



Career PATHWAYS

Career Pathways explores high-demand careers and the local people who work in them.

Read all about it and see if one is for you!

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HOSPICE NURSE

MEET A HOSPICE NURSE

Gina Huebner is a Registered Nurse and Case Manager for Hospice at Home in Saint Joseph. She began her career 25 years ago after receiving her Associates Degree in Nursing from Niagara County Community College in New York. Like many health care professionals, Gina was able to advance her career with continued education and she eventually earned her Bachelors Degree in Business Administration-Allied Health Nursing from Siena Heights University. She specialized in Gerontology, which is the study of the aging processes and individuals as they grow from middle age through later life, which makes her a perfect fit for Hospice!

Choosing a career that suits one's personality is very important and Gina genuinely enjoys spending time with her patients and their families and getting to know them. "I love the one on one attention I can provide to them. I also enjoy the flexibility of my job and being part of a team that works together and supports each other during the good times and the more difficult times."

A DAY IN THE LIFE

Gina's day starts at the office reviewing call logs, emails, collaborating with team members, and prioritizing visits to patients. "I visit my patients in a variety of settings. I complete physical assessments, review and order medications, educate patients and families regarding a variety of areas including medications, symptom management, disease progression, and continually update the Plan of Care to reflect any changes that have occurred with the patient. A good amount of my time is not only spent with my patient but



Gina Huebner, Hospice at Home

communicating with my team regarding the patient. This enables us to provide a holistic approach to meet the physical, emotional, and spiritual care needs of the patient and their family during their journey."

REQUIRED SKILLS AND EDUCATION

Registered Nurses must have a nursing degree and computer skills. They must be caring and compassionate, and have good communication and social skills. Team work is also very important. "I feel an easy connectedness to individuals," explained Gina. "Becoming a nurse seemed like a natural fit for me." She's worked in a variety of settings throughout her nursing career including Medical Surgical Nursing, Psychiatric Nursing, Long Term Care, Assisted Living and now Hospice Nursing. "It is so nice having a profession that offers so many variables and opportunities!"

ABOUT: HOSPICE CAREERS

Sometimes when we're young, it feels like we're going to live forever, but if there's one thing we all have in common, it's that we all will someday die. Sounds like a bummer of a topic, but many people embrace the idea that the end of life experience doesn't necessarily have to be terrible and traumatic for people or their families. Hospice care attempts to peacefully guide people through the inevitable process of life's end.

Hospice is a philosophy of care provided to patients with life-limiting illness. It may take place in various settings including a patient's home, a nursing home, hospice facility, or a hospital. Regardless of the setting, hospice care strives to ensure the best quality of life for patients and their families.

Hospice care encompasses physical, spiritual and emotional support provided by a team of professionals which include nurses, home health aides, social workers, spiritual advisors, therapists, volunteers, and physicians. Each team member has a part in the patient's care and it takes very special people to make a good team. Are you cut out for it?

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