

House Happenings



Summer 2024



Dear Friends,

As we navigate through another impactful summer at Grace House, I find myself reflecting on the unwavering support and dedication of our incredible community of volunteers. Their contributions have been nothing

short of inspiring, and I am deeply grateful for the profound impact they continue to make in the lives of those we serve.

At Grace House, volunteers are the heartbeat of our organization. Their selfless commitment and tireless efforts are instrumental in creating a nurturing and supportive environment for our residents. Whether they're singing to our residents, organizing our Walk for Grace, providing transportation, or assisting our caregivers, their presence and kindness do not go unnoticed.

Their dedication ripples out not only to our residents and staff, but to our organization as a whole. Volunteers save us more than \$150,000 annually through the donation of their time and talents; what a gift.

As we look ahead, I am excited about all the possibilities that lie before us. And if you are interested in volunteering, now is the time! With your continued support, I am confident that we will reach even greater heights in our efforts to care for our residents and community.

Thank you once again for being the heart of Grace House. Your generosity and compassion truly make a difference in the lives of so many.

With gratitude,

Holly Klein
Executive Director
Grace House Akron

NO ONE DIES ALONE

EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT

DEMI BENGSTON

Demi's Journey with Grace House

Demi has worked at Grace House since December 2021. She wanted to work for a startup where she could help people in the hospice field, and Grace House was the perfect fit for her. Since then, Demi says, "I've been lucky to have done a little bit of everything at Grace House Akron." From supervising caregivers to helping put together policies and procedures as our Volunteer Coordinator, Demi loves being one of the "go-to" people for everyone. Making our residents, staff, and volunteers feel welcomed comes naturally to Demi; she is often called the Director of Happiness at Grace House.



Building Connections and Friendships

"The friendships I've developed, building deeper connections, and hearing about the lives of our Grace House Family," are some of Demi's favorite things about working at Grace House. "We all want to be here. We all share the goal of making our residents feel safe, accepted, and heard. We make their lives a little easier and more comfortable in their final days. People really go out of their way to do more for those we are serving. It makes Grace House Akron an easy place to come to work."

The Heart of Hospice Care

Working at Grace House can be emotionally challenging at times, but Demi finds that having a hospice heart makes the job easier on her. She states, "What we are doing here is vital to our residents." When Demi is not at Grace House, she keeps busy with juggling her two little ones, mainly her daughter's hobbies, trips to new places, or visiting her friends and family to share many laughs. We love having Demi as part of our team.

"We all want to be here. We all share the goal of making our residents feel safe, accepted, and heard..."



Meet Volunteer, Tatyana!

Tatyana has volunteered at Grace House for 1.5 years; she assists with greeting guests at the welcome desk, preparing lunch for the residents, and planning fundraiser events.

From ICU Nurse to Volunteer

Tatyana wanted to stay involved in healthcare as she transitioned beyond bedside nursing. Like many nurses, she experienced a great deal of loss throughout the pandemic. It was incredibly challenging at times, but she enjoyed helping families navigate end-of-life situations. She found it peaceful sitting with her patients as they passed on. No one should die alone, the core tenet of Grace House, so we were a perfect fit for Tatyana. More fundamentally, she believes we have a duty to help one another. She wants to share her time and talents with organizations, missions, and people she believes in.

A Peaceful Place for All

Tatyana believes Grace House provides a peaceful place for underserved hospice patients without stable housing or a caregiver to pass on. She is hopeful that Grace House's success will have ripple effects throughout Ohio and the rest of the country. Imagine a Grace House in every county in Ohio!"

A Fundamental Human Right

Tatyana shares, "Hospice care should not be cost-prohibitive. Everyone deserves to pass peacefully, with dignity, surrounded by loved ones or at least someone who cares, in the comfort of a place like Grace House. Hospice care, like healthcare, is a fundamental human right. I am grateful to be part of a team that shares this value."

VOLUNTEER APPRECIATION DAY

We hosted a volunteer appreciation day with the help of First Serve Akron to celebrate our many wonderful volunteers. It was a beautiful day recognizing the time, commitment, and love we all share for our cause. Together, we are creating a world where no one dies alone.



WALK FOR GRACE

Our second annual summer event, Walk for Grace, held in June at the Akron Zoo, was a huge success. We had a great turnout, with an exciting scavenger hunt for all ages, fun prizes, and an in-person view of our silent auction items. Our volunteers and our events committee are the real heroes behind these successful events.



ARE YOU INTERESTED IN VOLUNTEERING?



We always welcome new volunteers! Volunteers are a vital part of Grace House Akron.

We offer a broad range of volunteer opportunities that help to serve our residents and staff. We welcome individuals, groups, families, and businesses. Volunteer opportunities range from one-time, weekly, or monthly depending on your desire and availability.

Because we work with hospice-enrolled individuals, we're always looking for volunteers with hospice and/or nursing experience. If you're a hospice volunteer or a current or retired nurse in the Akron, OH area, please consider joining us as a volunteer at Grace House; our residents and staff love to hear from role models.

Not a healthcare worker? No problem. Below is a list of our current volunteer opportunities. Please review the list and apply to help our residents today.

ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES

Welcome Desk Host/Hostess: Welcome desk volunteers are needed to greet, check-in, and assist visitors. Provide hospitality to our guests and families. Conduct tours and distribute brochures. Occasionally answer the phone, record, and distribute messages.

Clerical Assistant: Assist with data entry, filing, record keeping, mailings, and other clerical projects. Assists with creation of brochures, power point presentations, invitations, and other publications.

Special Events Assistant: Assist with the planning and coordination of events, fundraisers, volunteer events, memorial services. Schedule and assist with campus use by community groups.

CARE SERVICES

Caregiver to the Caregiver: Assist staff caregiver with resident personal needs. Assist staff with interventions according to plan of care. Maintain resident bedrooms/bathrooms. Observe Grace House Standards of Care.

Vigil: Support during resident active dying phase.



HOUSEHOLD SERVICES

Gardener: Maintain lawn, gardens, annual and perennial beds. Maintain patios, pavilion, outdoor areas, water features and exterior buildings.

Handyperson Maintenance & Facilities: Help with upkeep of Grace House. Some items would include touching up paint in rooms, changing furnace filters, hanging items on walls, general maintenance/handywork as needed.

Household Assistant: Perform housekeeping duties and routine cleaning. Ensure a pleasant, healthy, and safe living environment for families and visitors. Shop and run errands. Stock and inventory food and household supplies. Facilitate use of community agencies for food and supply donations. Organize and maintain books and resources.

SUPPORT SERVICES

Companion: Provide emotional and spiritual support to residents and hospitality to our guests, families and visitors. Read aloud and participate in supportive activities with guests and families.

Bereavement: Help honor our residents during our memorial services, keeping their families and friends in our thoughts.

Life review: Help honor their story and capture their memories how they want to be remembered.

Pet Therapy Visit: Provide pet therapy visits.

Musician: Provide music to residents and visitors.

Spa Services Assistant: Perform hair care and styling. Perform nail care (filing, nail polish).

Guest Chef/Cook: Provide nourishing home cooked meals to guests.

Animal Lover: Perform routine pet duties - pet walking, grooming, errands for supplies and routine cleaning. Stock and inventory animal supplies. Provide companionship to Grace House resident's animals.



Scan QR Code to visit our
Volunteer Page.



475 North Howard St.
Akron, OH 44310

grace house

A COMFORT CARE HOME

NO ONE DIES ALONE.

NON-PROFIT ORG.
US POSTAGE
PAID
CLEVELAND OH
PERMIT NO. 498

UPCOMING EVENTS



GRACEFUL GATHERING 2024

October 17, 2024

Location: The Tangier - Fairlawn
507 S Cleveland Massillon Rd
Fairlawn, OH 44333

Time: 5:30 - 9 PM

Put on your polyester bell-bottoms and platform shoes, mood rings and roller skates - and join us for an out of sight night that's totally right on for a righteous cause. Join us for dinner, open bar, and an awesome silent auction all to support Akron's only comfort care home.

Purchase tickets here: <https://bit.ly/3TodBSx>



Or scan this QR code