

# Media Release

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## **Create happiness: Find a place to volunteer**

### ***Haven Hospice hosts 1<sup>st</sup> Annual Volunteer Fair at Volusia Mall***

(DAYTONA BEACH)—You’ve got time to spare, talents to share and a place to belong when you volunteer. That’s what Janie Langston discovered when she signed up to volunteer in the Haven Hospice office two days a week. “I retired at 72 and found it wasn’t as much fun not having a place to go in the morning,” said Langston, who is an early riser. She also has a lifetime of experience, having retired from an 11-year career as a home health aide and before that, working as a bookkeeper and grocery store cashier. She knew little about Haven Hospice until its Volunteer Coordinator, Mary Kathryn Maine, came to the senior center where Janie dances and invited its members to volunteer.

Getting to know places where you can make a difference is the theme of the 1<sup>st</sup> Annual Volunteer Fair Sat., Aug. 21 at Volusia Mall, hosted by Haven Hospice. Joining Haven at the fair will be United Way, Big Brothers Big Sisters of Volusia County and other non-profit organizations that need volunteers. The fair is an opportunity to learn about giving back and making a difference in your community, enter to win store prize drawings, and participate in free health screenings. The event will take place from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.

This is the first time Janie has volunteered since she retired, and she loves it. “Haven is a very friendly place,” she said. “I feel like I belong and am doing something very worthwhile. I’m helping in an area that’s needed.”

Maine couldn’t be happier that Langston has joined her team, and she hopes the volunteer fair will help attract more volunteers like her. “I will take all the volunteers I can get,” she said. “If someone is willing to volunteer and has special interests, I’m willing to find a place for their skills so that they benefit our mission.”

Haven serves patients and families all over Volusia and Flagler counties, and so do the people who may want to volunteer. Maine is aware that many prospective volunteers will prefer to work from home or close to home, and she is more than happy to accommodate them. “We have many

projects that can be done from home,” she said, “such as baking, crafting greeting cards, and sewing.” Theresa Heal, for example, clips newspaper articles at home. Audrey Perry, a retired elementary school teacher, assists with crafts, decorating, and baking cookies and brownies. “I enjoy being helpful just doing whatever Haven needs,” she said. Her sister, Lucille Dickinson, who lives in California, crafts greeting cards to remember patients on holidays, birthdays and other special occasions. Maine also plans to start a project called memory bears to help families honor their lost loved ones. With their permission, the bears are made using scraps of the loved ones’ clothing, much like a patchwork quilt.

Maine also appreciates her volunteers, Harry Kirkpatrick and his wife B.J., who are dedicated to visiting with patients and assisting their families. “I don’t think someone can talk you into doing what we do,” he said. “I can only say how much you get out of it. The patients, their spouses and the families we serve are so grateful for your help.”

Maine also needs volunteers to join Haven’s speaker’s bureau, assist with grief support services and pastoral care, provide licensed massage therapy services, and represent Haven at local nursing facilities by offering special activities for residents.

*For information about the volunteer fair or how to volunteer with Haven Hospice, located at 211B N. Amelia Ave. in DeLand, contact Mary Kathryn Maine at (386) 734-7600.*

**About Haven Hospice**

Haven Hospice is North Florida’s expert in end-of-life and palliative care and is one of three 2008 Circle of Life Award® winners nationwide to be recognized as leaders in improving the care of patients near the end of life or with life-threatening conditions. Haven Hospice has also been recognized as a Florida Pacesetter for its leadership in promoting living wills. Haven Hospice has served more than 45,000 patients and families since 1979 and has been licensed in Florida as a not-for-profit hospice since 1980. For more information, visit [www.havenhospice.org](http://www.havenhospice.org) or call 800-727-1889.

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