

Service Learning Guidelines

You will choose an organization and then answer the following questions:

- 1. List the Community Partner / Organization you chose**
 - a. Provide a brief summary of experiences volunteers can have with the organization**

Grace Hospice, located near the Virginia Beach/Norfolk border, gives volunteers a variety of opportunities. Training is required for all volunteers, including youth volunteers. Adult volunteers are able to work directly with patients to offer companionship and support, aid the bereavement department, work behind-the-scenes on projects, and assist with clerical work. Youth volunteers are only able to aid with administrative tasks.

- 2. Please write a description of the Community Partner(s) by answering these questions:**
 - a. What is their purpose / mission?**
 - b. What services does the partner provide?**
 - c. What needs of the community do they address?**
 - d. Why is this organization important to the community?**
 - e. Find one article / video about the organization and the work they are doing in the community.**

Grace Hospice's mission is for employees and volunteers to treat the patients as if it was their own loved one, providing quality care that counterbalances the number of days, as well as provide support to the patients' caregivers. The organization provides services to benefit both the patient and caregivers, such as social work and chaplain visits, bereavement support, medical supplies and equipment, medications, and veteran services. Grace Hospice addresses the aspects of hospice care in the community, giving the elderly and terminally-ill quality care for the rest of their time. This is important to the community because those who don't have much time left are able to live comfortably and fully without suffering. Keeping people in the community content is crucial. Without hospices, the community would not be as effective as it is now. [Grace Hospice is a necessary resource to the Hampton Roads community.](#)

- 3. After reflecting on the organization's goals and mission, have your values, opinions, and/or beliefs about the importance of health changed or grown? Be specific.**

After reflecting on Grace Hospice's mission, my values, opinions, and beliefs did not change. I have always firmly believed that treating a patient with the utmost respect and care in order to make their stay a positive experience. Providing good care and treating the patients with

courtesy should be a cornerstone in medicine. Being in the hospital is difficult and being polite can make that experience a little less awful.

4. Thinking about the community partner:

- a. How do these services relate to your intended career field?**
- b. What Degree Program (other than your current major) could it relate to?**
- c. Would you choose to pursue that major as your parallel major?**
- d. Why or why not?**

These services directly relate to my intended career field, which is health and medicine. Volunteering takes place in a hospital setting, which relates to my intended field. Other than my current major, the services offered at Grace Hospice loosely relate to recreational therapy. Both entail talking to patients and helping them complete everyday activities and have enjoyment despite their condition(s). I would choose to pursue that major as my parallel major because it relates to the medical field, despite not being in the College of Health Sciences. It also seems rewarding to help patients with activities such as arts and crafts, to take them on community outings, and to help their emotional and physical well-being.