

Kamilla

VOLUNTEER

The opportunity to volunteer at the Yee Hong Peter K Kwok Hospice during the vulnerable times brought on by the pandemic has been equal parts challenging, fulfilling, and greatly inspiring. This is largely due to the tremendous team effort, which I was fortunate to witness and participant to, that went into ensuring the safety of anyone entering the Hospice, especially residents.

Throughout my time at the Hospice, I, along with all other volunteers, was not able to interact with the residents, which served as a means of protecting them from any risk of contracting the virus. Instead, I was able to observe the patience, kindness, and care put forth by every staff member towards them to make sure that their stay at the Hospice was not as isolating and lonely as the experience of so many within the palliative care community unfortunately has been.

Witnessing the passion that the staff and volunteers possess towards their work has made me more motivated to pursue similar experiences that I can learn from and cherish. From the warm and welcoming environment fostered by everyone at the Hospice from day one, to the often brief, yet meaningful interactions with visitors, there are a multitude of things that I value from my time as a volunteer.

I will always endlessly admire the personal support workers and nurses for their immense dedication and compassion; the housekeepers for their work ethic and being crucial to the Hospice's homelike and hospitable nature; the volunteers for the time and skills that they generously choose to share; the social workers and psychotherapist for being an additional support to the residents and their families; the Executive Director for her leadership and vision to create a place like Yee Hong Hospice to exist; and all the other unnamed, but also significant, workers for contributing their efforts to keep the Hospice running smoothly.

As somber and daunting as the thought of a hospice may be to some, this is where end-of-life care can be provided for those who truly need it, and where life and the departure from it are honoured for people of all faiths, communities, and backgrounds. I am glad to have taken the opportunity to volunteer at the Yee Hong Hospice, and I hope that its positive impact will only continue to grow from here.

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