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Thank-you for considering volunteering for Cowichan Hospice!  
We really appreciate your interest in serving bereaved and palliative  
members of the Cowichan Valley Community.

### Volunteer Training Application Information

*If you wish to apply to volunteer with Cowichan Hospice, please consider the following information:*

- *For those people who wish to volunteer in the Sassy Lion or other fundraising projects, an Orientation to Hospice will be provided.*
- *For those volunteer trainees who wish to volunteer in direct service to our bereaved and palliative clients, there is a 50 hour training, focussing on **Deep Listening and Hospice Client Companionship**. Training is one day a week for 7 weeks and will be offered on a Monday in fall of 2017.*
- *The cost for this training is \$250 for tuition, course, and materials. **It is important to us that these fees not pose an impediment to you becoming our valued volunteer, so if this fee creates any difficulty for you financially, please speak to our Volunteer Program Coordinator to explore alternative options.***
- *All volunteers are required to join the Cowichan Hospice Society as a member in good standing (in order to be covered under our non-profit liability insurance coverage) and to keep membership paid up to date annually for as long as you continue to be a Cowichan Hospice volunteer. Currently, basic membership fees are \$10 annually.*

- *All vehicles used by volunteers for Hospice business require liability insurance coverage of \$2,000,000 and a copy of your car insurance is required for inclusion in your volunteer file.*
- *Your application process must be completed (including the application completion, two character reference letters signed, & an interview with our Volunteer Program Coordinator) prior to the commencement of training. If approved to enter the Volunteer Training program, you will be asked to release to Cowichan Hospice a criminal record check from the Ministry of Justice.*
- *Training modules should not be missed. If you are accepted into the training, we ask you for a commitment to full attendance (unless you are ill or urgent family matters require your assistance). Any missed modules will need to be made up in full prior to the commencement of volunteering. However, in certain situations where you are able to give us advance notice of a missed module at the time of your application, we may make alternate arrangements.*
- *Cowichan Hospice is committed to excellence in service delivery for our clients and therefore all volunteers are evaluated to ensure they are committed and competent to commence work with our clients. To this end, final evaluations after completion of Volunteer Training will be completed by the Training Facilitator(s) in collaboration with your own self-evaluation. At that time, we can discuss 'next steps'; client work, or whether another type of valued volunteer activity might be a 'best fit' for you.*
- *Volunteers give a lot, emotionally and physically. The qualities we look for in a volunteer are as follows:*
  - *able to maintain strict confidentiality*
  - *able to listen with sensitivity, and compassion*
  - *having respect for differing personal, cultural and religious beliefs, and lifestyles*
  - *able to maintain appropriate relationship boundaries even under challenging circumstances*

- *having an understanding of one's own relationship with life and death*
  - *able to participate as a team member while under the direction of Hospice coordinators*
  - *able to balance care of others with care of self*
  - *reliability and commitment to client and or other hospice assignments*
- *All Hospice volunteers, upon successful completion of the Deep Listening Volunteer Training, are expected to periodically attend volunteer meetings and/or ongoing Advanced Training workshops provided by Cowichan Hospice in order to stay current as a hospice volunteer and to update their skills and knowledge. Practice reflection time, ( supervision) , is **a mandatory part** of best practices in our work with community members. Hospice offers two small group sessions a month as well as staff being available for debriefing.*
- *We recognize that it is impossible to predict every life eventuality, but if you plan to become a Hospice volunteer, we ask that you commit an average amounting to 2-4 hours weekly over a year. We acknowledge that some forms of volunteer activity are more regularized and others are sporadic so this time commitment can be spread differently from one volunteering choice to another.*

*WE LOOK FORWARD TO MEETING YOU IN PERSON!*

*Thanks so much again for your interest in volunteering for Cowichan Hospice Society.*

Cowichan Hospice  
Caring for families through advancing illness and  
grief since 1981

