



# Willamette Valley Hospice

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April 5, 2009

Dear Editor:

April 19<sup>th</sup> through April 25<sup>th</sup> is National Volunteer Week, a time to recognize and celebrate the thousands of people who share their time and talents in communities across the country. Despite the difficult times our country is facing, it is inspiring to see that men and women, young and old, are still committed to serving others through volunteering. I am a hospice volunteer at Willamette Valley Hospice, and I am privileged to be one of the many who offer hope, dignity, and love to those at the end of life's journey.



Willamette Valley Hospice came into my life almost five years ago with the passing of my mother. Their wonderful care aided her through her struggles with cancer, while maintaining a stable and supportive environment for the rest of my family. Being only thirteen years old, it was incredibly hard for me to go through the change, losing the dearest and most loved person in my life. Fortunately, even after her death, hospice provided care for my family and me through supportive programs and encouragement. Now, years after my mother's death, I am happy to realize the great impact and benefits that hospice has brought into my life. Because of the support that I found in their programs, I was able to work through my grief and still strive to become a leader in my community. To give back to such a helpful cause, I now volunteer my time to support Willamette Valley Hospice and its patients. I strongly believe that these programs and services should be carried on for others in the future, giving hope and resources to those in need.

Before I became involved with hospice, I was not aware of the incredible amount of time that hospice volunteers dedicate to selfless support and care for patients and their families. More than 400,000 volunteers provide millions of hours of service through our nation's hospices every year. More than 1.4 million people received compassionate care from hospice last year and its volunteers serve as an integral part of the care team. Everyone involved demonstrates their self-less attitude, greatly impacting the lives of others with their small actions of comfort and kindness.

Serving as a hospice volunteer allows me to make sure that the people I care for and their families find hope within each day, have their dignity preserved, and are surrounded by love even in the final moments of life. I encourage others to learn more about hospice and the volunteer services. By contacting Willamette Valley Hospice at 503-588-3600, opportunities are endless in becoming a part of the genuine care given to others.

Sincerely,

Emma Kraft  
Volunteer, Willamette Valley Hospice

