



Volunteer Voice

May 2025

Letter from the Director

By JoAnn Bross, Director of Social and Volunteer Services



Dear Volunteers,

As we move into the warmth and brightness of summer, I want to take a moment to reflect on the light you each bring to the lives of our patients and their families. This season often brings a sense of renewal and I hope it offers you moments of peace, connection, and rest.

Summer can be a time of joyful gatherings and outdoor beauty (I am hopeful that you were able to attend the Volunteer Appreciation Luncheon at the beginning of May)

but for those facing the end of life, it can also highlight the things they're leaving behind. Your presence—calm, compassionate, and unwavering—helps ease that burden. Your care and support make an immeasurable difference.

This quarter has also been full of exciting momentum! We've welcomed incredible new volunteers, celebrated meaningful milestone anniversaries, and continue to be inspired by the powerful impact each of you makes. Even more thrilling - Gulfside is in the final stages of planning a brand-new hospice in Hillsborough County! We're starting strong in the Brandon area and expect rapid growth expanding into all corners of the county, which means new volunteer opportunities are on the horizon. Help us spread the word and invite others to join our mission!

And there's more good news: our beautiful new In-Patient Unit in New Port Richey is set to open by the end of this summer. This expansion will create even more ways for you to get involved and support patients and families in need. Keep an eye out for updates—we'll have lots to share in the coming weeks!

We are so grateful for your dedication. Please remember to care for yourselves as you care for others. Drink in the sunshine, take time to rest, and allow space for reflection. Thank you for being here, for showing up with open hearts, and for walking this journey with such grace.

JoAnn Bross

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Dates to Remember:

- May 5: Cinco de Mayo
- May 6: National Nurses Day
- May 11: Mother's Day
- May 26: Memorial Day
- June 15: Father's Day
- June 19: Juneteenth
- July 4: Independence Day
- July 10: Chronic Disease Day

Volunteer Appreciation Luncheon

On Saturday, May 3rd, The Volunteer Department hosted an Appreciation Luncheon for our Volunteers. Volunteers gathered at the Concourse Event Center for food, fun, and friendship.

Pastor Matthew Stidham offered a blessing over the meal which was sponsored by Brewers and Sons Funeral Services. While everyone enjoyed the meal, JoAnn Bross, Director of Volunteer Services, welcomed everyone and provided a brief department update. Sheri Florizone, Volunteer Recruiter, offered a summary of some of the recent work going on in the Volunteer Services department and Carla Armstrong, Director of Philanthropy brought greetings and thanks from Gulfside.

After lunch, volunteers were treated to door prize draws and everyone was delighted with the generosity of the Gulfside departments who donated baskets to the raffle. Another highlight of the event was the presentation of awards to three of our volunteers with the highest number of volunteer hours in 2024: Joan Moore, Liz Kutsch, and Jessie Coates.





Gift baskets donated by Gulfside departments and friends were distributed by raffle.



Volunteer Spotlight

Since February 2022, Joan Moore has touched the lives of over 10,000 hospice patients and their families through giving her time, talent, and treasure with Gulfside Hospice. With a servant's heart,

Joan quietly yet passionately finds ways to support one of the most vulnerable groups in her community — the elderly.

Joan's journey into volunteering began later in life. At nearly 79 years old, instead of slowing down, she stepped up when she heard Gulfside needed volunteers. In just three years, she has donated more than 3,650 hours of her time to Gulfside Hospice.

Inspired by her mother, a longtime hospice volunteer, Joan has always felt a deep connection to those in hospice care. Facing her own health challenges, including chronic pain and limited mobility, only deepened her empathy. Now retired from a successful career in sales and as a former actress and model, Joan remains driven to stay active and give back.

She began by helping with clerical tasks in Gulfside's Philanthropy department and soon joined the Women for Gulfside group in May 2022. Since then, she has played a key role in fundraising efforts supporting programs that rely entirely on donations, such as care for uninsured patients, family bereavement support, and Pet Peace of Mind®, which helps hospice patients care for their pets. Joan also contributes to Gulfside's four major annual fundraising events, offering hands-on help, inkind donations, and support wherever it's needed.

In 2024, Joan made a generous gift to the Raising Hope for Hospice capital campaign to help build a new in-patient unit in New Port Richey. The soon-to-open Gulfside Center for Hospice Care will provide 24-hour support for patients in their final days, meeting a critical need, thanks in part to donors like Joan.



Joan Moore with U.S. Representative Gus Bilirakis at the "Heroes Among Us" reception on April 24.

Now nearly 82, Joan's energy, wit, and compassion continue to inspire everyone she meets. While many her age focus on slowing down, Joan stays energized and youthful by serving others. Her mind is always on how to help — then doing exactly that.

As she puts it, "I started volunteering to help others but never realized it would help me too. It has given me more joy than I could ever imagine. Volunteering for hospice saved my life, and I hope it does the same for others too."

Gulfside Hospice Thrift Shoppes

Did you know that Gulfside Volunteers get a **volunteer discount** at all four **Gulfside Hospice Thrift Shoppe Locations**? Volunteers receive 50% off clothing and 25% off everything else! Visit one today to see what discounted treasures you can find!

From The Heart

One ...

One tree can start a forest;
One smile can begin a friendship;
One hand can lift a soul;
One word can frame the goal;
One candle can wipe out darkness;
One laugh can conquer gloom;
One hope can raise your spirits;
One touch can show you care;
One life can make the difference,
be that one today.

Follow Gulfside On
Social Media To Get
More Updates:

@GulfsideThriftShoppes
@GulfsideHealthcareServices



Happy Anniversary!

of Years

Regina C.	May	4
Cathy B.	May	2
Callie G.	May	2
Cynthia M.	May	2
Kathleen S.	May	2
Ana(Anita) B.	May	1
Reno C.	May	1
Tysnie T.	May	1
Anne L.	June	6
Cindy W.	June	2
Brenda B.	June	1
Mary Ann S.	June	1
Deann H.	July	5
Kathryn W.	July	3
Alishia S.	July	2
Allan G.	July	1
Michael M.	July	1
Nancy T.	July	1
Keian T.	July	1
William W.	July	1
Janice R.	August	7
Dexter B.	August	5
Marilyn F.	August	4
Pastor Matt S.	August	4
Beth H.	August	2
Andres A.	August	1
Amanda L.	August	1

From the Social Work Department

Each year, we celebrate National Social Work Month in March. This year, the National Association of Social Workers chose the theme "Compassion + Action." This theme acknowledges the years of training and lifetime of education Social Workers leverage to care professionally and skillfully for individuals, families, communities, and our society at large. While most of us in the Social Work field are natural nurturers, our profession is centered on the values of service, advocacy, integrity, and competence. "Compassion + Action" calls Social Workers to apply these values in our personal and professional lives to the betterment of our community.

Social Work is one of the most in-demand and fastest-growing professions, touching lives across all parts of our society; it's projected that more than 836,000 Social Workers will be employed in the US by 2033! Here at Gulfside, Social Workers care for patients and families across all three lines of service in the field and at residential facilities, in Bereavement, in our Inpatient Care Centers, in Patient Navigation, and in our Executive and Operational leadership. I am grateful to be a member of the Social Work profession, and to help lead a compassionate and resilient team of Social Workers at GHS.



Suicide Awareness and Prevention

Thursday, June 19
12:30 - 2:30 p.m.

Land O' Lakes Library
2818 Collier Parkway
Land O' Lakes, FL 34639

Lunch provided

Please RSVP to Beth at
beth.atkinson@gulfside.org or
727- 992-7973

News to Know

Annual Evaluations

Gulfside takes an interdisciplinary approach to giving both patients and their families the best possible quality of life. This means that our entire team provides excellent medical care as well as emotional and spiritual support to every patient. As a Gulfside volunteer YOU are part of this essential care team, and we want to ensure that you have the skills needed to perform your duties. To this end, every volunteer is required to undergo an annual evaluation and skills assessment (we call these 'competencies').

Volunteer Services staff undertake this annual evaluation with each volunteer around the anniversary of their enrollment date with Gulfside. If you have any questions about these annual evaluations, please reach out to us directly at volunteercoordinators@gulfside.org.

The 5% Rule

Did you Know? Gulfside Hospice must fulfill a federally mandated commitment to provide at least 5% of the clinical hours with volunteer hours (administrative and/or direct patient care services). With your support, we met that goal in 2024. Thank you!

Important Reminder

Patient Reporting Forms must be submitted on the SAME DAY of the patient visit. Your attention to this request is greatly appreciated!



*Support
Hospice*
Everywhere You Drive

With every purchase of a Florida Hospice specialty license plate, \$25 goes to support end-of-life care programs and outreach through Florida Hospice & Palliative Care. Plates are available at your local Tax Collector's Office or visit supportfloridahospice.com.

Happy Birthday!

Spring



- Michael M.5/8
- Joan M. 5/21
- Deann H.5/25
- Maria G.5/27
- Cristina B.5/29
- Stanley W 5/29
- Rick P 5/31
- Cindy W6/2
- Randi M.....6/7
- Sheila T 6/17
- Barbara K..... 6/22
- Brenda B 6/23
- Dale M..... 6/23
- Rohan R 6/30
- Nancy M7/7
- Cathy B 7/19
- Anne L.....7/25
- Christina T7/27
- Diana L.....8/2
- Dora R.....8/2
- Cynthia M8/8
- Karen R8/8
- Rebecca M 8/12
- Marilyn F..... 8/14
- Judy S..... 8/16
- Beverly S.....8/21
- Pat M.....8/25
- Linda C.....8/30
- Angie S.....8/30
- Keian T.8/31

facebook

join our
group +

Join the new Volunteer Facebook Group!

Gulfside volunteers have a new way of staying connected! If you are on Facebook, we invite you to join our new Facebook group created just for our volunteers.



We'll share information about what's coming up, fun facts, inspirational messages, photos from events, and more. Plus, you can use the group to share your experience as a volunteer and connect with other volunteers.

To join, visit [FB.com/GulfsideHealthcareServices](https://www.facebook.com/GulfsideHealthcareServices) and go to the "Groups" tab, or scan the QR code above with your smartphone.

Tell A Friend

Gulfside's volunteer department is looking for volunteers to help in the following areas:

Companionship - Provide companionship to patients in their home to decrease loneliness and isolation, and provide moments of joy. Companionship type activities could include playing cards, reading, or simply talking about fond memories with the patients. Up to 3 hour per visit a week.

Caregiver Respite - Assist caregivers by being with a patient in the home while the caregiver runs errands or simply takes some time for themselves.

Spiritual Care - Support patients by offering spiritual comfort, regardless of a patient's denomination or faith.

Pet Peace of Mind - Deliver pet food to patients. May also assist in completing paperwork for patient's pets to enroll in the Pet Peace of Mind Program. Hours vary based on need.

Veteran Volunteers - Match with veteran patients for companionship or respite. May also assist with pinning ceremonies to recognize the veteran patient and other veteran specific opportunities. Hours vary based on need.

Kitchen (RUCKI) - Assist with a variety of kitchen and dietary duties at the Rucki Care Center in Zephyrhills. Daytime hours vary based on need.



About the Women for Gulfside

Join a group of dedicated women making an impact in the lives of patients and their families in our community.



Women for Gulfside Founding Members

\$125 Annual Membership provides:

- Invitation to member-only events
- Updates on local programs that impact Gulfside patients
- Opportunity to choose how funds are allocated
- Friendship with other amazing women

Visit [WomenForGulfside.org](https://www.WomenForGulfside.org)
to join today!

SCAN ME
to join
Women for Gulfside

