



Serenity
HOSPICE & HOME



VALUED VOLUNTEER

Spring into April!

VOL 5 / ISS 1

With a new season underway, it's a wonderful time to pause and recognize the heart of what makes our work so meaningful, you! This quarterly edition of our volunteer newsletter is a small way to celebrate the care, time, and compassion you continue to share so generously.

The support you provide plays an essential role in creating an environment for our patients and their loved ones where they can be peaceful in sharing at the most difficult time in their lives. Whether you're offering a listening ear, helping behind the scenes, or simply showing up with kindness, your presence leaves a lasting impact.

Inside this issue, you'll find updates, volunteer spotlights, and ways to stay engaged in the months ahead.

Thank you for everything you do. Your dedication does not go unnoticed, and it is deeply appreciated.

Stephanie Wheeler

Stephanie Wheeler Volunteer Services Manager

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WHAT'S COMING UP?

April 2nd

Stop by if you're out and about! We'll be at the Volunteer Fair from 9 AM - 1 PM at Sauk Valley Community College & Rockford University. Know someone interested in volunteering? Send them our way!



April 8th

Join us for Gatherer's craft group at 11 AM in the Serenity Conference Room. Lunch will be provided after. Please RSVP!



April 8th

Annual Art Dash Fundraiser - a huge thank you to those who are helping us create an unforgettable night!



April 10th

Knitting/Crochet Group: Calling all who have a passion! Group will meet to work on their own projects at The Serenity Shed @ 10 AM. Coffee will be hot, and we have supplies here if needed!





DON'T MISS THESE!

April 17th

Annual Volunteer Education Day
9 AM - 4 PM

This completes the requirement of education for the **entire year!**
Lunch will be provided, we will meet in the Serenity Conference Room.

Please RSVP - *I highly encourage all volunteers to attend!*

No online education this month!



April 19th - April 25th

We are excited to celebrate Volunteer Appreciation Week, a special time to recognize the incredible individuals who give their time, energy, and heart to our mission. Your compassion and dedication make a lasting impact on the lives of those we serve each day.

We are truly grateful for our volunteers and the difference they make in our community.



JOIN US!



 **April 27th**

We formally invite you to join us in celebrating you! The Volunteer Appreciation Dinner will take place at Jarvett Prairie Center in Byron at 5 PM. You contribute so much to our cause, and this is our opportunity to give back to you!

Keep an eye out for your invitations!



April 28th

Calling all Vets to join us at the Veteran Cafe @ The Meadows of Franklin Grove @ 2:30 PM.



April 29th



Join us at 10:45 AM in the Serenity Conference Room for our monthly volunteer support chat. We invite all volunteers to gather, share their experiences, and explore new ideas for creating a positive impact in our community and for our patients .



WELCOME TO OUR NEWEST VOLUNTEERS!

Welcome to Jennifer Bergstrom!

Jennifer has lived in Dixon her whole life. Two years ago, she celebrated a new chapter by getting married for the first time. After dedicating 25 years of service to the Dixon Correctional Center

she has retired. Family remains an important part of her life, including her stepdaughter, who is currently a freshman at Iowa State University and pursuing her own exciting path. In her free time, she loves to read and crochet. If you're looking for her this summer, you can almost always find her enjoying the sunshine and unwinding by the pool.





WELCOME TO OUR NEWEST VOLUNTEERS!

Welcome to Jody Girton!

Her birth name is Jo Anna, though she has always preferred to go by her nickname, "Jody." She has been married for 56 years to her husband, Marshall, who is originally from Franklin Grove. Together, they have built a strong and loving family, raising three children, Erica, Danielle, and Natham, and are now proud grandparents to eight grandchildren. For the past 22 years, she and her husband have made their home in Oregon, where they have continued to grow roots and enjoy life together.

With a heart for helping others, she is now looking forward to becoming a Serenity volunteer, eager to give back and support those in need.





WELCOME TO OUR NEWEST VOLUNTEERS!

Welcome to Steve Bardell!

Steve is originally from Polo, along with his wife, Kris, though they now reside in Rochelle, a community they truly love. Recently retired, Steve is embracing this new chapter by spending more quality time with his wife. His desire to serve is deeply personal, as both of their mothers were cared for by Serenity Hospice and Home before passing away in early 2025. He was so impressed with the care they received that it inspired him to become part of that same team. Steve has also recently been ordained as a Minister and Chaplain through the Christian Leaders Institute. He looks forward to meeting new people and offering comfort and support to others during their times of need.





WELCOME TO OUR NEWEST VOLUNTEERS!

Welcome to Carol Love!

Carol is widowed and is the proud mother of two daughters and grandmother to four adult grandchildren. She grew up in Dixon and has spent most of her life in Ogle County, having lived in Stillman Valley, rural Byron, and now in the city of Byron. A retired nurse, she devoted many years of her career to teaching the next generation. In her free time, she enjoys traveling, getting lost in a good book, quilting, and spending time with her beloved mini goldendoodle. She is an active and dedicated member of Emmanuel Lutheran Church in Paynes Point, where her faith and sense of community are important parts of her life. She is excited to become a new volunteer for Serenity.





WELCOME TO OUR NEWEST VOLUNTEERS!

Welcome to Amy Johnson!

Amy has proudly called the Stillman Valley area home her entire life. She has been happily married to her husband, David, for 40 years, and together they have created a strong and loving family.

They are the proud parents of two daughters and are blessed with three wonderful granddaughters who bring them immense joy. Amy treasures the time she spends with her family, whether it's sharing everyday moments or making special memories together. In her free time, she enjoys relaxing days out on the water boating and embraces every opportunity to travel and explore new places.





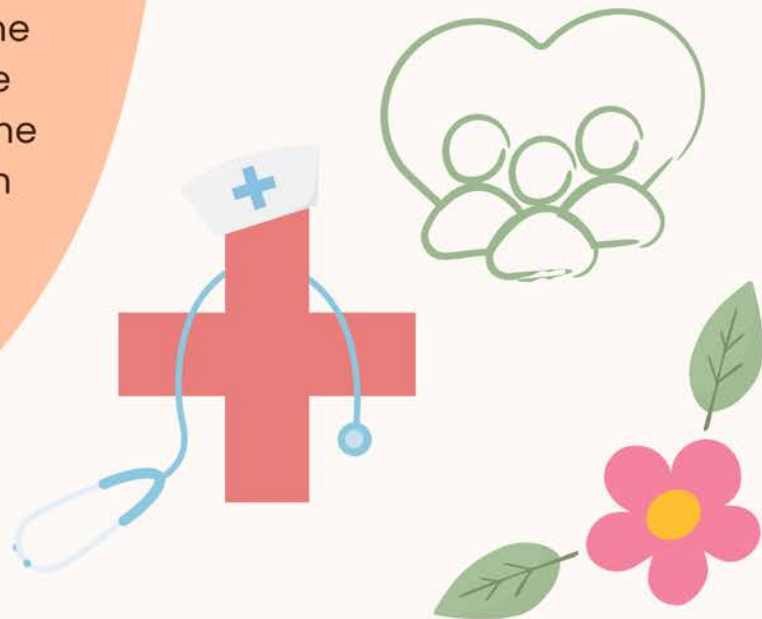
WELCOME TO OUR NEWEST VOLUNTEERS!

Welcome to Chuck White!

Chuck, RN, BSN, graduated from Saint Anthony College of Nursing in 1993. He dedicated nearly 20 years to Rockford Memorial Hospital, where he gained extensive experience working in the adult ICU, emergency room, and float pool. He

later spent 10 years providing compassionate in-home care to patients in the community.

Chuck went on to serve as the Director of Nursing at Heritage Square in Dixon, where he played a key leadership role in patient care and staff support. Now enjoying retirement, he continues to give back by volunteering with Serenity, sharing his time and expertise to support others.



WE NEED YOU!

A special thank you to everyone who has pitched in while Margaret has been out!

Front Desk Greeters Needed:

- Tuesdays:
 - (4/14) 4:30-8
- Thursdays: (All) 4:30-8
- Fridays:
 - (4/3) 12:30-4:30
 - (4/10) 8-12:30 & 12:30-4:30
- Saturdays: (All) 8-12:30 & 4:30-8

Front Desk Greeters at Serenity Home welcome visitors and patients with warmth, ensuring they feel comfortable and appreciated.

Crockpot Meals Needed:

- April 3rd/24th
- May 1st
- May 8th
- May 15th
- May 22nd
- May 29th

We are honored to offer an added layer of comfort for our patients' families with our delicious crockpot meals.

Book Club!

Join us on May 21st at 8:30 AM at The Village Bakery. This month's read - Mercy Snow by Tiffany Baker!



ISO: Cookie Makers



Share with us your cookie baking talents! We are seeking cookie makers to create delicious treats for The Serenity Home.

Remember to turn in your updated Driver's License, Car Insurance, 2026 Commitment Forms, Visit Notes, & Time Sheets!



Garden Party

The Crowns of Kindness Garden Party will be held on May 9th. We are ISO volunteers to run games, help serve, and can greatly use the help of anyone with floral expertise.

<https://crownsokindness2026.fundraiser.support>

More Info on Garden Party

Women In Military Life

On May 4th we will hold an event at Jarret Prairie Ctr in Byron to honor the women in military life. We are ISO volunteers for the day of. *Also looking for homemade or store-bought breakfast bites. Yum!*



Handheld and easy!