Planting a Legacy With Heartland Hospice Patients

The intern will work with the Bereavement and Volunteer Coordinators in creating and developing a new program that engages hospice patients and/or their families in planting seeds, bulbs, or saplings in temporary containers, while instructing them on the nurturing of the plants, and the possible transfer to a permanent location.

Objectives:

• Understand the hospice philosophy and dying process and its impact on the patient and/or patient’s family.
• Create a plant catalog illustrating the types of plants and planters that are available for hospice patients/families to choose from for the planting activity.
• Create plant kits that include all materials and instructions necessary for volunteers to facilitate the planting activity.
• Work with the Bereavement Coordinator to create an intimate event to transfer the plant to a permanent location.

Goals:

• Help Heartland Hospice create an individualized, therapeutic and comforting activity that allows hospice patients and/or families to express current feelings related to the hospice process in a healthy way.
• Provide a patient with the opportunity to create a simple but meaningful legacy that can be completed by family members after s/he has passed.
• Expose hospice patients, their families and hospice volunteers to the comfort and healing power of the planting process.

Contact Justin St. Charles, Bereavement Coordinator or Peggy Johnson, Volunteer Coordinator at Heartland Hospice (517) 244-0404 for more information.