



## **Support Volunteer Description (drivers and companions)**

### **Purpose**

Lung cancer places a great burden on families, and some lung cancer patients lack the support they need to achieve the best outcomes during their journey. Lung cancer carries an unkind stigma that often leaves patients feeling shamed and blamed. A Breath of Hope works to reduce the burden of lung cancer by offering services to fill in the care gaps. Hope and positive energy are known to bring healing. Every time we support lung cancer patients and their families, we have made a step forward in our battle to save lives and improve quality of life during the journey.

### **Program**

*TRANSPORTATION:* ABOH volunteer drivers provide door-to-door transportation to and from lung cancer screenings, treatments, or medical appointments for lung cancer patients and their caregivers. This program is currently offered in the Twin Cities in Minnesota and in Lee County in Florida. ABOH transportation services make it possible for eligible patients to receive lung cancer screening and for lung cancer patients to receive timely medical care that can lead to improved health outcomes.

*COMPANIONSHIP:* ABOH volunteer companions have been through the cancer journey and simply want to help others. Their role is to listen and offer hope and companionship during the emotional roller coaster of a cancer diagnosis. They provide emotional support to patients and caregivers through texts, phone calls, coffee dates, and virtual or in-person meetings. Connecting with an ABOH companion who has experienced a cancer diagnosis can provide a great deal of support and connection.

### **Time Commitment**

Support volunteers have the freedom to volunteer as often as they wish and may say no when the requested drive time, location or companionship visit doesn't work for them. ABOH does not require a minimum time commitment.

### **Requirements**

- Must be 21+ and have a reliable vehicle
- Companions must have experience with cancer
- Drivers must have experience with cancer or have an empathetic personality that brings comfort to cancer patients
- Must complete all required paperwork, background check and training
- Must adhere to HIPPA laws and appropriate professional boundaries (covered in training)
- Ability to work with diverse individuals to foster a culturally inclusive environment
- Drivers must have a valid driver's license, car insurance and a good driving record

If you or someone you know would like more information about becoming an A Breath of Hope support volunteer, please contact us at [info@abreathofhope.org](mailto:info@abreathofhope.org) or call 952-405-9201 for more info.