



HOUSTON HOSPICE

Life Matters

A Publication of Houston Hospice

Judy Calabria Named Volunteer of the Year

Judy Calabria has been named Volunteer of the Year for 2017. Judy visits patients in our Texas Medical Center inpatient unit (IPU) every Friday. She has made numerous emergency visits to the IPU to sit with patients in distress at the request of our IPU nursing staff. At these times, she spends countless hours sitting with as many patients as needed.

In addition to sitting with patients and families, Judy helps the staff and assists with anything that needs to be done. When you ask Judy what a volunteer does, she answers “Anything you are asked to do by your Volunteer Coordinators!” Truly, she does anything we ask — she visits patients, assembles “Angel Bags” trains new volunteers, works in the office, stocks and cleans the snack bar, and she is the keeper of the “closet repository of assorted property” (C.R.A.P.). It’s the closet on the first floor where the staff stashes everything that families have forgotten — nothing valuable (that stuff goes in the safe).

Judy recently retired from Shell Oil — her one and only job. However she began volunteering for



Above: Surprise! You're volunteer of the year.
L-R: George Han, Elisa Covarrubias, Judy Calabria and Patsy Piner

Houston Hospice back in February 2009 because of her own family’s experience with hospice in Ohio. Judy has always been abundantly helpful in every aspect of volunteer services. She has delivered meals at Thanksgiving and Christmas gifts and cards to families. Judy helps maintain a manageable lost and

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Volunteer Training

June 10, 17 and 24 &
October 7, 14 and 21
9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.
at the Texas Medical Center
(Must complete the volunteer application at
www.houstonhospice.org.)

Contact Patsy or Elisa to register, 713-677-7121.

Space Is Limited!

Volunteer Newsletter

Judy Calabria

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found cabinet by sifting and sorting through old items; separating those that can be donated to Medical Bridges and delivering them on our behalf.

Judy spends over two hours training new IPU volunteers; helping them become acquainted with staff and the entire hospice environment (including sitting with patients, filling candy jars, restocking condiments, making coffee and helping families obtain a request from the kitchen or other department). Thanks to her thorough training, new volunteers are prepared to manage working independently while serving patients and families under our care. Recently a patient family member seemed lost, and when Judy asked if there was anything she could do for her, the family member told her she was hungry and asked if she could please get her a sandwich. Judy responded by gladly walking with our new volunteer to the kitchen to order a sandwich for the family member.

Judy has assisted with our big fundraising events for several years. At the Spirit Award Dinner and the Butterfly Luncheon she has earned a reputation as being a crack raffle ticket seller! Judy has also cross-trained and learned to update our Allscripts database to account for all volunteer activity hours in Sue Gaines' absence. She has done a remarkable job learning and keeping the information up to date when needed. Judy has done the same in assisting with Pat Booth's volunteer responsibilities by going above and beyond in ensuring all data and records information is processed and accounted for timely and properly.

We're always bragging about our volunteers, and Judy is a prime example of the extraordinary generosity and heart that makes hospice volunteers special. Thank you Judy, and congratulations on this well-deserved recognition!



Above: Judy sits at a patient's bedside.
Below: Judy chats with a staff member.



Above L-R: Linda Maraldo and Chaplain Gordon Robertson with a new supply of prayer cloths. Linda has made several hundred for us!





Houston Hospice Volunteers - April 8, 2017



We had a wonderful Volunteer Appreciation event Saturday, April 8!
It was a pleasure to thank all of our wonderful volunteers and it was a joy
to highlight the work of our "Special Services" volunteers.
Special services include: Bereavement, Translators, Receptionist, Santa
Claus, Angel Bags, Office Help, Haircuts, Manicures,
Knitted Blankets, Harpist, Healing Touch, Massage,
Feldenkrais and Singing Bowls.

MISSION STATEMENT

Houston Hospice provides uncompromising, compassionate end-of-life care to patients and families in our community.

Through the efforts of specially trained and highly skilled interdisciplinary teams of health care professionals and volunteers, Houston Hospice patients and their families are guided through the process of illness by receiving clinical care, psychosocial support, spiritual guidance and volunteer assistance.

Houston Hospice
1905 Holcombe Boulevard
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Phone: 713-467-7423
Website: www.houstonhospice.org

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Blooming Butterfly Magnets
Create a garden with bold color that flutters and dances overhead. nectar-bearing flowers butterflies love.

Check Out Our Popular Garden Board On Pinterest



PETUNIA
H: 8-18 in., W: 18-24 in.
bees flowers in various hues and patterns from late spring to frost; annual; all zones

WAX BEGONIA
H: 8-12 in., W: 10 in.
pink, white, or red flowers from late spring to frost; annual; all zones

VERBENA
H: 8-12 in., W: 18 in.
purple, pink, white, or red flowers from early summer to frost; annual; all zones

AFRICAN MARGOLD
H: 3 ft., W: 1 1/2 ft.
orange or gold flowers all summer; annual; all zones

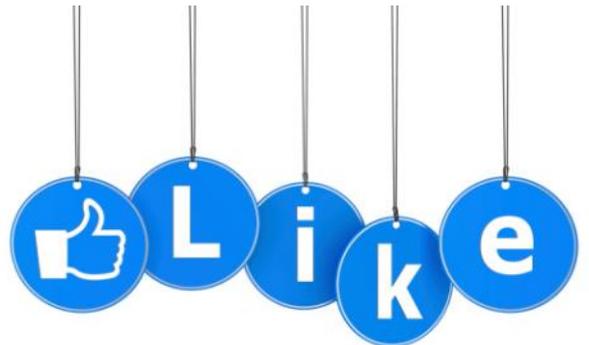
AGERATUM
H: 6-12 in., W: 8-12 in.
bees clusters of fairy, blue, white, or pink flowers from late spring to frost; good edging plant; annual; all zones

DELPHINIUM
H: 2 1/2 ft., W: 2 ft.
blue, black, or ivory flowers spike in summer; needs staking; zones 5-7

COSMOS BIPINNATUS
H: 4-6 ft., W: 3 ft.
pink, red, or white; Daisy-like flowers from summer to early fall; annual; all zones

FLOWERING TOBACCO
H: 2-5 ft., W: 1-3 ft.
various colors; flowers from late spring to frost; annual; all zones

Please!!!



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