Happy November Birthday!

1 Pat Derby
1 Jean Rorke
3 Lou Spock
4 Carlos Moreno
10 Wanda Wallop
14 Lynette Chase
15 Olive Hanes
15 Jeffrey Scheirer
18 Gerry Martin
20 Bonnie Mueller
21 Joan Linderhofen
21 Cindi Strawley
23 Jill Hudson
24 Melinda Taylor
27 Joan Adams
27 Russ Franklin
29 Barb Veenhof
30 Marian Doyle

We apologize if we have missed your birthday. Please let us know so we can add your special day to our list.

New role for bereavement volunteers

What will bereavement volunteers do?

Volunteers now have the opportunity to help with the growing needs of bereavement services. Special bereavement volunteers will assist the grief support counselors by making phone calls, writing sympathy letters and doing 13-month surveys, reaching out to everyone on the family and friends contact list. They will also have the opportunity to assist with the regular grief support and social groups; ongoing events for children like Hope and Healing with Horses and the summer Camp Safe Harbor bereavement camp; special activities; and bereavement notes.

Specialized training will be offered to volunteers who have completed patient care training.

Bereavement services will also be provided to the families of patients who were referred to hospice but died before being admitted and to anyone in the local community who needs grief support.

Training is Nov. 9 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Philmore Commons, suite 104

If you have not already completed the patient care training, some of the objectives will be covered on November 2 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Contact Volunteer Services at 410-543-2590 or e-mail us at volservices@coastalhospice.org to register for the training programs.
IT’S NEVER TOO LATE TO THANK A VETERAN, EVEN AT THE END OF LIFE

Americans across the country celebrate Veterans Day on November 11, a special day to salute the men and women who have bravely served our country in the military. These fellow Americans have made profound sacrifices in defense of freedom, and they deserve our heartfelt thanks and appreciation. Honoring our nation’s veterans includes supporting them throughout their lives, especially at the end.

As our nation marks Veterans Day, Coastal Hospice deepens our commitment to increase veterans’ access to the compassionate, high quality care available from the nation’s hospice and palliative care providers. One of the ways we’re making this happen is through our active involvement with We Honor Veterans, a program of the National Hospice and Palliative Care Organization that was created in collaboration with the Department of Veterans Affairs.

There is something else that’s important for every American to do – and that is to say “thank you” to our country’s veterans, not just on November 11, but all year long. Ask your friends, neighbors, coworkers and others in your community whether they have served in the military (you may be surprised how many have) and thank those who have served for their sacrifice.

It surprises many Americans to learn that every day, 1,800 veterans die. That’s more than 680,000 veterans every year – or 25 percent of all the people who die in this country annually.

If you know a Veteran who is in need of the special care hospice brings to people facing serious and life-limiting illness, please reach out and help them learn more about care options by visiting WeHonorVeterans.org.

To all our nation’s veterans, thank you.

Want to help?

If you have military service and want to volunteer in Coastal Hospice’s We Honor Veterans program, contact Volunteer Services at 410-543-2590 or volservices@coastalhospice.org. Donations of new blankets in patriotic colors are also welcome.

Flu shot reminder

Flu shots are required for all volunteers with direct patient contact and all volunteers at Coastal Hospice at the Lake. Please send the completed form to Volunteer Services as soon as possible and no later than Nov. 1. A volunteer who is required to get a flu shot and declines must still complete the form and will be required to wear a mask while in patient areas during the flu season. Thanks for helping us stay compliant.
A hospice nurse was recently asked, “How can you work in hospice – it must be so sad!”

She answered, “I love providing highly-skilled, compassionate care because I know I make a huge difference in the quality of a person’s life. I love that I can use my training as a nurse to bring comfort and dignity to my patients, and seeing the relief on their faces and on the faces of those who care for them. I love that I can offer practical solutions to patients and families and help them find more meaning moments at the end of life.”

Hospice isn’t about dying but is about living as fully as possible despite a life-limiting illness.

November is National Hospice and Palliative Care Month, a time to draw attention and raise awareness of this special kind of care.

What is Hospice Care
Hospice care provides pain management, symptom control, psychosocial support and spiritual care to patients and their families when a cure is not possible. The nation’s hospices serve more than 1.5 million people every year – and their family caregivers, too.

Hospice care is fully covered by Medicare, Medicaid, and most private insurance plans and HMOs.

Many people only consider hospice care in the final days of life, but hospice is ideally suited to care for patients and family caregivers for the final months of life.

What is Palliative Care
Palliative care brings the same interdisciplinary team care as hospice to people earlier in the course of a serious illness and can be provided along with other treatments they may still be receiving from their doctor.

Hospices are the largest providers of palliative care services and can help answer questions about what might be most appropriate for a person. Many hospitals also have palliative care teams available to provide services.

Hospice and palliative care are available to people of all ages with any serious or life-limiting illness.

Hospice and palliative care combine the highest level of quality medical care with the emotional and spiritual support for patients and family caregivers. Hospice and palliative care can make a profound difference and help maximize the quality of life for all those they care for.

Newsletter mailing list being updated

Our goal is to keep our mail and email lists up to date for the distribution of the monthly volunteer newsletter. The newsletter is one way to comply with requirements for ongoing volunteer education. If you prefer receiving the newsletter electronically, or if you no longer wish to receive it, please let us know at 410-543-2590 or volservices@coastalhospice.org. Thanks for helping us keep our records current.
Coastal Hospice Volunteer News

Coastal Hospice Volunteer News Editor: Sally Rankin

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Coordinator Chatter
At a recent Chew N Chat meeting, we discussed the value of sharing memorable volunteer experiences with other volunteers and learning from each other different ways to approach challenging situations. One way to encourage that exchange is a regular newsletter column. Volunteers are invited to share their stories or issues for feedback. Your input can be sent by email without including any protected patient information.

This year the Coastal Hospice Board of Directors adopted eight organizational goals. One goal relates directly to volunteers — “Goal 3: Value our volunteers by creating an experience that allows their passion and commitment to benefit all.” We are striving to achieve that goal by encouraging greater interaction among volunteers and providing more opportunities for that.

We look forward to hearing from you. Contact Volunteer Services at 410-543-2590 or volservices@coastalhospice.org.

Volunteers needed for the annual Santa Run

Each year teams of volunteers visit patients to deliver a combination of fruit baskets, blankets and bears and to offer seasonal holiday cheer. To make the visit more festive, volunteers dress as Santas and elves. Some volunteers have already offered to help, but we could use more!

Volunteer Services provides the hats and name tags, and the Santas and elves provide their own costumes. However, if you are willing to be a Santa and do not have a costume, we would be glad to help. Elves also serve as drivers and need vehicles large enough to carry Santa’s gifts. Our office works with the elves to make sure driving directions are clear. The teams arrive at the Volunteer Services office the morning of the run where they receive directions and the items for delivery.

Santa Run ~ Tuesday, Dec. 13 through Thursday, Dec 15

If you want to join the festivities, please contact us at 410-543-2590 or volservices@coastalhospice.org.