

Volunteer Position Description
Bereavement Care Peer Support Facilitator
Virtual and/or In Person



Scarborough Centre for Healthy Communities (SCHC) is dedicated to meeting the diverse, holistic health needs of the communities of Scarborough by addressing the physical, mental, social, financial and environmental aspects of their health. Through the promotion of healthy lifestyles and the delivery of a comprehensive range of culturally competent health and social services, we cultivate vital and connected communities.

The Community Hospice Program at SCHC professionally trains compassionate, kind and committed volunteers to provide **peer bereavement support** – in both individual support sessions and co-facilitating mutual support groups - to people who are **grieving the death of someone close to them.**

We are especially in need of people who have **experienced the death of a spouse or partner, bereaved parents who have experienced the death of a child of any age, as well as young adults and adults who have lost a parent/sibling** to train as peer volunteers. Onboarding and training are available online at any time.

Essential Requirements:

- Personal experience of bereavement due to the death of someone close to you as well as some understanding of the grief experience
- Compassionate, empathetic and open
- Excellent interpersonal and communication skills
- Ability to listen and support someone without trying to fix or give advice
- Mature, reliable, responsible
- Committed to ensuring services are confidential, inclusive and accessible
- Willingness to grow in self-awareness around judgement, unconscious bias and assumptions that may impact the volunteer / client service relationship
- Completion of mandatory HPCO online education course and additional SCHC-specific training as required (certificate provided)
- Ability to function in a client-based environment
- Able to provide a clear Vulnerable Sector Police Reference Check

Responsibilities:

- Provide initial support & information to bereaved individuals through one on one peer meetings (telephone, online or in person)
- Plan and co-facilitate peer-led, mutual support bereavement groups which are small groups of 8-10 people who meet once a week for two hours for up to ten weeks (telephone, online or in person)
- Respond to requests for support in a timely manner, ensure that you are in regular communication with staff and fellow volunteers, and make sure that necessary documentation is submitted for the program on a regular basis
- Participate in all required education, training and ongoing professional development
- Maintain safe boundaries and self-care practices
- Submit monthly volunteer hour report
- Report any concerns immediately to appropriate staff in the Community Hospice Program

Commitment: About 3-5 hours per week for **one full year.**

Apply to: Betty Ann Rutledge, Volunteers, Outreach and Training Coordinator, Community Hospice Program
hpcvolcoordinator@schcontario.ca or 416-642-9445 ext. 4418

All SCHC volunteers must complete additional mandatory online training modules provided by the Coordinator of Volunteer Engagement and will commit to following SCHC health and safety policies & procedures. Volunteers will sign and comply with the tasks, responsibilities and practices of their assigned role. For more information about our programs and services and other volunteer opportunities, please visit our website at www.schcontario.ca.