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Be A Hospice Volunteer

Chereé Pittman
Manager, Volunteer Services



The 400,000 plus hospice volunteers at work in hospices throughout the U.S. are an essential part of the hospice philosophy of care which recognizes that dying is not just a medical event but a personal one as well.

These volunteers are important members of an interdisciplinary team working to “de-institutionalize” the dying experience and provide a more humane system of care for the dying and their families. In fact, federal law requires that at least 5% of patient care hours be provided by volunteers (if the hospice receives Medicare and Medicaid reimbursement.)

Volunteers in hospice find it personally gratifying, intellectually stimulating, and emotionally meaningful to assist those in need at a critical point in their lives. Many of these volunteers were introduced to hospice through the death of a family member and understand firsthand the value of hospice care, but nearly 20% of volunteers are new to hospice. Volunteers consistently report that helping the terminally ill through hospice is not about dying but about living.

Wherever you live, a local hospice will have opportunities for volunteers. Participants may range in age from teens to senior citizens. Some hospices have specific minimum age requirements. While volunteer opportunities can vary greatly from one hospice to another, all hospices strive to constructively utilize the time and talents of those who answer the call to serve. Some volunteers may have professional skills or specialized expertise, but most are just people who want to help their friends and neighbors and serve the community. To ensure that all volunteers are equipped for the challenge of working with the dying, hospices require that volunteers complete extensive orientation and training sessions, as well as submit to a routine background check and fingerprinting.

If you know someone that may be interested in becoming a Covenant Hospice volunteer, please ask them to give me a call at 850-575-4998.

Thank you.

Source: Hospice Foundational of America, 2010

PEOPLE IN THE SPOTLIGHT

We would like to welcome our new Community Educators to the Tallahassee Team:

Karen Henry will cover Gadsden, Franklin and Wakulla County

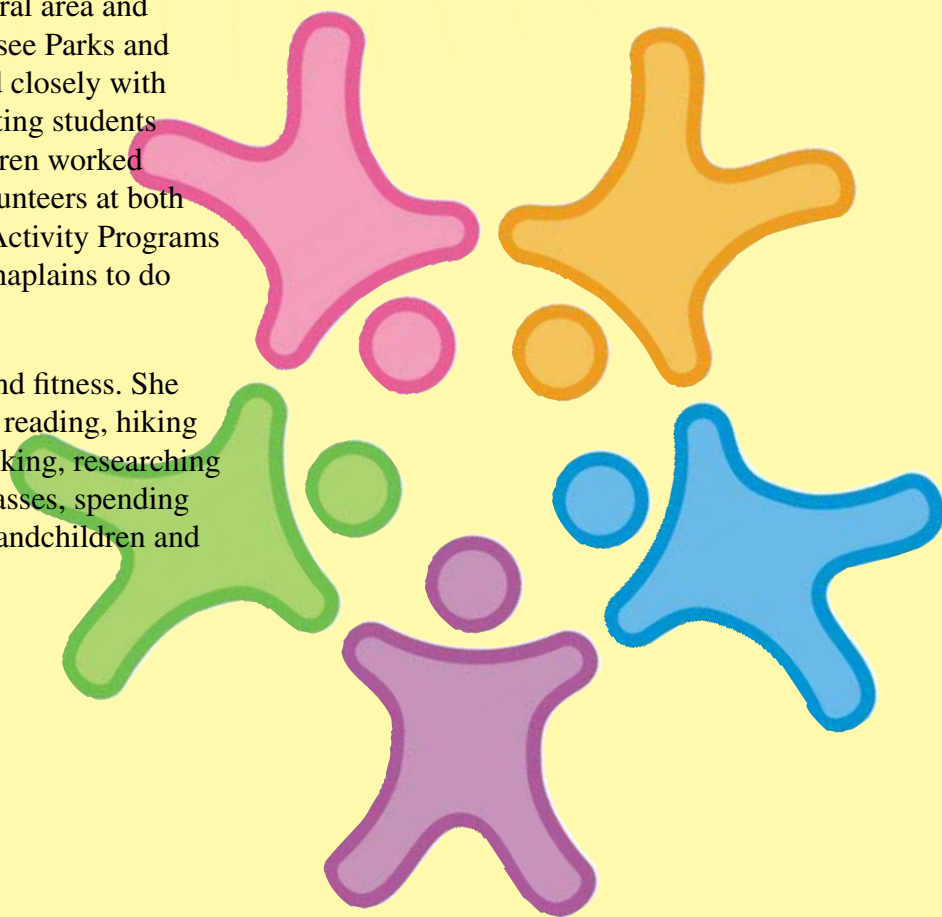
Ginny Geiger will cover Jefferson, Taylor and Leon County

Karen Henry could easily be described as a “Jack of all trades.” Karen has spent the last fifteen years working in various professions that will prepare her to do an awesome job for Covenant Hospice. Karen has worked as a PE/Health elementary teacher, Activity Director/ Department Head of the largest skilled facility in Tallahassee, Enrichment Coordinator of an independent community, federal contractor (created fitness programs) at a local federal prison, when it became a women’s facility, a wellness expert on a grant in Gadsden County to promote good health in the rural area and a teen coordinator with Tallahassee Parks and Recreation. She has also worked closely with Florida State University in assisting students in careers as Event Planners. Karen worked with Covenant Hospice teen volunteers at both facilities where she headed the Activity Programs and she also worked with our Chaplains to do Memorial Programs.

Karen is an expert in wellness and fitness. She enjoys public speaking, writing, reading, hiking on Bear Creek Trails, power walking, researching family history, teaching bible classes, spending time with her three sons, two grandchildren and her very large family.

Ginny Geiger has held many positions as she traveled with her church-planting husband of 31 years (he died 12 years ago), and their family of five (they had three children). They moved 13 times in 18 years, sometimes within the same town.

Most of Ginny’s previous responsibilities include marketing/sales, public speaking, writing newsletters — promoting the not-for-profits where she was working. We are excited about the experience Ginny brings to Covenant.



Social Workers Stay Up-To-Date

*Bobbie Massey, MSW, Registered Clinical Social Worker Intern
Covenant Hospice Regional Social Worker*

The Social Workers had a busy month and have participated in a *Just In Time Training Meeting* as well as a *Quarterly Social Work Meeting*.

The *Just In Time Training Meeting* was held in the Tallahassee Office where the social workers reviewed key aspects of documentation.

The *Quarterly Social Work Meeting* was held in Panama City and included a presentation on Veterans and Homelessness, a review of local Community Resources and a speaker from DCF to discuss Medicaid.

The Tallahassee Social Workers continue to utilize opportunities to grow professionally which assist in the goal of providing excellent care to our patients and families.

Save The Date



A Chocolate Affair, a decadent dessert competition benefiting Covenant Hospice will be Saturday, October 23, 2010 at the Doubletree Hotel located at 101 S. Adams Street, Tallahassee, FL 32301 from 6 pm to 9 pm. There will be many local bakeries, caterers, and restaurants showcasing their signature desserts competing for your vote. Not all treats will be chocolate based, but all will be scrumptious! Along with the desserts, each guest will enjoy hitting the dance floor dancing to the music of our live DJ, bidding on silent auction items, snacking on light hors d'ouerves while ordering a cocktail or two.

To volunteer for this event, please contact:

Brenna Hosey 850-814-3399.

E-mail: brenna.hosey@covenanthospice.org or

Nanisa Anderson 850-814-1191. E-mail: nanisa.anderson@covenanthospice.org.

The next volunteer meeting will be Tuesday, September 7th in the Education Room (1545 Raymond Diehl Road, Suite 102) from 12 pm to 1 pm.

Welcome New Volunteers

I would like to welcome our newest volunteers to our Tallahassee team. There are many places you could have chosen to volunteer your time but you chose Covenant Hospice and we are so thankful!

**Angel Swindell
Michaela Manias**

We'd like to request that all volunteers submit their current email address. Please contact us either by phone 850-575-4998 or email to: lashunda.pittman@covenanthospice.org

Upcoming Training

A volunteer orientation and training will be held on September 23, 2010 from 9am to 5pm. The training will be consisting of orientation (overview of hospice), clinical care, psychosocial and spiritual, and communication modules. If you or know any one that would like to attend our volunteer training please feel free to contact either Chereé Pittman at 850-575-4998.



Online Training Available

Covenant Hospice is now offering online volunteer training modules. If you know of anyone that may be interested in becoming a Covenant Hospice volunteer, please have them give Chereé a call at 850.575.4998 (work) or 850.294.2407 (cell phone).

Community Events

Jacqueline Williams,
Community Educator, MSW

We will be participating in some great community events very soon and, as always, we greatly appreciate any assistance our volunteers can provide.

1. September 10th
City Senior Day at Jack McLean Community Center in Tallahassee
2. September 13th
Senior Living Health Fair at Quincy Health Department
3. September 18th
Miracle Hill Day at Old West Florida Enrichment Center in Tallahassee
4. October 16th
Pumpkin Festival in Havana
5. October 23rd
Florida Forest Festival in Perry

THANK YOU

We would like to thank our new Gadsden County Advisory Board Members for joining our Covenant team. We look forward to working with them!

Mary Baggett
Arrie M. Battle
Sandra Black
Jeannie Colvin
Joyce Deason
Betty Deese
Donna Dunn
Pam Gay
Marlon Hunter
Ronda Hurst
Rev Gregory James
Jennifer Loughmiller
Deidra Melton
Christopher Moultry
Nadine Smith
Marion Sumner
Sherry Taylor
Scott Whitehead
Representative Alan Williams
Lynda Wilson
Dennis Young



Volunteer Requests and Opportunities

Administrative: Volunteers needed to assist with office/clerical duties.

Development: Volunteers are needed to assist with the Chocolate Affair on Oct 23rd and with the Tree of Lights in the Tallahassee Mall from Nov 21st until Dec 24th (four hour shifts)

Bereavement: Volunteers needed to make phone calls to bereaved family members monthly and to assist the Bereavement Counselor with grief support group meetings.

Patient & Family: Volunteers that can play an instrument are needed to play music for our patients at nursing facilities twice a month. Volunteers are needed for companionship and respite care.

11th Hour: Volunteers are needed in Madison, Perry, Wakulla, Havana and Quincy to provide a caring presence for our patients near death, including emotional support, spiritual support and comfort. 11th hour volunteers can also provide support for loved ones of patients that are imminent or in a crisis.

If you or anyone you know is interested in helping with any of the opportunities above, please contact:

Chereé Pittman: (850) 575-4998 or lashunda.pittman@covenanthospice.org

*Green sheets are due no later than
September 10, 2010*

*Please turn in green sheets by the date
above to insure that your hours are
recorded and credit is given.*

Thank you.



Licensed in Florida in 1983

1545 Raymond Diehl Road, Suite 102
TALLAHASSEE, FLORIDA 32308