

FOUR SEASONS

The Care You Trust

Our volunteers are an integral part of the care that Four Seasons provides to our patients and families. We are required to provide patient support as well as administrative support and volunteers must provide a minimum of 5% of the total clinical hours. While it is necessary that we track hours and visits, the emotional impact that the volunteers have on the patients and families, is something that cannot be measured in numbers.

I am relatively new to my role as Volunteer Coordinator, having started in December 2019, but in my short time here I have been amazed many times over by the compassion that our volunteers have for the patients and families. When our volunteers accept a patient assignment, they do not know how long they will have with the patient, to provide support. Sometimes the volunteer may only have a few visits with the patient while other times they will have many months to enjoy their time. However, there is always the willingness to make a connection with the patient and their caregivers.

One volunteer who has shown such dedication and commitment to their patients is Mary Lou West. Mary Lou has been an active volunteer with Four Seasons since July 2015 and has served well over one hundred hours each year since. She says “After I retired teaching, I knew I wanted to continue to contribute to society. A friend suggested Four Seasons, and I found it the perfect fit. I enjoy visiting nursing homes because I meet such wonderful people.” She also volunteers in the community in other ways giving platelets and plasma regularly.

Her last assignment became a long-term assignment, which allowed her to develop quite a strong relationship with her patient and their spouse. As the patient declined, Mary Lou increased her visits, to be able to be there as additional support. This additional support was greatly appreciated by the spouse and Mary Lou’s commitment and compassion was remarked on by several members of the nursing staff. She set an example of the selflessness that allows a volunteer to offer support to a patient and their family in their greatest time of need.

Becoming a volunteer is a rewarding experience and there are many ways in which you can volunteer at Four Seasons. There are options in patient and family support, administrative work in the office to volunteering with the Home Store, we can find a role that suits your preferences. Mary Lou has found her comfort zone visiting patients in nursing homes and we are so honored that she has chosen and continues to be a Four Seasons volunteer. Thank you Mary Lou for your service!

Written by: Emily Malenchak, Four Seasons Volunteer & Vibrant 4 Life Coordinator

