What is Hospice?

Hospice is a special kind of care for patients and families facing life-limiting illness or condition. The center of Hospice is the belief that each of us has the right to die pain-free and with dignity, and that our families will receive the necessary support to allow us to do so.

Hospice:
- Treats the physical, emotional, and spiritual needs of the person.
- Provides care in the person's home, or in a home-like setting.
- Supports family and caregivers by offering counseling, training, and information.
- Helps people live pain-free and as comfortably as possible to ensure the best possible quality of life.
- Provides supplies, medicines and equipment needed to maintain quality of life.
- Honors the wishes of the person.
- Provides an interdisciplinary group of professionals and paraprofessionals including a medical director, skilled nurses, social workers, therapists, clergy, home health aides, and volunteers.

Vets Caring for Vets: The CT Rural Veterans Partnership

The purpose of this project is to recruit veterans and provide a unique hospice volunteer training focusing on veterans' needs and Post Traumatic Stress Disorder. This specialized training allows veterans a unique opportunity to care for other veterans during their time of need.

Please consider becoming a trained volunteer as "Vets Caring for other Vets".

To learn more about becoming a hospice volunteer, contact the Volunteer Coordinator at one of the following Visiting Nurse Associations:
- Foot Hills VNA - 1.860.379.8561
- Salisbury VNA - 1.860.435.6816
- VNA Northwest - 1.860.267.6000

The Veteran's Administration Healthcare System, CT Association for Home Care & Hospice, CT Office of Rural Health, Foot Hills Visiting Nurse & Home Care, Salisbury Visiting Nurse Association and VNA Northwest, Inc. have collaborated to raise awareness about hospice and VA services available to veterans in rural Northwestern CT.

Share Your Time, Become a Hospice Volunteer

What is your absolutely most precious possession? Your time!

The Vets Caring for Vets: The CT Rural Veterans Partnership is in need of individuals who are willing to share some of their precious time to help a family that is providing end of life care for a loved one.

Hospice Volunteers work with patients and families through Hospice Volunteers or through the VA Community-Based Outpatient Clinic.

Volunteers work directly with patients and families to provide such services as:
- Visitation
- Companionship
- Emotional support
- Transportation
- Respite for caregivers

Trained Hospice volunteers who also are veterans will have the unique ability to support other veterans who are terminal ill. The CT Rural Veterans Partnership will provide training in the Hospice philosophy and care model. The training will help veterans understand their role as hospice volunteers.