



Horizons Anticipatory Grief Volunteer Volunteer Position Description and Expectations

The mission of Annie's Hope is to provide comprehensive support services to children, teens, and their families who are grieving a death.

Roles of Horizons Volunteers:

- Facilitate home visits in such a way as to allow family members to explore and express their anticipatory grief in a healthy and healing manner.
- Create a safe, open, and positive space for kids and families at their home or the hospital.
- Approach anticipatory grief as a personal, individual, and unique experience.
- Allow open, non-lecture style, discussions by listening to and honoring each of the family members' unique experiences.
- Provide opportunities for families to express their anticipatory grief experience using creative expressions.
- Represent Annie's Hope, overall, respectfully, and positively.

Responsibilities of Horizons Volunteers:

- Attend Annie's Hope Volunteer Training before supporting Horizons families.
- Complete and pass background checks.
- Prepare an activity-based visit tailored to each family's specific needs. When working with another Horizons volunteer/staff, coordinate with them before meeting with the family.
- Check in with families as needed to learn about changes in the ill family member's health, confirm appointments, and answer questions that the adults may have.
- Support and educate adult family members on child/teen anticipatory grief.
- Update the program coordinator on progress/needs/challenges after each Horizons visit.
- Requests for additional supplies need to be communicated to the program coordinator at least 48 hours before the Horizons visit.
- Maintain confidentiality of families during and after their involvement in the Horizons program.
- Arrive on time for scheduled visits. Attempt to schedule family visits at a time that is convenient with the family's schedule.
- Gain and/or maintain an increased awareness of your (the volunteer's) personal grief experiences and communicate with the program coordinator any personal challenges and needs that may impact your ability to volunteer effectively within the program.
- Have an active plan for self-care.

For more information, contact Annie's Hope at (314) 965-5015 or kidsgriefmatters@annieshope.org.