

Meet Kelly, Our New Volunteer Placement Specialist



Let's give a big, warm welcome to our newest Volunteer Services staff member, Kelly Linder! Kelly is our new Volunteer Placement Specialist. You may wonder what Kelly will do to fill her time during the work day...let me tell you, Kelly is busy each and every day, finding the volunteers to best fill all the patient requests coming in to our department. Kelly is also busy every day learning all about our department, our staff, and our volunteers! Kelly has met many of the volunteers already, with many though, still to meet.

Kelly joins our team with over 11 years of experience. Kelly started her journey as a "caregiver" at a nursing home. She then moved on to an Activities Assistant and eventually moved on to the Director of Activities at a local nursing home. Kelly has a passion and understanding for end-of-life care and the importance of providing quality of life whenever and however possible. Kelly loves seeing people happy and finds motivation through people! Kelly's heart shines through in everything she does and is a perfect addition to our team!

Kelly is originally from Medway, but now resides in Kettering. She comes from a large, close-knit family and is involved in her church in many ways. When asking Kelly what she likes about her job, she says, "I like that every day is different; I meet a lot of wonderful people. I think my favorite thing is getting to 'ring the bell'. You'll have to ask her what that means! Filling a task and bringing joy during a difficult time in their life ~ it is really what our volunteers' do that makes me happy! A simple thing can make someone's day! I get to be the one to deliver the good news to the patients and families that we have a wonderful volunteer who is going to help!"

On a personal note, here are some things Kelly really enjoys...reading Harry Potter, dark chocolate, Disney, and Mexican food!

Join us in welcoming Kelly to our team and when you see her, please stop and say hello! Can you believe she's been here for six months already? Time flies by so fast.

“ Kelly loves seeing people happy and finds motivation through people! ”

REMINDER:

Please turn in timecards for end-of-year statistics.

Our mission is to celebrate the lives of those we have the privilege of serving by providing superior care and superior services to each patient and family.

The Volunteer Vision is a quarterly publication for all volunteers and the community. Its purpose is to inform readers about upcoming events, volunteer opportunities and organizational updates.

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Volunteer Opportunitites/ Needs/Positions:

- Visitors and Caregiver relief in homes and extended care facilities
- Carole's Cafe – they are always looking for help to serve visitors and run the register
- Filling bird feeders at Dayton Hospice House mid-week, each week
- Hair stylists – if you know anyone who is a licensed hair stylist/barber by the state of Ohio, we really need more to do haircuts for our patients
- Veteran pinning – we welcome help in filling the number of requests for honoring our Veterans, especially in outlying areas
- Art therapy - visit patients and families in the Dayton Hospice House with our art cart to help them create a project and find a little respite
- Weeding – we need a lot of assistance with weeding our beautiful gardens at the Dayton Hospice House
- Interdisciplinary meetings – every other week at Wright Dunbar team center

For more information contact
Volunteer Services:

937.256.9507

UPCOMING EVENTS/DATES

Trivia

Thursday, March 7
4 pm – 6 pm

Annual Recognition Banquet*

Sunday, April 7
1 pm – 3:30 pm
*Minimum 25 hours served in 2018

Education Day

Friday, May 3
9 am – 3 pm

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Ohio's Community Mercy Volunteers:

Ohio's Community Mercy Hospice is the lucky beneficiary of time and talent contributed by two volunteers recently honored for their community contributions.

Maxine Shroyer was awarded the 2018 Outstanding Senior Citizen Award for Clark County from the Area Agency on Aging and Phyllis Terry was awarded the 2018 Outstanding Senior Service award from United Senior Services. Both devote part of their volunteer hours to serve our hospice mission.



Maxine serves as a friendly visitor, provides caregiver relief, creates handmade crafts, sewing and baking projects and provides transportation. She has served for several years as the co-leader of The Charity Guild, crafting neck pillows for patients.

Phyllis provides caregiver relief and serves as a friendly visitor of patients. She has previously served the hospice mission as a bereavement outreach caller, a co-leader of grief groups and as an angel by the bedside, sitting with those who are dying.

The contributions these two outstanding volunteers make to our hospice mission – and to a myriad of other community organizations – is testament to their giving hearts and servant's souls. We congratulate them on well-deserved recognition.





Loneliness Can Have Serious Health Consequences

While everyone feels lonely and socially isolated sometimes, those who live in a persistently lonely state are subject to increased levels of stress and health problems that can be downright deadly. As a hospice organization, we are aware that many of those we serve find themselves increasingly isolated as they suffer from chronic pain or become full-time caregivers.

Our complementary therapies are one way of addressing the issue of loneliness for our patients and their caregivers. Visits from music therapists can help reconnect patients with their past and with an improved sense of physical well-being. Animal-assisted therapy can be a valuable anxiety reducing experience and an initial step in reconnecting with others. Our volunteer services also offer “friendly visitors” who visit on a regular basis and establish ongoing relationships with patients and caregivers who have found their social connections shrinking. Support groups for the recently bereaved and for caregivers are another resource that enables those who are lonely to connect with others who are sharing their struggle, pain or loss.

Choosing the best time of day to connect – when pain and symptoms are more under control – may enable those with illnesses to more comfortably interact with others. Reducing the amount of time, while emphasizing the importance and desire to continue seeing loved ones, can be a better option for visits.

Direct person-to-person connections are invaluable, but some who are lonely find regular connections by texting, Facebook messaging or use of other social forums to help them stay in touch. Online support groups can be validating and offer encouragement from others who have special insights and suggestions for how to overcome isolation.

If you are concerned for someone who appears to be lonely, find a way to include them in your life. Invite them along on an errand or a walk. Include them in gatherings of family or friends. Call to check in on them and express your concern. By reaching out to them, you can expand your own social network and give strength to someone who needs your support.

Loneliness is often a normal part of the grief experience. If you are a grieving person struggling with loneliness, contact our Pathways of Hope grief support services today at 937.258.4991 to learn about support options available to you or someone you love.

Resources:

<https://www.caring.com/articles/loneliness-and-health>

<https://www.everydayhealth.com/news/loneliness-can-really-hurt-you/>

<http://princessinthetower.org/the-isolating-loneliness-of-chronic-pain-invisible-illness/>

Ohio's Hospice of Dayton President Mary Murphy Named Dayton Business Journal Executive of the Year

Mary Murphy, MS, RN, CNS, AOCN, ACHPN, President, Ohio's Hospice of Dayton, was named Not-for-Profit Executive of the Year at the annual Dayton Business Journal Business of the Year event at the Schuster Center on November 8, 2018.

Murphy's journey to lead the organization began over 35 years ago. She started her career as a bedside nurse. In the decades since, she has served as a clinical team leader, educator and administrator. In her current role as President of Ohio's Hospice of Dayton, she leads the organization's mission and oversees daily operations to assure the delivery of superior care and superior services to patients and families facing life-limiting illnesses. Mary has never lost her zeal and enthusiasm as a patient advocate and continues to inspire her team toward excellence in care and servant leadership with compassion.

Under Mary's leadership, Ohio's Hospice of Dayton achieved a national first, and Mary represented the organization as it became the first hospice in the nation to earn Pathway to Excellence designation from the American Nurses Credentialing Center. This designation recognizes institutions who provide nurses the ability to operate in an environment that supports their professional needs and promotes high standards. By assuring an optimum workplace for nurses, organizations that meet the Pathway to Excellence criteria demonstrate a culture of sustained excellence and staff empowerment, resulting in the successful recruitment of top candidates and staff retention through high job satisfaction.

In 2018, Mary was a lead researcher and contributing author to a Journal of Hospice and Palliative Nursing article on the topic, "Evaluation of a Low Light Intervention – Starlight Therapy – for Agitation, Anxiety, Restlessness, Sleep Disturbances, Dyspnea and Pain at End of Life," and was a presenter at the American Academy of Hospice and Palliative Medicine and Hospice and Palliative Nursing Association Annual Assembly, demonstrating national leadership and spotlighting innovation in care at Ohio's Hospice of Dayton.



Mary has authored/co-authored 17 papers and book chapters on various topics in oncology and hospice nursing. She has 10 presentations to her credit on topics in oncology and hospice nursing at the state and national levels. She serves on the Oncology Nursing Society (ONS) Editorial Review Board and CEU reviewer for Midwest Care Alliance (Ohio Hospice and Palliative Care Organization). Mary participates as a book reviewer for the Oncology Nursing Forum and was a previous item writer for the ONS. She participated in the Oncology Mentor Fellow Program with successful publication. She has also acted as a CNS preceptor, assisting three staff nurses in publishing in a Palliative Care text.

Mary exemplifies the spirit of the Ohio's Hospice of Dayton mission of providing superior care and superior services to the patients and families we are privileged to serve. A servant leader with a true hospice heart, Mary serves patients and families, staff and community with a selfless devotion to mercy and compassion.

Kudos to our Volunteers!

- Volunteers generously brightened the days with room enhancing flowers, therapy dog visits, soothing musical “concerts”, huggable bears, a handmade afghan, snacks and fresh water, and numerous heart-lifting conversations.
- Volunteer, Becky Neufarth – “Mom truly enjoyed her weekly visits from Becky, her volunteer. They became friends from the moment they first met. They enjoyed things together like bird watching from our family room windows especially the hummingbirds this past spring and summer, talking about their families and some politics as well.”
- Just wanted to let you know how much I appreciated having Betty visit with Joanne yesterday. Betty arrived promptly at 9:50. Both Betty and Joanne seemed to enjoy each other's company.
- My family and I have experienced firsthand the amazing compassionate care and expertise of Hospice of Dayton. Now I am even more grateful to be a part of the volunteer community for hospice. Thank you. – Meg
- After returning to the front family room, Chaplain read a scripture passage and had a family prayer. Family shared photos and memories with the Chaplain. They especially enjoyed talking about her military service and the beautiful pinning service provided by hospice volunteer, Maria.
- Volunteer John shared with me this morning that the pinning recognition for Marvin was the best experience of all that he has done so far for our patients. He said each of the pinnings have been great and each one gets greater. Over 25 family members were present. The family had a meal prepared afterwards and insisted that he join them for their celebration. He was honored and blessed.
- Wanted you to see a recent email sent to me from Jeff Johnson, a new veteran volunteer. How touching. “I am always so deeply touched by the veteran pinnings. Please do pass along to the Ohio's Hospice of Dayton Leadership how very much the American Pride® Recognition Program means to Veterans. To help these Veterans cross-over with one last word of thanks and respect is simply outstanding! I am humbled to be a part of this and thankful to help whenever I can.”
- Compliments to our Ad Mat makers! One of the new ones that came in last week was sent to this patient and she’s using it a lot! We just delivered another to a patient this week so they are getting used.
- Thank you for taking such great care of our volunteers and speaking at Jay’s funeral. I know what something like this means to the family. Please forward this note to all of the volunteers, especially the ones that participated in Jay’s memorial service by attending and or being a part of it. It was an honor to be there for Jay and his family.
- Patient had volunteer named Paula sit with him for caregiver relief. Family is requesting to put in a good word for this volunteer as patient appears to really enjoy the conversations that took place. Daughter of patient went on and on about how wonderful Paula was with her father.
- Sounds like you (Kelly) and our wonderful volunteer department are putting a lot of love and energy into these requests. – Social Worker, Sharon.
- Judy is always exceptional and pitched in, doing two volunteer jobs, when Marj was not there. Afterward, she said that she LOVED helping in Marj's role because she got to talk and help with the attendees even more. I want you to know that she put the needs of the program ahead of hers. She lost a friend and missed the funeral, happening at the same time as this service, because of her commitment to her duties. That took a lot of dedication. A huge hug to her! (This is a comment about our volunteer Judy Clymer and Marjorie Sawyer.) – Music Therapist, Teresa Edingfield.