Volunteers have been the backbone of Rainbow Hospice Care’s mission since its foundation and volunteer involvement continues to be an integral part of the work today. Next year will be our 30th year serving patients and families. It was on full display on Monday when ten volunteers from the Eaton Corporation in Watertown came to help with the landscaping at the Johnson Creek Rainbow Hospice Care Inpatient Center.

"I just think it's great that Eaton will give you four hours of community service every other month, which gives us a chance to get out and help the community," said Wendy Jenks, Eaton Team Lender. "We picked Rainbow Hospice because it's such a good organization that helps a lot of people and helps people within Watertown and the surrounding areas."

The Eaton volunteers were all working hard removing weeds and spreading mulch to keep the grounds around the IPC in good shape and looking nice after a rough winter. They are hoping to have an even larger group in the future.

"We were really blessed to have this opportunity and frankly it's just a simple thing we can do to help give back to folks that need it," said Brian Enter, Eaton HR Manager.
"We're doing really well," said Jenks. "Everybody's working together as a team and it's awesome."

As the number of patients and families we serve continues to grow, volunteers continue to play a vital role. Rainbow Hospice Care is one of only six independent nonprofit hospices in the state of Wisconsin. All hospices that receive Medicare payments are required by the federal government to have volunteers. Five percent of all patient-care hours provided by Rainbow Hospice Care must be matched by trained volunteers. In a typical year Rainbow Hospice Care volunteers match 25 percent of the hours provided by our clinical team.

We are always eager to welcome additional volunteers. We can offer both short and long term opportunities and assignments that match each individual's interests and skills, from direct patient and family care to administrative activities in the office. Volunteers who can provide companionship to patients through listening, reading, music, prayer, holding a hand, and just offering a caring presence, are always needed. There are several ways to help with things like running errands, transportation, light housekeeping, yard work, and more. Other opportunities like helping with special events, outreach presentations, doing computer work, mailings and phone calls are also available. All volunteers receive a thorough orientation and training before they are given any assignment.

If you would like to learn more about volunteer opportunities, everyone is welcome to attend the volunteer information session on May 30 from 4-7 p.m. at the Rainbow Hospice Care Inpatient Center at 1225 Remmel Drive in Johnson Creek. You can also learn more volunteer opportunities offered through Rainbow Hospice by visiting www.rainbowhospicecare.org, or by calling Jill at (920) 674-6255.