

VOLUNTEER DEPARTMENT NEWSLETTER

Celebrating the impact. Honoring the mementos. Looking ahead.

As we welcome the final quarter of the year, we're taking a moment to celebrate the incredible impact our volunteers continue to make across our five-state service area.

Our quarterly Volunteer Program Newsletter was created to bring our volunteer community together to share stories behind service, recognize the people who make a difference every day and highlight the programs and opportunities happening throughout our organization.

The final months of the year bring opportunities to honor our Veterans, give thanks, spread holiday cheer, and create meaningful memories for the patients and families we serve. It's a season that reminds us just how powerful connection, presence and kindness can be.

We invite you to celebrate with us, share in the stories, and see the many ways our volunteers are making a difference. To every volunteer across our organization: THANK YOU! Thank you for your time, compassion, showing up and for being such an important part of the care we provide. Here's to celebrating Q3 and making the most of every meaningful moment still to come in Q4.



VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

We continue to meet and talk with incredible people that want to give back and support our hospice patients at their end of life. But we are always looking for more hearts that want to serve! Take a look at our list and see if anything stands out to you. Or maybe pass along to a friend or family member who could benefit from volunteering their time.

Please reach out, we would love to hear from you and work together on how we can best utilize your skills and abilities.



In-Person Companionship



Companionship Phone Calls



Vigil Volunteering



Administrative Work



Writing Letters



Sewing



Pet Therapy



Art Therapy



Aroma Therapy



➞ FOR MORE INFORMATION GO TO: ➞

WWW.TCT-CARES.COM/VOLUNTEER

Program Spotlight: Pen Pals

A little encouragement can go a long way. What began as a way to bring connection to patients during the isolation of COVID-19 has grown into a meaningful program that continues to brighten lives.

When patients couldn't have visitors during the pandemic, our Pen-Pal Program was created to bridge that gap. Today, more than 100 volunteers write to our patients, creating thoughtful cards filled with encouragement, kindness and reminders that someone is thinking of them.

The impact reaches beyond the patient. A thoughtful card can give a patient, something to look forward to, provide comfort during a difficult day, or spark a conversation with family members and caregivers.

Behind every card is a volunteer who took the time to create something personal, and a patient or family member who gets to experience that kindness.



VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT

We are excited to spotlight a volunteer from each state! Please take a moment to read about a handful of our amazing volunteers!

INDIANA Chris



Chris is celebrating 11 years of service as a dedicated volunteer. Chris is someone we can always count on. Her flexibility and willingness to help wherever she is needed make her such a valuable part of our Crown Point team. Chris visits patients in facilities as well as in their homes, providing companionship, a caring presence, and much needed respite for caregivers.

Whether she is spending time with a patient or simply giving a family caregiver the opportunity to step away and recharge, Chris makes a meaningful difference through her time, kindness, and dependability.

Thank you, for your continued dedication to our patients, families and your community.

ILLINOIS Isobel

Isobel was a field volunteer for us and had the opportunity to create a Life Review Book with her patient. Life review is a meaningful activity that invites patients to reflect on and share important memories, experiences, accomplishments, and milestones from their life. Life review can be especially meaningful in hospice, as it gives patients an opportunity to reflect on their life, share their stories, preserve memories for loved ones and focus on the moments that have been most important to them.

Although Isobel has returned to college, she now stays connected to our patients through our Pen-Pal Program. We are grateful for volunteers like Isobel who find creative ways to bring connection and encouragement to our patients throughout their hospice journey.

MICHIGAN Jeanine

Jeanine began volunteering with us November 2023 as a companion volunteer. Jeanine has completed a total of nearly 175 hours of



volunteering. Jeanine regularly visits multiple patients providing superior companionship. She loves to talk and tell stories. Jeanine believes everyone deserves love and kindness and does her best to spread those to all! Fun fact she has a great love for animals! THANK YOU JEANINE!

PENNSYLVANIA Angie



Angie is a companion volunteer who cares for our patients in Lehigh Valley. She loves meeting new people and being part of a team. Her gardening hobby was particularly helpful recently

when The Care Team held a Flower Bar at the facility where Angie's patient currently resides. She was able to help the residents create their own bouquets! Thank you for helping our community and patients.

OHIO Joanne

Joanne is a truly special volunteer in Carroll County. She was the very first volunteer signed up three years ago, and has continued to show what it means to serve others with a kind and caring heart.

She volunteers with Meals on Wheels and is always looking for neighbors and anyone in need. Jo is the kind of person who will drop everything to lend a helping hand. Her generosity, compassion, and willingness to serve others make her an incredible volunteer and an even more wonderful person. We are truly grateful that Jo was the first volunteer welcomed three years ago.

Thank you, Jo, for your kindness, your dedication, and your caring heart. You make a difference in so many lives!

ACROSS OUR FIVE STATES IN Q3

MICHIGAN

During Q3, our Michigan team launched a special Volunteer Engagement Initiative on one simple question: What motivates and matters to our volunteers? We began by asking our volunteers to complete a Social Motivations Survey, helping us better understand what inspires them, what they value and what keeps them connected to our hospice community.

We also introduced an “About Me” page, where volunteers could share some of their favorite things from candy to scents to hobbies.

We took what we learned and turned it into personalize volunteer appreciation! Volunteers received gifts like their favorite scent, candy, craft or hobby related items.

Our Pen Pal volunteers received something special too, stamps to help support their continued letter writing.

We are so grateful for the time, compassion, and heart our Michigan volunteers bring to the patients and families we serve every day!

OHIO

TCT Ohio participated in the “Aging on Track” expo in Akron. Local seniors connected with over 30 organizations. They had the opportunity to go down the hill in a soap box derby car!



They also participated in National Assisted Living week at The Gables of Green. They made cannoli's, caprese kabobs and Italian sodas for their Traveling Around the World Theme!

ACROSS OUR FIVE STATES IN Q3

PENNSYLVANIA

TCT RNCM Dee has an amazing green thumb! Her flower garden had an amazing year so she decided to share the joy. Dee cut buckets (and buckets) of flowers and brought little vases to two of our facilities. The Volunteer Coordinator and Angie, a companion volunteer, helped residents pick what flowers they wanted and helped arrange for their rooms. It was a truly beautiful event!



INDIANA

Indiana is excited to highlight two events they were a part of in Q3. The first event was a booth at the Duneland YMCA senior expo (photo on left). They had a great time interacting with the community and sharing about The Care Team and our Volunteer opportunities. The second event they were a part of was the Michigan City Senior Center Harvest Ball (photo on right). The Care Team was a proud gold sponsor for the event.



ILLINOIS

Illinois had the honor of celebrating a couple's 72nd wedding anniversary. It was a beautiful day filled with laughter, family, stories of beginnings, and adventures shared over a lifetime. They captured photos of a beautiful family and of parents who had set an incredible example of love, hard work, and commitment. One week later, they lost the matriarch of that family. Thankfully they'll have the memories of that special day - the laughter, the stories, the love and the joy of having everyone together. We get to help families celebrate life, create memories and find joy - even in the midst of difficult times.



HONORING THOSE WHO SERVED

This Veterans Day, we pause to recognize the Veterans who have given so much.

On November 11th, we honor veterans from every branch and every generation. Veterans Day is more than a day on the calendar, it is a moment to stop and say thank you.

We honor the millions of Americans who have answered the call to serve, recognizing the courage, commitment, and sacrifices that came with that service. From those who served decades ago to those who recently returned home, every veteran has a story worth hearing and a contribution worth remembering.

This Veterans Day, may we take a moment to listen, remember, and express our gratitude to those who served our country.



Do you want to help us honor a veteran?

There is always an opportunity to make a veteran feel remembered. Volunteers can support veteran patients through companionship, special recognition events, veteran focused activities, pinning ceremonies and other meaningful opportunities. Connect with your local Volunteer Coordinator to learn more!!



Contact your volunteer coordinators
VOLUNTEERS@TCT-CARES.COM



What can you do next?



refer a friend



follow us on facebook



visit our website



share stories for next quarter's newsletter

THE MOMENTS THAT MATTER



Every volunteer gives something different.

A few hours. A listening ear. A handwritten card. A friendly visit. A willingness to simply be there.

But what may feel like a small moment to one person can mean so much to another.

As we move into the final months of the year, we're reminded that meaningful connections don't require grand gestures. Sometimes, the smallest acts of kindness become the moments people remember most.



THE NEXT MOMENT STARTS WITH YOU!

There is always another story to be part of.
Another person to encourage. Another moment to make meaningful.