

FROM JSSA *Volunteer News*, February 7, 2018

## Hospice Highlight

*We'll be running profiles of our volunteers each month, and this month's highlight is Richard Lieberman and his dog Quincy:*



Richard Lieberman and his dog Quincy have been volunteering for JSSA Hospice since February 2013. Richard saw an ad back in 2013 about JSSA needing people to volunteer with their dog. His dog, Quincy, seemed like a good fit, so Richard completed the [PALS](#) certification program. Now, five years later, Quincy and Richard have provided over 1092 visits to patients. They are a huge part of the foundation of making our patients at JSSA Hospice enjoy a better quality of life.

Richard volunteers for JSSA because he feels "that the hospice program does a great deal of good and there are a lot of memorable moments that happen when you've made 1092 visits!" Recently, Richard and Quincy were visiting a 103 year old woman. The patient asked him "How old are you?" Richard said, "I'm 71 years old." And the patient replied, "Well, you're no spring chicken!"

Richard says there are lot of good moments, times when you know that you've made someone feel better, times when you've brought something to their lives that brings them happiness. Richard and Quincy sometimes visit 10 patients a week, and the patients enjoy seeing Quincy's 'beautiful white coat.' "The thing I think I've learned the most, at JSSA Hospice, is how to try to be as sympathetic as possible, as helpful as possible, to someone who is in a very precarious and a tough situation. I have also realized that these patients want to talk to you, they want to interact with you, and they want to do things to the extent that they can do things. They are human beings like we all are." One of the things Richard finds challenging is watching patients get weaker. "Sometimes you visit and your patient is very rational, other times they can be very sad and upset, and probably the hardest part is when you're told that they've died." Richard says, "I enjoy volunteering for JSSA Hospice, I think the coordinators work very hard and really care about the program."

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