

One of the greatest rewards of becoming a hospice volunteer is the heart-warming response you receive from patients and their families.

*“I deeply appreciate the sympathy you have shown me at this difficult time in my life. The loss of [my loved one] leaves a great void but your kindness and generosity have begun to fill it. From my heart, thank you.”*

*“Some people don’t believe there are angels—I know better—I had six or eight in my house helping take care of my wife. We had a lot of fun together! All my love goes out to you girls. You will never be forgotten.”*



*“I want to thank you for all the times you came to sit with [loved one] while I had to go to doctor appointments, etc. I felt very secure having you there.*

*Also, thank you for sitting with our home during the funeral. I’m glad you had no unwanted guests but that does happen sometimes when people are gone to a funeral, and I felt relieved to have you there.*

*Your volunteer work is important for Hospice families.”*

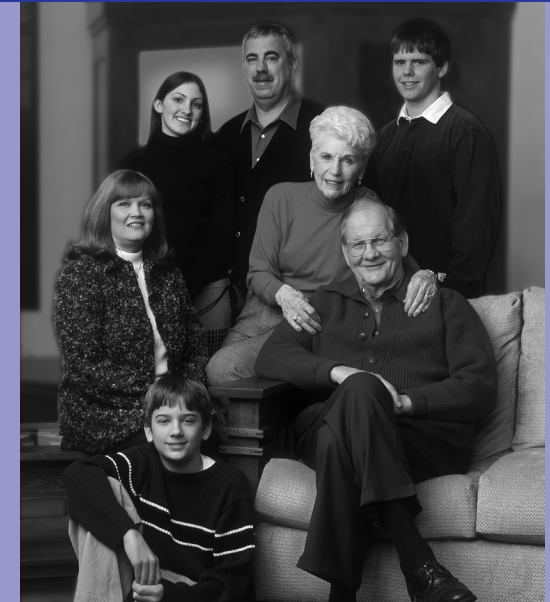
## Missouri’s Health Care Quality Leader

In November 2006, Saint Luke’s Health System was recognized with the Missouri Quality Award, the state recognition for excellence in quality leadership.

Modeled after the prestigious Malcolm Baldrige National Quality Award, the Missouri Quality Award is one of the nation’s most respected state-level quality awards. Saint Luke’s is the first health care organization to ever earn this award four times, because Saint Luke’s Hospital was recognized with the award in 1995, 1999, and 2002.



## Volunteer with Saint Luke’s Hospice



### Why Be A Volunteer

It’s not for fortune  
It’s not for fame  
It’s not for only personal gain  
It’s not for love of fellowman  
Or just to lend a helping hand  
It’s not for medals worn with pride  
It’s for the feeling deep inside  
Of helping others far and near  
That makes you want to volunteer!  
—By Ann Myhre, age 15



## About Hospice

Hospice care neither hastens death or prolongs life, but rather works in partnership with each patient, his or her family, and the physician to help make the end of life a time of enrichment, resolution, comfort, and love.

While the decision about whether to use hospice care is a very personal one, many people and their families find it to be one of the best decisions they have ever made.

*“When medical science can no longer add days to your life, hospice care can add more life to each day.”*

## The Hospice Team

Individuals and families facing the end of life have special needs: physical, emotional, psychosocial, and spiritual.

Our hospice team consists of doctors and nurses from Saint Luke’s Health System. They use sophisticated methods of pain and symptom control that enable the patient to live as fully and comfortably as possible.

Our social workers, chaplains, and bereavement counselors help patients and their families deal with the concerns and challenges related to disease and death.

Also available to the patients are home health aids and most importantly, you, the volunteers.

*“You were a blessing to me. I want you to know how very much I appreciated our talks and your warm, caring hugs.”*

There are many opportunities as a volunteer to help make a difference for these patients and families who are faced with an end of life diagnosis.

## Direct Care Volunteer

Being a direct care volunteer includes:

- Companionship
- Respite care—provide care and support for the patient while the caregiver gets out to run errands
- Household assistance—light housekeeping, picking up around the house
- Errands
- Transportation

*“You are a team of angels. I can’t begin to tell you how wonderful you all were. Thanks!”*

## Indirect Patient Care Volunteer

Indirect care volunteers include:

- Office support
- Public awareness—involves keeping your eyes and ears open for opportunities to promote Saint Luke’s Hospice
- Fund raising
- Special events

*“Thank you for the time you gave of yourself to me and my family.”*

## Bereavement Care Volunteer

Bereavement care volunteers can help provide support in the following ways:

- Companionship
- Cards/letters of support
- Becoming a “sounding board” for feelings and emotions
- Re-introducing the surviving loved one to activities in the community
- Attending grief support groups with the family members
- Remembering birthdays

At Saint Luke’s Hospice we continue to contact families after the death of a patient for up to 13 months to offer supportive counseling for dealing with grief and loss.

For more information on volunteer services and opportunities for Saint Luke’s Hospice, please contact:

Community Events Coordinator  
3100 Broadway, Suite 1000  
Kansas City, MO 64111

**(816) 360-8009**

or

main number

**(816) 756-1160**