



## **HOSPICE VOLUNTEERS NEEDED! GVNA HEALTHCARE ANNOUNCES VOLUNTEER TRAINING**

GVNA HealthCare Hospice Program is looking for volunteers who are available during daytime hours to join our Hospice interdisciplinary team. "Volunteers are a vital part of our team who assist us in serving the needs of our Hospice patients and their families throughout the greater Gardner area (including Athol, Orange, Fitchburg, Leominster and Lunenburg)," according to Dawn Lielasus, Volunteer and Complementary Care Coordinator.

"Hospice volunteers dedicate their time and support by providing comfort, compassion and a caring presence for the terminally ill and their families," said Lielasus. "The Hospice Program is also in need of complementary care practitioners in the fields of massage therapy, reiki, pet and music therapy, aromatherapy, guided imagery and relaxation techniques and other modalities to work with patients on a volunteer basis," she said. "Volunteers are assigned to perform a variety of important and rewarding duties, such as providing caregivers with respite care, supportive listening and companionship for caregivers, friendly visitation for in home activities like reading, playing cards or games, creative projects and crafts and more!" she added. Volunteers sometimes prefer performing clerical work or assisting with special projects in an office environment with our hospice staff.

Lielasus also added that, the only requirements are a caring heart, dependability, compassion, reliable transportation and a willingness to serve patients from diverse backgrounds.

A **FREE**, newly designed 20-hour Hospice volunteer training program will be offered. The required training can now be completed in just three weeks. The training will be held on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 1:00pm - 4:00pm, May 10 - May 26. For more information or an application, contact Dawn Lielasus, Volunteer and Complementary Care Coordinator at 978-632-1230, ext. 340 or by email at [dawn.lielasus@gvnahealthcare.org](mailto:dawn.lielasus@gvnahealthcare.org).