

An insider's view

I have been with Hospice for several years and thoroughly enjoy my part on the team. Working with Hospice has many happy rewards but one major sadness.

I have been able to meet many wonderful, loving, caring families who serve other family members in a difficult time in life. I have watched as these family members serve, often with little rest, little recognition, and a lot of discouragement simply because they love their families.

I get the chance to see these families doing all they can to fulfill any concluding wishes their loved ones have during the final months of their lives. I appreciate the fact that Hospice allows patients to make decisions on the end of life care.

Hospice is about a person living their last days to the fullest and in control about how they want to enjoy every day to the fullest. Hospice is not about dying, although everyone of us will someday, but about living each day to the fullest until then. I am thankful to be part of a team that seeks to assist families in that endeavor.

The saddest part of my being on the team is listening to family members say "I wish I had known about Hospice before" Like I said, the saddest part is watching people miss the wonderful resources available to them through the Hospice Team.

My only recommendation is tell you or a loved one about Hospice before it is too late and you miss this wonderful resource.

Pastor Archie Smith

Hospice chaplain and volunteer coordinator for the Caring Community
Hospice Cortland

If you would like to contact someone who will help you, or a loved one, live life to its fullest even in trying times, call 607.753.9105 Or visit www.cortlandhospice.org (See our Web Link Page)