

I had two loved ones die at the Palliative Care Unit at the Saint John Regional Hospital and I was so impressed with how they were treated, that I swore one day that I would volunteer in palliative care.

When I retired from my job as a dental assistant, I signed up to volunteer at Bobby's Hospice. I loved working on the patient floor. I remember one family that I got to know quite well. One day, I arrived for my shift just at the Hospice Candlelight Leaving Ceremony was taking place and I realized that their loved one had died. The family was sad but also at peace after their long journey. There was a 4-year old child running around, not realizing what had just happened. I went to speak with the grandmother of the child and give my condolences. When I asked her if there was anything I could do, she said she would like to have a cup of tea. I made the tea and we sat down. I listened to her story and we talked about how to talk to children about death. The grandmother was so grateful to have someone to talk to at this difficult time and I was pleased I was able to be there in her greatest hour of need.

While volunteering at Bobby's Hospice, I also got involved in their weekly summer BBQ fundraiser and worked at the Marketing & Sales Tent with two other volunteers. We had a lot of fun and it was a great fit as I also spent many, many years working in retail and I love sales.

After several years, a job opportunity came up at The Hospice Shoppe and I decided to try it. I truly feel that I am at home with the most amazing extended family that works and volunteers at The Hospice Shoppe. I am so proud of the work we do to help fund care at Bobby's Hospice. I know first-hand how important their care is and how much our community needs it.

Betty Anne McCoy
Hospice Volunteer and Shoppe Staff Member

