The Valued VOLUNTEER

hello November

November is here, and as we approach the holiday season, there are plenty of opportunities to get involved, give back, and spread a little extra cheer! This time of year is always a busy and exciting one at Serenity, and we are especially grateful for the kindness, generosity, and dedication our volunteers bring to everything we do

We are also looking forward to gathering together at our upcoming Christmas party! It will be a wonderful opportunity to celebrate the season, enjoy each other's company, and show our appreciation for all that you do throughout the year.

This edition of The Valued Volunteer is packed with exciting updates, upcoming events, ways to get involved, and plenty of information you won't want to miss! We encourage you to take some time to explore all that's happening as we head into the final months of the year. As always, thank you for being such an important part of the Serenity family!

Stephanie Rico

Stephanie Rico, Volunteer Services Manager
Mobile/Text: 779-881-4170
Office: 815-732-2499
StephanieW@serenityhospiceandhome.org

WE NEED YOU!

NOVEMBER VOLUNTEER CHALLENGE

Choose one person who has positively influenced your life and let them know what their kindness or support has meant to you. Send a card, make a phone call, or offer a sincere thank-you in person. A few thoughtful words can leave a lasting impact.

THANKSGIVING MEALS

Each year, Serenity works to ensure patients and their families have access to the Thanksgiving Meal we all deserve.

We are looking for volunteers to help deliver Thanksgiving meals on Wednesday, November 25th. Available anytime. Please reach out if you can help.



BINGO

We are looking for a volunteer to call BINGO at the Mt Morris Senior Center on Wednesday November 18th at 10:30.



TUCK IN CALLS

Every week, we call patient families to ensure they have everything they need over the weekend. We are in need of a volunteer to make calls Nov. 13th & 20th.

DELIVERING WREATHS

Wednesday, November 11th is Veterans Day and we are looking for volunteers who will deliver veteran wreaths to our veterans and spend a little time listening to their stories.

This can be anytime of the day. Please reach out if you'd like to join us!



VETERAN READERS



We are still seeking VETERAN volunteers to read at the Oregon Elementary School on Nov 10th from 130-230. We have books here that you can review prior to going to the school.

VETERAN HOSPICE FACT

Veterans receiving hospice care may carry memories and experiences from their military service that influence their physical, emotional, and spiritual needs. Simply asking, "Would you like to tell me about your military service?" can open the door to meaningful conversation. Always allow the veteran to decide what, and how much, they would like to share.



JOIN US!

GATHERER GROUP

Join us on November 11th for our Gatherer Craft Group at 11 AM in the Serenity Conference Room! We'll provide all the supplies, just bring your creativity and a willingness to have fun. Enjoy a relaxing morning of crafting, conversation, and creativity. Please RSVP to Stephanie.

This months theme is DIPSgiving. Please bring a dip to pass. Bonus if you bring the recipe!



A MOMENT OF GRATITUDE FROM US!

This season, we are especially grateful for each of our volunteers. Whether you visit patients, support families, assist in the office, help at events, serve veterans, or work quietly behind the scenes, your time and talents make a meaningful difference. Thank you for choosing to share your heart with Serenity. We could not fulfill our mission without you!

VOLUNTEER SUPPORT CHAT

Join us on Wednesday, November 25th, at 10:45 AM for our monthly Volunteer Support Chat in the Serenity conference room. It's the perfect opportunity to chat with fellow patient-supporting volunteers. Got something on your mind? Toss it our way, we'd love to chat about it!



VOLUNTEER CHRISTMAS PARTY

We are excited to celebrate the season with you! Join us on Thursday, December 17th at 9am, at The Collective on Pines Rd in Oregon. Look for your virtual invite below!



THROUGH THEIR EYES

Virtual Dementia Tour will be held on Tuesday November 17th at 1pm and Thursday November 12th at 1pm. If you would like to attend please reach out.

KNITTING & CROCHET GROUP

Knitters and those who Crochet can meet at the Serenity Shed on Nov. 13th at 10a. All are welcome, supplies available if needed.



CAN YOU HELP?

FRONT DESK GREETERS

Our front desk greeters are often the first friendly faces visitors and patients see at Serenity Home. We would love your help!

We still need coverage:

- Saturdays & Sundays
  - 8-12:30
  - 12:30-4:30
- Tuesdays
  - 4:30-8
- Thursdays
  - **11/5:** 8-12:30 & 4:30-8
  - **11/12:** 12:30-4:30 & 4:30-8
  - **11/19:** 4:30-8
  - **11/26:** 8-12:30 & 12:30-4:30



CROCKPOT MEALS

Every Friday, we offer a crockpot meal to patients and families to help give them some home comfort and peace of mind. We still need meals for:

December 11th
December 18th
December 25th



WREATHS ACROSS AMERICA

Wreaths Across America is a nationwide nonprofit organization dedicated to honoring fallen veterans by placing wreaths on their graves during the holiday season.

Our goal as an organization is 45 wreaths, and each wreath is $17.

It will be held on Saturday, December 19th, at 2:30 PM at the Daysville Cemetery. If you would like to participate, please reach out.

REMEMBER HONOR TEACH
WREATHS across AMERICA

HOLIDAY CHEER!

Please join us on Monday November 30th for Holiday Cheer! We will be decorating Trees in the Serenity Home at 9:30. Please let me know if you are able to join. Bonus if you dress festive.

QUICK COMMUNICATION TIP: LISTEN TO UNDERSTAND

When someone is speaking, give them your full attention instead of planning what you will say next. Listening without interrupting, correcting, or rushing to offer advice helps others feel respected, valued, and genuinely heard.

QUESTION OF THE MONTH!

What is one person, experience, or simple pleasure you are especially grateful for this year?

Send us your answer! We would love to share some of our volunteers' responses in a future newsletter!

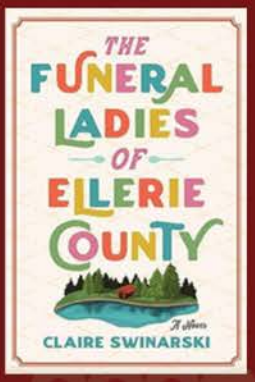
NOVEMBER ACTIVITY IDEA

Create a gratitude garland!

Cut leaf shapes from colorful paper and write one thing you are thankful for on each leaf. Connect the leaves with ribbon or string to create a gratitude garland. You can display it at home, complete the activity with someone you visit, or invite family and friends to add their own leaves.

BOOK CLUB

Join us on Jan. 7th at 8:30 at The Village Bakery. This month's read - Funeral Ladies of Ellerie County by Claire Swinarski



IN-SERVICE & ONLINE MONTHLY EDUCATION

Join our Bereavement Coordinator, Brianne on November 19th at 9:30 for our volunteer in-service on Holiday Grief and ways to support patients and families.

THIS MONTH'S ONLINE EDUCATION

So Much Has Changed: Managing Secondary Losses During the Holidays | TAPS Institute

taps.org/video/2019/secondary-losses

DID YOU KNOW?

Did you know that hospice volunteers serve in many different ways? In addition to providing patient companionship, volunteers may assist with office projects, special events, community outreach, bereavement support, veteran programs, fundraising, and many other important activities. Every role contributes to the hospice mission!

REMINDER!

Reminder

Do Not Forget: Flu Shot forms or exemptions need to be turned in by November 15th.

OH BUT THERE'S MORE!

SEASONAL SAFETY TIP

Prepare for Changing Conditions!

November can bring wet leaves, early darkness, frost, and unpredictable weather. Allow extra travel time, wear sturdy shoes, and watch carefully for slippery sidewalks and poorly lit entrances. Keep a flashlight in your vehicle and always put your safety first.



DEMENTIA FACT

Familiar routines can provide comfort and security for someone living with Dementia. Unexpected changes may increase confusion or anxiety... gentle explanations, and a calm approach can help the person feel more at ease.

COOKING FOR ONE - DOES THIS SOUND LIKE SOMETHING FOR YOU OR SOMEONE YOU KNOW? CALL US TO SIGN UP!

After a loss, the kitchen can feel like one of the hardest places to be, filled with memories, empty chairs, and routines that no longer feel the same. Join us Nov 13th from 10:30-12 for a hands-on grief support workshop where we'll prepare a meal together, then gather to enjoy it in a welcoming and supportive environment. This workshop will have a minimal fee of $10 to cover supply costs.

Lynnies' KITCHEN







Serenity
HOSPICE & HOME

Cookies & Cheer

Volunteer Christmas Brunch

BRING A FRIEND, WEAR YOUR FESTIVE PJS, & JOIN US FOR BRUNCH, A CUP OF CHEER COFFEE AND COCOA BAR, OUR TREE OF KINDNESS, AND HOLIDAY FUN

DEC | **17** | 9:00 AM

THE COLLECTIVE
1000 PINES RD, OREGON

COOKIE EXCHANGE

BRING 2 DOZEN HOMEMADE OR STORE-BOUGHT COOKIES PER HOUSEHOLD, PLUS A RECIPE. TAKE HOME BOXES PROVIDED.

No Cookies? Come enjoy the cheer!



RVSP to STEPHANIE by 12.10.2026
Please include the number attending and whether your household will join the cookie exchange.