This is a fantastic opportunity to connect with fellow community members, share stories, and spread some holiday cheer.

**IMPORTANT:** Don't forget to RSVP by December 8th so we can ensure that there are enough supplies for everyone. We look forward to seeing you there and reveling in the joy of the season!

## KNITTERS & CROCHET GROUP

Our knitting and crocheting group gathers on the second Friday of each month at 10 AM at the Serenity Shed. This month, we invite you to join us on Friday, December 12th. It's a fantastic group to connect with and create alongside. Whether you're an experienced crafter or just starting your yarn journey, you'll receive a warm welcome and abundant inspiration from fellow enthusiasts. We encourage everyone to bring their own projects, but if you don't have one, don't worry—there are always extra supplies available to help you get going.

## VOLUNTEER SUPPORT CHAT

Our volunteer support chat gathers monthly to discuss best practices for patient visits. We convene in the Serenity Conference Room, where we engage in meaningful conversations about recent visits, sharing impactful patient stories and brainstorming solutions for any challenges encountered. Each volunteer is encouraged to contribute their unique experiences and insights, creating a culture of learning and growth. Join us on December 23<sup>RD</sup> at 10:45 AM. We hope to see you there!





# Volunteer Opportunities

## BOOK CLUB

Join the Serenity Book Club on Thursday, December 18th, at 8:30 AM at the Village Bakery. This month's book is "The Wedding People" by Alison Espach. We'll gather to discuss the book's themes, characters, and the unique storytelling style that Alison Espach brings to life. Whether you've read the entire book or just a few chapters, your thoughts and perspectives are welcome. It's a perfect opportunity to unwind with fellow book lovers, enjoy some delicious pastries, and engage in lively conversation. We hope to see you there for a morning of literary exploration and camaraderie!

## CHRISTMAS MEALS

Each year at Serenity Hospice and Home, we feel thankful to offer Christmas meals to patients and families in need. While our staff is able to deliver a significant number of meals, we are looking for volunteers to assist with distribution on Monday, December 23rd, at any time during the day. If you are available and excited to share some holiday cheer, we would be delighted to have you join us in this heartfelt initiative. Your support means the world to us.



## FRONT DESK SUPPORT

Serenity Home is seeking Front Desk Greeters to play a crucial role in creating a warm and welcoming atmosphere for all patients and visitors. We invite you to consider one of the following available shifts:

- Sundays: 8:30 AM to 12:30 PM
- Sundays: 12:30 PM to 4:30 PM
- Monday December 22<sup>nd</sup>: 4:30 PM to 8:00 PM
- Tuesdays: 4:30 to 8:00 PM
- Wednesdays: 8:00 AM to 12:30 PM
- Wednesday December 24<sup>th</sup>: 8:00 AM to 12:30 PM; 12:30 PM to 4:30 PM; 4:30 PM to 8:00 PM
- Wednesday, December 25<sup>th</sup>: 8:00 AM to 12:30 PM; 12:30 PM to 4:30 PM; 4:30 PM to 8:00 PM
- Thursdays: 4:30 PM to 8:00 PM
- Saturdays: 8:00 AM to 12:30 PM and 12:30 PM to 4:30 PM



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## CROCKPOT MEALS

A Taste of Home for Families and Patients  
At Serenity Home, we believe in providing comfort to our patients and their families. That's why we offer crock-pot meals every Friday, which are always well-received. If you're interested, the following dates are available:

- Friday December 5th
- Friday December 12th
- Friday December 19th
- Friday December 26th
- Friday January 2nd

## Serenity Home Tree

Each month, we take delight in decorating the Serenity Home tree for families to appreciate. We are seeking volunteers to help adorn the tree for January, adding warmth and cheer to all who visit. This is a fantastic opportunity to showcase your creativity and spread joy during the winter season.



## FRONT DESK SUPPORT

Save the Date for Our 2025 Volunteer Christmas Party  
Join us on Tuesday, December 16th at 10:30 AM for our Volunteer Christmas Party at the Prairie Jarrett Center, 7993 North River Road, Byron, Illinois.  
Please RSVP by December 11th! Consider participating in our Favorite Things exchange valued at \$15.

## END OF YEAR

As we approach the end of 2025, please make sure to submit all necessary paperwork for the year. This includes:

- Time sheets
- Progress notes
- Flu vaccine records
- Driver's license (if recently renewed)
- Updated car insurance

Additionally, ensure that your educational requirements are current for the year.