



*Having lost my husband to cancer before hospice services were available in Alexander County, I saw the need and value of hospice. Even when you have the support of family and friends, sometimes our support network needs assistance. I enjoy being a part of the hospice family as a volunteer.*

—Nancy

HOSPICE & HOME CARE OF ALEXANDER COUNTY, INC. believes in the beauty of living and the dignity of dying, while promoting and ensuring quality care for those in need of health services. The desire of HOSPICE & HOME CARE is that the patient and family will live life to its fullest with optimal comfort and support.



**HOSPICE  
AND HOME CARE  
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COUNTY, INC.**

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*HOSPICE & HOME CARE OF ALEXANDER COUNTY, INC. provides compassionate care to the terminally ill of our county without regard to race, sex, religion, disease, handicap, national origin, age or ability to pay.*



**Volunteers**  
*Caring  
from  
the Heart*



**HOSPICE  
AND HOME CARE  
of ALEXANDER  
COUNTY, INC.**



HOSPICE BEGAN IN THIS COUNTRY in the early 1970s as a largely volunteer-driven community movement, and volunteers continue to be at the heart of hospice. The 400,000 plus hospice volunteers at work around the United States are an essential part of the hospice philosophy of care.

HOSPICE BEGAN IN THIS COUNTY in 1985 when Nita Wagoner saw a need for quality end of life care and services right here at home...in Alexander County, NC. A volunteer herself, Wagoner recruited volunteers, beginning the program with all volunteers...including a local physician, nurses, and office staff. Today HOSPICE & HOME CARE OF ALEXANDER COUNTY, INC. has a fulltime staff dedicated to helping both patients and their families live life to its fullest with optimal comfort and support. However, volunteers continue to play a vital role in the work of Hospice in Alexander County. In fact, it is federally mandated under Medicare that five percent of all patient care hours be provided by trained volunteers.

There are many ways in which a hospice volunteer may serve the terminally ill and their families:

- Friendly visits to patients and their families;
- Respite relief for family caregivers;
- Bereavement services for family caregivers;
- Office tasks such as typing, filing, computer entry, mailings, etc.;

- Becoming a member of our Speakers' Bureau, giving community presentations and attending health fairs;
- Assist at conferences and training sessions.

We invite you to explore the opportunities for hospice volunteer work. Volunteers receive comprehensive training, and enjoy flexible hours, interesting and rewarding work assignments. Most of all, hospice volunteers make a difference in the lives of hospice patients and their families.

Serving residents of Alexander and surrounding counties in North Carolina since 1985, HOSPICE & HOME CARE OF ALEXANDER COUNTY, INC. specializes in easing the physical, emotional and spiritual discomforts that each patient and their family face as the end of life nears. For more information about hospice, transitions care, advance care planning, or volunteer opportunities, contact HOSPICE & HOME CARE OF ALEXANDER COUNTY, INC. at 828.632.5026 or visit [www.hospiceandhomecareofalexander.org](http://www.hospiceandhomecareofalexander.org).

## How Can You Help?

**BECOME A VOLUNTEER** • There are many volunteer opportunities with Hospice. All volunteers receive indepth training on how to care for and support terminally ill patients and their families.

- **Direct Patient/Family Volunteers** give 1 to 3 hours per week sitting with a patient, running errands, socializing, and helping in any way that is agreeable to both the patient/family and the volunteer.
- **Bereavement Support Volunteers** continue the support of Hospice to the family for one year following the death of the patient by visiting, sending cards, and being a friend.
- **Volunteers** may serve on various Hospice committees.
- **Support Volunteers** by assisting with fund raising and public relations events.

**INVOLVE YOUR CHURCH** • Churches serve as a foundation for providing volunteers from various faiths in the community. If your church would like to be involved with Hospice, please contact the Hospice Volunteer Coordinator.

**MAKE A DONATION** • Monetary gifts made in memory or honor of persons, community efforts and businesses all help fulfill our mission to provide compassionate care to all patients and their families regardless of their ability to pay.

