

## What is hospice?

- Hospice is a program that provides care for a person who is terminally ill with weeks to months to live.
- Hospice assists the patient to remain in their home setting surrounded by family and loved ones till death.
- Hospice accepts death as a natural part of life. We offer compassionate care aimed at helping people live as comfortably as possible while preserving their dignity.
- Hospice uses a comprehensive team of trained professionals and volunteers to care for the physical, emotional, social, and spiritual needs of those nearing end-of-life.
- Hospice will talk openly about the dying process with patients, families and caregivers, but also respects the wishes of those who do not want to talk about dying.
- Hospice provides bereavement support after death to the family and caregivers.

*Aspirus At Home does not discriminate against any person on the basis of race, color, national origin, disability, or age in admission, treatment or participation in its programs, services and activities, or in employment. For further information about this policy, please contact the Patient Services Director at: (906) 337.5700, TDD access 1.800.649.3777.*

### Aspirus At Home

311 Sixth Street,  
Calumet, Michigan 49913  
[aspirus.org](http://aspirus.org)

### For information, call

906.337.5700, M-F; 8-5;  
906.487.9305 after hours or  
on weekends and holidays.  
Toll free 1.800.594.7053  
Fax: 906.337.9929



## Aspirus At Home Hospice Volunteers



## Who are volunteers?

Volunteers are caring, thoughtful and big-hearted people from all walks of life who draw immense satisfaction from serving others. Through their unique and personal life experiences and perspectives, volunteers offer invaluable caregiving that is very much appreciated.

## How do I become a volunteer?

Please contact the volunteer coordinator for Aspirus At Home at 906.337.5700 to receive an information packet. Special training, support and education is offered to help you feel comfortable and prepared to serve. We ask that you wait one year after experiencing the loss of a loved one before taking the training.



## What do volunteers do?

### Support for Patients

Volunteers lend support to hospice patients by visiting, reading, taking walks, scenic car rides, writing letters, enjoying music or just quietly sitting and being there.

### Respite for Family Members

Volunteers can assist with shopping or household maintenance, or allow family caregivers the opportunity to run necessary errands and take time away from home. Family members also appreciate a visit from a compassionate friend who may understand what they are going through.

### Bereavement Support

Hospice volunteers may have an interest in working closely with the hospice bereavement professionals. Duties range from assisting as a support group facilitator to helping with mailings.

### Administrative Work

Volunteers with clerical skills can serve others by helping in the office with administrative tasks.



### Audio Storytelling

Volunteers can assist patients who would like to tell their life story through audio recordings or written transcripts that can be given to the family as a gift of remembrance.

### Teddy Bear Care

A special project provided by volunteers is to make teddy bears out of a favorite clothing item of patients. Aspirus At Home provides the pattern and the family provides the article of clothing. The bears are then given to the family as a gift and remembrance of their lives. Volunteers place their names on the "Teddy Bear Care" list and are called upon when bears are needed.