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• **Houston Solari Hospice Care**  
• **NEWS RELEASE**  
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**GAIN VALUABLE JOB EXPERIENCE!**

***Become a Volunteer With Houston Solari Hospice Care***

**Houston, Texas – Jan. 23, 2012** – It’s the ultimate “catch 22.” Employers want someone with on-the-job experience. But, how are you going to get that experience when no one will hire you? One solution: Become a volunteer!

“Our company offers a variety of unique volunteer opportunities that match up students’ career interests with the needs of our terminally-ill patients, so it’s a true benefit for everyone,” says Dana Reeder, volunteer coordinator, Houston Solari Hospice Care. “The skills that students gain from this experience will definitely put them ahead in the ballgame when it comes time to start job hunting.”

Houston Solari Hospice Care volunteers work in patients’ homes throughout the Houston area, at the newly-opened 12-bed Inpatient Unit at 9714 S. Gessner Rd. in southwest Houston, and at the administrative offices at 6800 W. Loop South in Bellaire.

Some volunteers serve as office assistants – answering phones, filing paperwork or helping to prepare information packets for our professional marketing liaisons. Others work directly with patients and their families – providing companionship, friendly visits, sharing favorite hobbies (such as reading or playing music), doing light household chores, running errands and offering respite to caregivers.

“Our volunteer program is a particularly good choice for students who are pursuing degrees in management, marketing, or in health care fields such as nursing, social work, counseling, physical therapy, occupational therapy, pharmacy or medicine,” continues Reeder. “By watching our interdisciplinary team of caregivers in action, students get a glimpse at what a future career in their chosen field may be like.”

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All students receive several hours of free training and go through a short orientation before beginning their work. Schedules are developed around the student's availability and study load, so hours and times of service vary. Students can also earn community service credit hours for their volunteer efforts.

"It's one thing to read about a possible workplace scenario in a textbook, and quite another to experience it in the real world," says Reeder. "Textbooks don't give all the answers. Some of the most valuable skills students learn are being able to read people's verbal and nonverbal communication cues, on-the-job problem solving, and versatility in dealing with a variety of personalities and situations."

Ultimately, the biggest reward for college students may come in a benefit they don't expect to receive – simply a feeling of goodwill from giving back to their community.

"There's something about carving out time to help others that actually leaves you feeling good about yourself," concludes Reeder. "While it takes a special person to work in hospice care, the only requirements to be a volunteer are compassion and commitment. Even a couple of hours a week can have a huge impact for patients and their families. It's truly gratifying to know you've made a difference."

To learn more about Houston Solari Hospice Care's Volunteer Program, contact Dana Reeder at 713-664-7120 or by e-mail at [Dana.Reeder@SolariHospice.net](mailto:Dana.Reeder@SolariHospice.net). For more information about Houston Solari Hospice Care, please visit [www.solarihospice.com](http://www.solarihospice.com) or follow @SolariHospice on Twitter or Facebook.

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