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JUNE YOUNG

Forestville, MD

Daily Point of Light No. 3851

November 6, 2008

ACTION:

When people are looking for volunteer projects, they don't usually consider caring for an AIDS patient or watching television with someone who's dying of cancer. Too depressing, right? However, that's exactly the kind of task that Hospice of the Chesapeake volunteer June Young chose to do when was searching for a rewarding volunteer opportunity.

After June received training from Hospice of the Chesapeake as a patient care volunteer, she was assigned to care for a 52 year old man with amyotrophic lateral sclerosis or ALS (also known as Gehrige's disease). Although the patient was unable speak, he enjoyed having June read and pray with and looked forward to her visits because they were comforting and helped ease his fears. The relationship wasn't one sided, however. "My patient always in good spirits, even with his diagnosis".

Although this patient was eventually discharged (as patients do graduate from hospice care), June continued to be a shining star and comfort in the lives of many terminally ill persons throughout George's County (where she has resided for the past 20 years) who are currently living with a variety of illnesses ranging from HIV, breast cancer, prostate cancer, and colon and lung cancers to name a few. She has also been available at a moments notice to sit vigil with patients who are in their last hours and minutes of life, often holding their hand, singing a soothing song or a prayer to comfort them. June has truly made an impact in the lives of the patients she has served by helping individuals out their last days to the fullest while fulfilling her calling as a Hospice Volunteer. As June so eloquently stated, "Being involved with Hospice is not depressing, it's actually a calling from God sending me to be with His angels".

In addition to working full time at the Department of Housing and Urban Development, and volunteering with Hospice of the Chesapeake (since 2005); June also volunteers at the Church of Epiphany and the Washington National Cathedral in Washington, D.C. and continues to play an instrumental role in sharing her experiences with prospective hospice volunteers in and around Forestville, George's County.

June is truly a volunteer who comes to Hospice of the Chesapeake with an open mind and a big heart for giving back to the community.



NEED:


June has availed herself to provide comfort in the lives of terminally ill persons throughout Prince George's County who are currently living with a variety of illnesses. She has been readily accessible at a moments notice to sit vigil at the bedside of patients who are in their last hours of life, often holding their hand, singing a soothing song or offering a prayer of comfort.

IMPACT:

June provides support to Hospice of the Chesapeake patients through weekly visits in addition to making telephone calls to bereaved family members following the loss of their loved one. June has made an impact in the lives of Hospice of the Chesapeake patients as she has helped individuals live out their last days to the fullest while fulfilling her calling as a Hospice Volunteer. June checks to make sure that families are coping adequately and appropriately with the death, and lets them know that bereavement services are available to them. June brings a quiet compassion and dignity to the position – she has offered prayer to distraught family members, and a kind voice at the end of the telephone line to all with whom she contacts.

INSPIRATION:

June is a deeply spiritual person and for the most part, this work feels very purposeful and meaningful for her. Additionally, June has stated that, "Being involved with Hospice is not depressing; it's actually a calling from God sending me to be with His angels". June is truly a volunteer who comes to Hospice of the Chesapeake with an open mind and a big heart for giving back to the community.

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