



Windows Within Project

An archive of hospice volunteer experiences,
inspiring reflection upon the lives we lead

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WWP MISSION: To share and document ongoing hospice volunteer experiences for improved understanding and acceptance of end of life, mobilizing social change.

WWP VISION: WWP's vision is a society where end of life is fully accepted and integrated into the human journey.

What is the Windows Within Project?

The Windows Within Project is an archive of experiences shared by hospice volunteers nationally. The bank of material includes ongoing stories of unveiled gifts of grace and beauty, honoring what truly matters in life. Experiences are documented through personal interviews, resulting in original volunteer *Spotlights*, *Reflections* and *Quotations* published on the Windows Within Project website. The Project's unique mission is to embrace the 'windows within' patients and to share ongoing hospice volunteer experiences for improved understanding and acceptance of end of life, mobilizing social change.

Where did the name "Windows Within Project" originate?

The name of the project emerged from discovering that volunteers receive intangible gifts from their experiences; they discover new understandings, perspectives and profound appreciation for what it means to be human. It is as if patients unveil a *window within* to reveal the gifts of grace and beauty and volunteers unveil a similar *window within* to share their insights with others.

Who created the WWP and what was the catalyst?

Mary York, a Hosparus Volunteer developed the *Windows Within Project* with support from the Hosparus of Louisville Volunteer Managers. Her own volunteer experiences were a catalyst for the project, often life-enriching. She wanted to document these "gifts" patients gave to her. Mary felt other volunteers must be experiencing similar insights, and hence, she created the *Windows Within Project* to document and share this material.

What are the goals of the Windows Within Project?

- To document and share the gifts Hospice volunteers receive through their experiences
- To explore how these experiences raise awareness of what it means to be human
- To share volunteer insights to broaden the understanding about the end of life
- To provide a supportive/educational community for hospice volunteers
- To support the mission of Hospice: to educate, recruit and retain volunteers

What Information will be shared via interviews with volunteers?

Themes of wisdom, knowledge, compassion, beauty and connection emerge from the personal interviews with volunteers, which are the cornerstones of the project. The **windowswithinproject.com** website features frequent Hospice volunteer *Spotlight* and *Reflection* posts. The *Spotlight* feature presents an in-depth look into what inspires a volunteer to be of service to those in the care of hospice. The feature also reveals profound insights from volunteers about wisdom gained from patients, that of grace and beauty, honoring what it means to be human.

See the inaugural *Spotlight* post here <http://windowswithinproject.com/2015/03/spotlight-on-bill-carpenter/> with Mr. Bill Carpenter, Hospice Volunteer.

The *Reflection* feature post includes various interactions with patients told from volunteer perspective. These stories are sometimes poignant, often simplistic, yet they serve as an intimate and personal reminder of the beauty and grace that is shared and experienced at the end of life.

The *Spotlights* and *Reflections* are posted monthly. Notable quotes from volunteers are shared in-between *Spotlight* and *Reflection* posts.

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