



Community Health and Counseling Services
Home Health, Hospice and Mental Health Services

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December 24, 2024

Dear Barbara Barnett and Down East Hospice Volunteers,

This time of year, we challenge ourselves to take a pause and reflect on the events of the year. We recognize, that 2024 has been full of change and hardships as well as bringing us new staff including nurses, **volunteers**, and other team members that have been a blessing. Many patients in which we serve need rest from the suffering that accompanies end- of- life and the volunteers help to support this significant need. Through the dedicated presence and community education provided by the hospice team, including you the volunteers, we are hopeful we have helped to improve access to hospice services throughout Washington County. We hope that the valuable work we have accomplished together has made a difference in our corner of the world. We want to acknowledge that your volunteerism, including the **volunteer written notes are often the highlight of the day as it brings life the valuable work in which you do.** Thank you so much for your hard work. Even though not in the spotlight, **you are the backbone of every patient encounter.** Please know that we could not do this work without your dedication. We are forever grateful for the time the volunteers have given. Whether it was driving around town to see the momentous parts of someone's life, to cooking breakfast so that the patient eats with friends that have a conversation over a meal, instead of alone. You are giving more than you could know. Thank you for taking time out of your personal life to embrace and bring your light to someone else.

The staff at Community Health and Counseling Services wish to extend a thank to the many volunteers who give of their time in serving our patients. Year after year, **Down East Hospice Volunteers** consistently demonstrate a willingness to provide true compassion and companionship to the patients and families who live in Washington county. Each volunteer is viewed as a selfless and charitable individual who possess the necessary knowledge, experience, and skill that enable our hospice program to meet our mission- caring for individuals facing a terminal illness who wish to die peacefully at home with the support from family and the hospice interdisciplinary team. We thank you for being part of our team and appreciate your hours of volunteerism. Wishing you all a very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

Sincerely,

Helena Mailloux

Helena Mailloux, Laura Carey, and CHCS's Hospice Staff

Director of Quality, Home Health, and Hospice Services & Manager of Clinical Operations
Community Health and Counseling Services