

Kathy Morris



Kathy Morris
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My Info

Name: Kathy Morris

Position titles: Certified Therapeutic Harp Practitioner, Certified Music Practitioner, Artist

Kind of Facility: Samaritan Evergreen Hospice, Lebanon Community Hospital, Albany General Hospital (both Hospitals are Samaritan also). Also a private Foster Care Home, and several nursing homes.

How many hours do you work a week or month? Varies. Usually 2 hours per week in Lebanon, on call in Albany, and have 15-25+ patients per week through Hospice

Are you paid? Yes

Do you consider it a fair pay? Yes

Transportation? Drive my own car, mileage paid for Hospice.

Benefits? No. But especially at Hospice it's like being part of a family, and other than the bennies, I'm treated like a regular employee. I've also heard some of the Hospital folks refer to me as "their harpist"

Do you have more than one facility? Yes.

If so, what kinds? In home Hospice, Foster Care, Nursing homes, Hospitals: in Infusion, Cardiac Rehab (for patients exercising!), ICU, Med-Surg recovery.

Which kind of facility pays more? Most very comparable

Are you volunteering? No, except for events.

Are you working one on one? Yes Groups? Yes

Interest story:

Creating healing touches

Once a week, Kathy Morris wheels a large harp into Samaritan Lebanon Community Hospital, maneuvering it through the hallways until she arrives at the Emenhiser Infusion Center, where she sits down and begins to play. When she first started, she may have gotten a few strange looks. But now she is one of the hospital's most welcomed guests, loved by patients and staff alike.

Morris is a Certified Music Practitioner, meaning that she has been specially trained to play music for hospital patients. For the past four years, the Lebanon Community Hospital Foundation has paid for her to play one day a week at the Emenhiser Center and the Cardiac Rehab department. She can play just about any tune patients request - from Bach to the Bee Gees.

"When I play in Cardiac Rehab," Morris said, "the patients often sing or whistle to the music. One lady came up to me recently, kissed me on the head and said, 'I'm so glad you're here.'"

When Morris plays in the Emenhiser Center, the mood is much different.

"There, it's all about creating a soothing environment," she said. "Many of these patients have to sit for hours. Sometimes the music actually helps them fall asleep and rest during treatment."

"A gentleman who has cancer has been coming in with his wife for several months. Every time they would request 'Clair de Lune' (a classic French song)," Kathy said. "Now when they come in, I know that this is their special song and I play it for them before they even ask."

Morris, who is also funded by the Albany General Hospital Foundation to play at the Albany hospital, is one example of a system-wide focus at Samaritan on fostering a healing environment; a practice that medical research is proving has a measurable effect on the health of patients. Donors to the Samaritan foundations continue to lead the way in this effort.