

Becoming a Hospice

volunteer



BRIDGINGLIFE

Compassionate care for life's transitions



About BridgingLife

Serving patients in Carroll, Frederick and Baltimore counties, Baltimore City and Pennsylvania

An affiliate of LifeBridge Health, BridgingLife has been providing high-quality, patient-centered care to terminally ill individuals and their loved ones for more than 35 years. Through specialized nursing services, along with spiritual and emotional support, BridgingLife helps patients live out the remainder of their days in dignity, in the warmth and familiarity of their own home, a healthcare setting or one of our inpatient facilities. For grieving family members, BridgingLife offers a host of resources, including grief counselors, a comprehensive bereavement center with a resource library and support groups for all ages. BridgingLife is accredited by the Community Health Accreditation Program (CHAP).

It is encouraged that surviving family members wait a minimum of one year following the loss of a loved one before volunteering.

Volunteering for BridgingLife:

a life-changing Experience

BridgingLife volunteers play an important role in the lives of those with life-limiting illnesses and their loved ones. Whether working directly with patients and families, providing administrative and fundraising support, or serving as a camp “buddy” at our annual retreat for grieving children, their contributions are invaluable. Benefits also extend to the volunteers themselves, many of whom cite hospice volunteering as one of the most rewarding experiences of their lives.

While some volunteer positions require extensive training (provided by BridgingLife), the most important qualification is a genuine commitment to meeting the needs of terminally ill patients and their loved ones. Volunteers do not need any previous hospice experience.



What opportunities are available?

Our volunteers serve in many capacities depending on their talents, interests and availability. Here are some of the ways they make a difference:

- **Companionship** – These volunteers serve as friendly helpers for patients and their families, either in private residences, one of BridgingLife’s inpatient facilities (Dove House or Northwest or Sinai Hospitals) or healthcare settings such as nursing homes and assisted living communities. Specific duties may include providing respite care to family members, running errands or simply spending time reading, talking and listening to patients.
- **Vigil** – Our inpatient facilities welcome the use of vigil volunteers to sit with patients in their final moments of life. Our specially trained volunteers offer comfort and a supportive presence at that time.
- **Veterans** – A participant in the We Honor Veterans program, BridgingLife has implemented a variety of programs to educate staff and the community about the needs of veterans and to recognize their contributions. Military veterans visit with and honor veteran patients for their dedicated service to our country.
- **Fundraising and special events** – BridgingLife relies on volunteers to help organize and support key fundraising and outreach events that help us fulfill our pledge to care for all patients, regardless of their ability to pay.
- **Administrative** – Office volunteers assist with a variety of tasks that help BridgingLife function smoothly, including filing, letter and electronic correspondence, fielding phone calls or serving as a greeter or receptionist at our inpatient facilities, and other clerical duties.
- **Professional** – BridgingLife is grateful for the many professionals who donate their time and services for the betterment of our patients. Professional volunteers include, but are not limited to, massage therapists, hairstylists, Reiki practitioners and music therapists. These volunteers must have a current license or certification in their area of expertise.

- **Pet visits** – The unconditional love and attention from a pet helps bring smiles and comfort to our patients. Those who have trained, or would like to train, their pet by a pet therapy organization may volunteer to visit patients in their homes, assisted living facilities or our inpatient facilities. The volunteer coordinator can help facilitate choosing a training program, if needed.
- **Camp T.R.** – A weekend retreat for children grieving the loss of a loved one, Camp T.R. combines recreational activities, such as art, swimming and music, with grief education and support. Volunteers serve as camp “buddies” and assist with logistics and planning. A one-day training session is required.
- **Additional volunteer opportunities** – These tasks can be performed in the comfort of your home and include making support phone calls, writing handwritten notes to patients and staff, and creating meaningful keepsakes for our veterans, first responders and those who served our community and country as a Stars For Our Troops Star Maker.
- **Groups and donations** – We offer a variety of customized volunteer opportunities for service and church groups.

What about training and support?

Volunteers are required to complete a training course consisting of two in-person classes and a series of online video-based training. This training helps participants better understand a patient’s needs and prepares them for the experiences they may encounter while serving as a BridgingLife volunteer. Some volunteer opportunities require additional training.

Interested in volunteering?

To learn more about volunteering, visit bridginglifecare.org to complete a volunteer application.



BRIDGINGLIFE

A LIFEBRIDGE HEALTH PARTNER

Palliative Care ♦ Hospice Care ♦ Grief Support & More
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Baltimore City & Pennsylvania

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