**35 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. I like being part of an income for the hospice, to help those who need it most
5. The friends I have made among the volunteers and manager, and have always felt from day one, part of the team
6. Being with people and staff dedicated to raising funds for the hospice
7. I'm repaying them for the wonderful care my sister received there
8. Giving something back to the hospice, that people are grateful for
9. Hoping I help patients through a difficult time in a small way
10. Enabling patients to enjoy small everyday things in life that we may all take for granted
11. Ability to change roles or do more than one role
12. I'm learning new skills
13. Knowing when I sell something in the shop it makes a difference to someone's life
14. In this time of too much waste I really think of the Hospice shop as a great recycling machine!
15. I get as much from my volunteering as I give.
16. The incredible feeling that just being there even for a short period of time is important to the wellbeing of others
17. I love the freedom to choose how many hours I work and when
18. Feeling valued and enabled to contribute ideas
19. I feel valued and love the people I work for, both patients and volunteers/staff
20. It keeps me active
21. Flexibility of hours means that I can fit it in around other commitments
22. 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
23. It's a lovely environment to be in, it feels welcoming, warm and calm
24. Meeting and supporting patients, their families and carers who are nearly always brave and an inspiration
25. Local charity, personal hospice experience with family and know the need and the support offered
26. I learn to appreciate the generosity of those who donate furniture for us to sell
27. By meeting people to inform them of the wonderful work the hospice does and hopefully will continue to do so
28. Privileged to share in Peoples journey of life and facing death
29. Like the challenge of keeping sales up and meeting all the local community in the shop
30. 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
31. Volunteering at the hospice is the best decision I have made
32. Being part of a group of volunteers - a member of "the family"
33. Retired people can sometimes feel marginalised and volunteering can give structure to life and provided another group with which to interact.
34. Extending my skills in areas outside of my previous career
35. The social interaction with all kinds of people who I wouldn't otherwise meet