

As a volunteer you gain an opportunity to:

- Work as a member of a health care team;
- Help and serve others;
- Network with other volunteers and healthcare professionals;
- Develop personally;
- Obtain references for employment, scholarships, bursaries;
- Make new friends
- Access Fitness Centres at SPH, SCH and RUH for a minimal fee
- Receive annual immunization vaccines
- Receive recognition including long service pins and appreciation events

The friend who can be
silent with us
in a moment of
despair or confusion,
who can stay with us
in an hour
of grief and bereavement,
who can tolerate
not knowing or healing,
and face with us
the reality
of our powerlessness,
that is the friend
who cares.

- Henri Nouwen



saskhealthauthority.ca

www.saskatoonhealthregion.ca/palliative-care

Revised July 2019

Volunteer Services in Palliative Care



"Green Skies and Purple Seas Sunset"
courtesy of Gina De Gorna

Palliative Care Services



Saskatchewan
Health Authority

What is the role of a Palliative Care Volunteer?

On a daily basis, volunteers support staff in the delivery of quality, compassionate healthcare to patients, clients, residents and families.

The Palliative Care Unit is a very specialized and complex unit. Volunteers will be with patients who are living with a life-limiting illness and their families to provide an atmosphere of caring and support.

- Volunteers are an important part of the team approach to Palliative Care.
- Volunteers are able to provide that extra special human touch which is so important at this time.
- Volunteers help enhance the quality of life for patients and families by providing compassionate support.
- The primary role of the volunteer is to visit with patients by providing companionship.
- The kind of tasks that volunteers do may vary.
- Volunteers can participate in bereavement events organized throughout the year.

Duties of a Palliative Care Companion

As a Palliative Care Companion you will have a unique role and opportunity to help create a better environment for others.

Volunteers can:

- Listen to or converse with patients and families, or just sit with them in silence
- Read to patients
- Listen to music
- Take patients for walks around the unit
- Provide caregiver relief for short periods of time—day or night
- Assist with outings, shopping and transportation
- Offer ongoing support to the bereaved
- Bake cookies on unit
- Help unit staff with tasks as directed
- Assist and participate with annual events and bereavement programs



Volunteer Selection and Training

Eligibility Requirements

- 16 years of age minimum
- 2-3 hour shift once a week for a minimum of a 6 month commitment.
- A good command of English both written and verbal
- Eligible to volunteer in Canada - must be able to present 1 piece of government issued photo I.D. in order to complete criminal record check.
- Must attend General Orientation to learn about our facilities; including Infection Control, Hand Hygiene, Emergency Preparedness and to gain skills in working in a Health Care environment.
- Volunteers are trained in Palliative Care and receive ongoing education, support and supervision.
- Recommend one year wait time if you have personally experienced a loss.

Application Process

- On Saskatchewan Health Authority web-site select VOLUNTEER WORKFORCE.
- Select the site you are interested in.
- Review all positions that currently are recruiting; review duty description at each site based on vacancies.
- Click on the "Apply on-line".
- Fill out application form completely; your application will not be accepted if it is not complete.
- Once application has been completed online you will be contacted by the site for further instructions.