



HOUSTON HOSPICE
Life Matters

Contact: Karla Goolsby
Telephone: 713-677-7118
Email: <mailto:kgoolsby@houstonhospice.org>
Website: www.houstonhospice.org

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
March 17, 2015

The Texas Medical Center's Orchestra on Call to Perform for Hospice Volunteers

During National Volunteer Week, April 12-18, Houston Hospice is celebrating the many gifts of its dedicated volunteers who provide support, companionship and dignity to patients and family caregivers facing serious and life-limiting illness. An additional volunteer celebration is planned for May 2, 2015 at 2 p.m. when The Texas Medical Center's [Orchestra on Call](#), directed by Carlos Guillermo Jung, will perform in the Houston Hospice gardens.

Houston's Orchestra on Call is a group of volunteer musicians that performs at hospitals, nursing homes, hospices, rehabilitation centers, medical schools and other health care facilities, health-related societies and associations in the Houston area. The mission of the Houston's Orchestra on Call is to provide live musical performances for patients in order to enhance their lives as they go through the process of diagnosis, treatment, and recovery within a medical setting and to relieve emotional and mental stress in patients, families, doctors, staff and other health-allied professionals.

"[Houston Hospice](#) began as a grassroots volunteer-driven movement to provide humane, caring responses for patients and their families and without volunteers, we could not do the work we have been doing since 1980," said Crystal Benavides, Volunteer Coordinator.

In 2014, over 300 trained volunteers provided 17,062 hours of direct patient care for Houston Hospice patients and families throughout the Greater Houston area (a value of \$399,250). Additionally, volunteers donated 5,492 hours of non-patient care assistance for a total of 22,554 hours.

Volunteers often serve patients and families at the bedside but they also assist in the office, help raise awareness, contribute to educational programs, provide fundraising support, work at the St. Christopher's/Houston Hospice Resale Shop and more.

The National Hospice and Palliative Care Organization reports that there are an estimated 355,000 trained hospice volunteers providing more than 16 million hours of service to hospice programs each year. Most Houston Hospice volunteers feel called to help because of their own experiences with hospice.

"I've been a volunteer for 25 years, since 1986 when my father was a patient. Since then my two brothers-in-law received the care Houston Hospice provides. I don't know what we would have done without Houston Hospice. That's why I'm here."

—Sue Gaines, Houston Hospice Office Volunteer

It is federally mandated under Medicare that five percent of all patient care hours be provided by trained volunteers reflecting the vital role that volunteers play in the provision of care.

For those interested in learning more about Houston Hospice or volunteer opportunities, please visit www.houstonhospice.org or call 713-677-7423. Musicians interested in joining Houston's Orchestra on Call may apply online at www.orchestraoncall.org.