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## **Hospice Austin to Hold Volunteer Training**

Hospice Austin will be holding its semi-annual volunteer training starting Tuesday, Feb. 10 for people who would like to offer companionship and assistance to hospice patients and their families.

Hospice Austin needs volunteers in Austin and particularly in the Round Rock/Hutto/Cedar Park area. The training will be held from Feb. 10 through the 21<sup>st</sup> at the Hospice Austin office on Spicewood Springs. The two-week training will occur on Tuesday and Thursday evenings from 6:00 - 9:00 p.m. and Saturdays from 9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

Volunteers offer emotional support as well as non-medical practical assistance such as accompanying patients to appointments, running errands, fixing snacks, and providing respite for caregivers. Most of all, they offer understanding and friendship to people who sometimes feel increasingly isolated from society.

Volunteers are assigned one patient at a time, usually someone who lives nearby. Most volunteer about four hours a week. Some volunteers provide their professional services such as acupuncture, massage therapy, and hair-styling.

Volunteers are always needed in the Austin area, but are especially needed in Round Rock, Pflugerville and Bastrop. Volunteers are also needed in Buda, Kyle, Luling, Lockhart, the Lakeway area, the corridor east of I-35, Del Valle, Hutto, and Cedar Creek.

Many patients request volunteers who can visit during a weekday, when family or caregivers may be at work. For more information about volunteer opportunities or for a volunteer application, please contact Gayle Smith at 342-4735 or [gsmith@hospiceaustin.org](mailto:gsmith@hospiceaustin.org). Volunteer applications may also be found at [www.hospiceaustin.org](http://www.hospiceaustin.org). Volunteer trainings are held in September and February in Austin; call 342-4735 for volunteer training dates in Georgetown.

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