



Abbotsford Hospice Society

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Volunteer Information Letter April 2009

Finally, it is warming up to what feels like spring! We hope you take a moment to enjoy some of the nice weather. Please know that our office will be closed during the Easter holidays: the 10th (Good Friday) and the 13th (Easter Monday).

Upcoming Volunteer Support Meetings:

April Volunteer Support Meeting

April 21st (Tuesday)

10am – 12pm

“Honouring the AHS Volunteers past & present”

Come and be inspired by volunteers from the past,
participate in an exciting celebration of our present volunteer team,
& be energized for the future!

Followed by POTLUCK LUNCH!



(Please bring food to share – whatever you wish!)

May 12th: 10am – 12pm

Spiritual Care for Grieving/Dying clients

Facilitated by the spiritual care volunteer, Arlene Kropp

June 9th: 5pm – 8pm

Volunteer Appreciation BBQ

Client Support Training Refresher Opportunity:

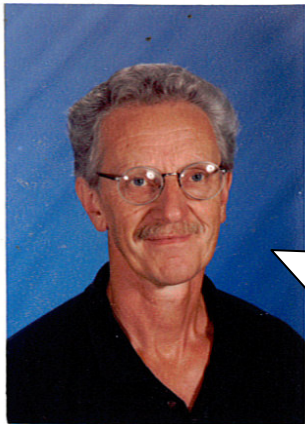
Have you been with us for more than five years? Do you feel like you would like a ‘refresher’ course? As a token of our appreciation, we would like to offer the Client Support training to those of you who have been with us for more than five years at no cost to you. Our current training is more than acquiring knowledge; it is a rich experience of self reflection and connecting with others in the group. If you would like to participate, please keep in mind that the training is a 30 hour commitment. Details regarding times are on the following page. For more information and/or to register, please contact Kelly.

Volunteer Hours – DUE April 30th!

Please remember to keep track of your volunteer hours and submit the form at the end of April to Maryanne. Please see the attached form.

Volunteers are the Heart of Hospice!

We appreciate every one of you. This month we introduce you to Pete Brandsma.
Thank you, Pete, for your commitment to support people in our community through AHS.



I was born in Alberta and have lived in Abbotsford since 1953. I am married to a loving, supportive wife, and blessed with 6 sons and 11 grandchildren. I am semi-retired from Abbotsford Christian Secondary School, having held the positions of teacher, counsellor and vice principal over a period of 30 years. In my training in psychology and counselling, and being a people person, I was attracted to AHS and took the Client Support Training in 2004 and then joined AHS. At the present time I support palliative and bereavement clients. I've found that the visits and support given are very much appreciated and make the client feel supported, remembered, and loved.

Hospice Foundation of America's 16th Annual Teleconference:

~ **Diversity and End-of-Life Care** ~ hosted by Dignity Memorial[®] Funeral Homes

Date: Wednesday, April 29th, 2009

Time: 10am – 3pm

Where: Salvation Army Cascade Community Church – 35190 Delair Rd

Cost: FREE (and it includes continental breakfast & lunch!)

This year's HFA's Annual National Bereavement Teleconference will focus on ***"Diversity and End-of-Life Care."*** The program will focus on ways of understanding diversity and how cultural histories, traditions and beliefs can affect end of life care. More details on the attached flyer. Juanita Fleming will be one of the panellists! For registration, please contact Yoko by **April 15th**. Spaces are limited!

Upcoming AHS Groups & Services

Please tell your family and friends!

Several groups are continuing.

- **Supporting Children through Music**

(Every other Saturday 1pm – 3pm)

- **Perinatal Loss Support**

- **New: Compassionate Connections**, a morning for palliative clients that includes:

Gentle Conversations

(Every Thursday 9:30am – 10:30am) &

Caregivers Support Group

(every Thursday 11am – 12pm)

- **New: Daytime Grief Support Group**

(starting May 4, Mondays 10 – 12)

Client Support Training

Wednesday, April 15th – First session
Saturday, May 2nd – Final Session and
Graduation

Class Schedule:

Wednesdays 6:00 pm to 9:00 pm

Saturdays 9:00 am to 4:00 pm

***Please help us spread the word!
Contact Kelly for registration.***