**40 things our volunteers say about volunteering for North Devon Hospice**

**We asked our volunteers why they love volunteering with North Devon Hospice and this is what they had to say:**

1. It's good for my wellbeing, and being part of a team and new friends with volunteers
2. Made some lovely friends and enjoy meeting people both locals and visitors
3. We have a lot of laughs & have made friends with the people I work with
4. Good to give something back to the Community
5. I like being part of an income for the hospice, to help those who need it most
6. The friends I have made among the volunteers and manager, and have always felt from day one, part of the team
7. Being with people and staff dedicated to raising funds for the hospice
8. I'm repaying them for the wonderful care my sister received there
9. Giving something back to the hospice, that people are grateful for
10. Hoping I help patients through a difficult time in a small way
11. Enabling patients to enjoy small everyday things in life that we may all take for granted
12. As I live on my own it's good to be with other people
13. Ability to change roles or do more than one role
14. I'm learning new skills
15. Knowing when I sell something in the shop it makes a difference to someone's life
16. In this time of too much waste I really think of the Hospice shop as a great recycling machine!
17. I get as much from my volunteering as I give.
18. The incredible feeling that just being there even for a short period of time is important to the wellbeing of others.
19. I enjoy working with committed hard working people who share the same values
20. I love the freedom to choose how many hours I work and when
21. Feeling valued and enabled to contribute ideas
22. Great atmosphere at the Hospice which envelops you when you are there
23. I feel valued and love the people I work for, both patients and volunteers/staff
24. It keeps me active
25. Flexibility of hours means that I can fit it in around other commitments
26. I feel it is such a good cause; we never know when we or someone we love/know may need its services and therefore I feel privileged to be contributing to it
27. It's a lovely environment to be in, it feels welcoming, warm and calm
28. Meeting and supporting patients, their families and carers who are nearly always brave and an inspiration
29. Local charity, personal hospice experience with family and know the need and the support offered
30. I learn to appreciate the generosity of those who donate furniture for us to sell
31. By meeting people to inform them of the wonderful work the hospice does and hopefully will continue to do so
32. Privileged to share in Peoples journey of life and facing death
33. Like the challenge of keeping sales up and meeting all the local community in the shop
34. Feeling that I am actually doing something that helps raise funds and so supporting the staff who actually provide the care to folk who need it
35. Volunteering at the hospice is the best decision I have made
36. The friendly welcome that I receive whenever I walk through the door
37. Being part of a group of volunteers - a member of "the family".
38. Retired people can sometimes feel marginalised and volunteering can give structure to life and provided another group with which to interact.
39. Extending my skills in areas outside of my previous career
40. The social interaction with all kinds of people who I wouldn't otherwise meet