

Regional Hospice and Home Care’s Veteran-to-Veteran Volunteer Program aims to pair recruited Veteran Volunteers with hospice patients who have been identified as Veterans. Once paired with hospice patients who also have military experience, Veteran Volunteers have the unique ability to relate and connect with each patient thereby creating an environment where life review and healing may occur.

What is the importance of Veteran Volunteers?

- Volunteers are essential to the delivery of quality hospice care.
- Veterans are a part of a distinct culture with their own common language and experience.
- When Veterans interact, their common language and experience can form a strong relational bond.
- The camaraderie created between Veterans has proven to be supportive for all involved.

What activities can Veteran Volunteers do?

- Assist Veterans in reminiscing/telling life stories.
- Educate and assist patients in receiving Veteran benefits.
- Take part in pinning ceremonies or distribute certificates for Veterans Day and other recognition events.
- Assist in replacing lost medals.
- Provide transportation.
- Veteran Volunteers will NOT provide medical or personal care.

How will Veteran Volunteers be trained?

- Veteran volunteers will receive a 24-hour training to become hospice volunteers, orienting them to the hospice philosophy, the various members of the interdisciplinary team, and the role of the volunteer.

Supporting Veteran Volunteers

- Veteran volunteers will be supported through twice-monthly meetings, which will give them the opportunity to discuss their patients, process their emotions, and troubleshoot with team members and other volunteers.
- Continuing education will be provided, including Veteran-specific content to staff and volunteers.
- Veteran Volunteers will be recognized at our annual Volunteer Recognition Luncheon.

Anyone interested in volunteering should fill out an application online at <https://regionalhospicect.org/volunteer/>. For more information, please contact Mary Beth Hickey, Volunteer Director at (203) 702-7415 or by email at MHickey@RegionalHospiceCT.org.

All volunteers must submit an application & three references, complete a background check, and interview with the volunteer department.

Regional Hospice and Home Care’s team of experienced clinicians have been providing physical, emotional, spiritual and bereavement support to children, adults and their families through our palliative and hospice care programs for the past 35 years. Regional Hospice and Home Care is a nonprofit, state-licensed and Medicare-certified home health care and hospice agency. Now, with the opening of our new private-room, specialty hospital for palliative and end-of-life care — the Center for Comfort Care & Healing — Regional Hospice and Home Care can bring that same hope and compassionate care close to home and under one roof.