CAREGIVER ADVOCATE
VOLUNTEER PROGRAM

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WHAT IS A CAREGIVER ADVOCATE?

• Someone who provides emotional support to caregivers.

• Someone who provides education about resources available to caregivers.
WHY DO CAREGIVERS BENEFIT FROM AN ADVOCATE?

Findings suggest:

Interventions designed to help caregivers manage their own emotional distress can improve quality of life.

“The psychological stress of caregiving has a negative impact not only on the health of the family caregiver, but on the health and well-being of the cancer patient.”

DEVELOPMENT OF PROGRAM

• Committee reviews caregiver needs.
• Caregiver Advocate Volunteer process reviewed and approved.
• Creation of new volunteer job responsibility.
TRAINING

• Complete volunteer application process for health care system.

• Specific 6 hour training for volunteer job responsibility.

• Facilitator provides hands-on experience.
VOLUNTEER PROCESS

• Facilitator selects caregivers to be seen.
• Facilitator runs off a computerized list of those to be seen for the volunteer.
• Advocate visits caregivers with packet of material.
• Volunteer provides feedback of each visit on the computerized list.
NOW WHAT?
Asking for help can be a good thing. You may need more than one kind of help to manage caring for your loved one. See a doctor if you have serious distress, or if you can’t accomplish your day-to-day activities. We also encourage you to print out this checklist and talk it over with a doctor, nurse, social worker, or other professional on your loved one’s cancer care team.

American Cancer Society support programs reach cancer survivors and patients throughout the US. Practical advice is also available online to help caregivers manage day-to-day and cope with physical and emotional changes. At the American Cancer Society Cancer Survivors Network website you can trade information and experiences with other caregivers—all without leaving home.

For more information call your American Cancer Society at 1-800-227-2345.

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FORM USED AT BAYLOR SAMMONS CANCER CENTER
CARING FOR THE VOLUNTEER

• Regular follow-up with the volunteer is crucial.
• Reminding them of their value on their regular visits.
• Honoring them through yearly banquet/recognition ceremony.
EVIDENCE BASED RESULTS

• Newly established program with no conclusive studies.

• Current positive reception of caregivers, patients, and staff.

• Add to the overall positive hospital experience.
“A kind Gesture can reach a wound that only compassion can heal.”

~Steve Maroboli, *Life, the Truth, and Being Free*
REFERENCES

