

# WARD COMPANIONS

Ward companions aim to enhance the patients' stay providing practical and emotional support and importantly, a sense of normality.

Companions engage in many ways, by playing games, through reading, assisting at meal times, virtual reality, or just being there as a reassuring presence in times of need, not only for patients but also families and carers.

Depending on the volunteers' own qualifications and interests, they also may provide assistance with patient care, hairdressing, nail and beauty services. Companions have also supported patients to draft their last wishes and also to create memory boxes for loved ones.

There are currently 40 volunteers enrolled as ward companions for LOROS and their contribution to inpatients has been invaluable, as evidenced by numerous thank you cards and LOROS Have Your Say feedback cards.

The ward companion's initiative has been shared via BBC News and Facebook, highlighting the impact the role has had and the potential for hospices to adopt this approach in the future.

It's the little things in life that often mean so much and the attention, care, compassion, trust and empathy, afforded by volunteer ward companions has significantly improved patients experience of LOROS.

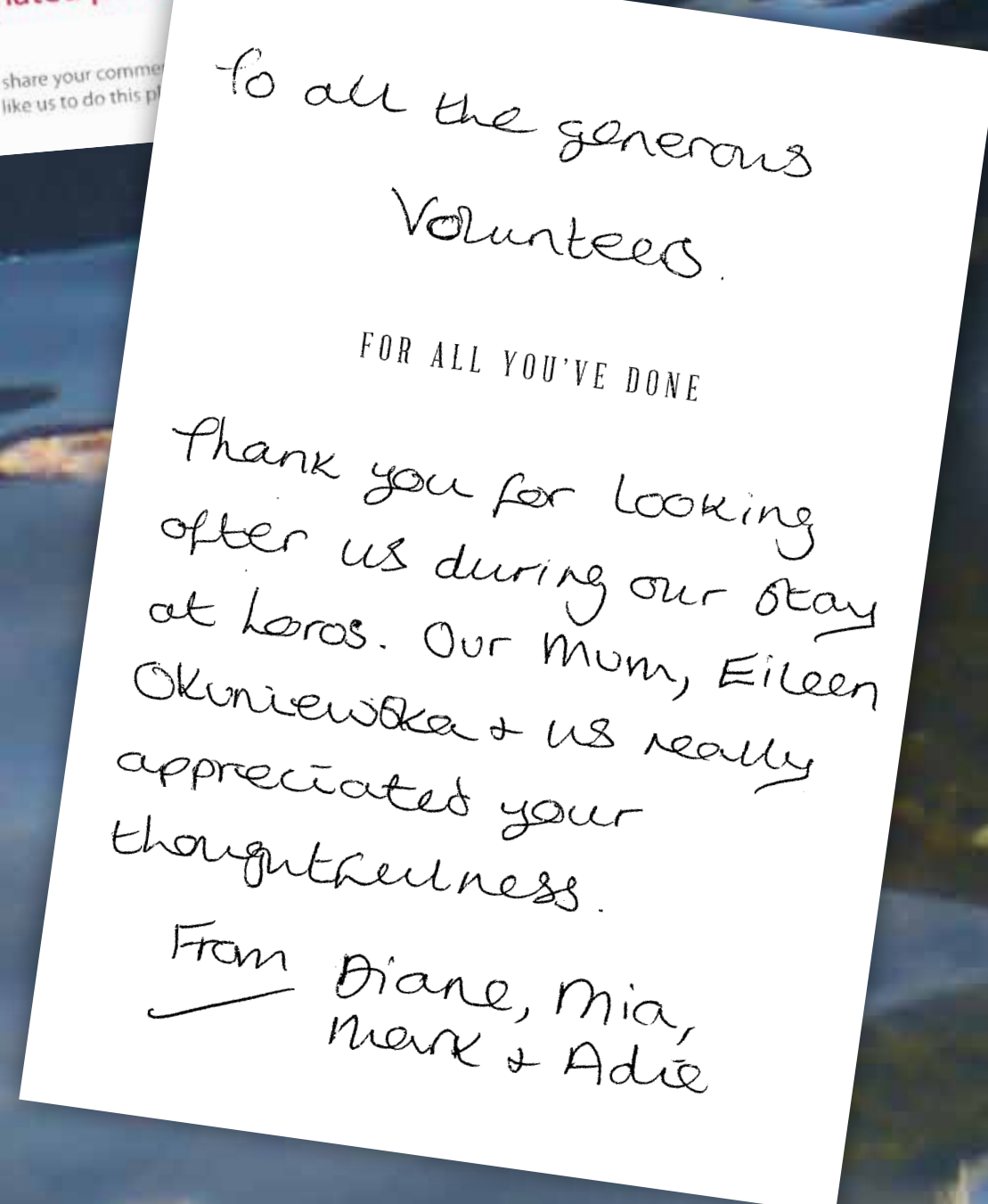
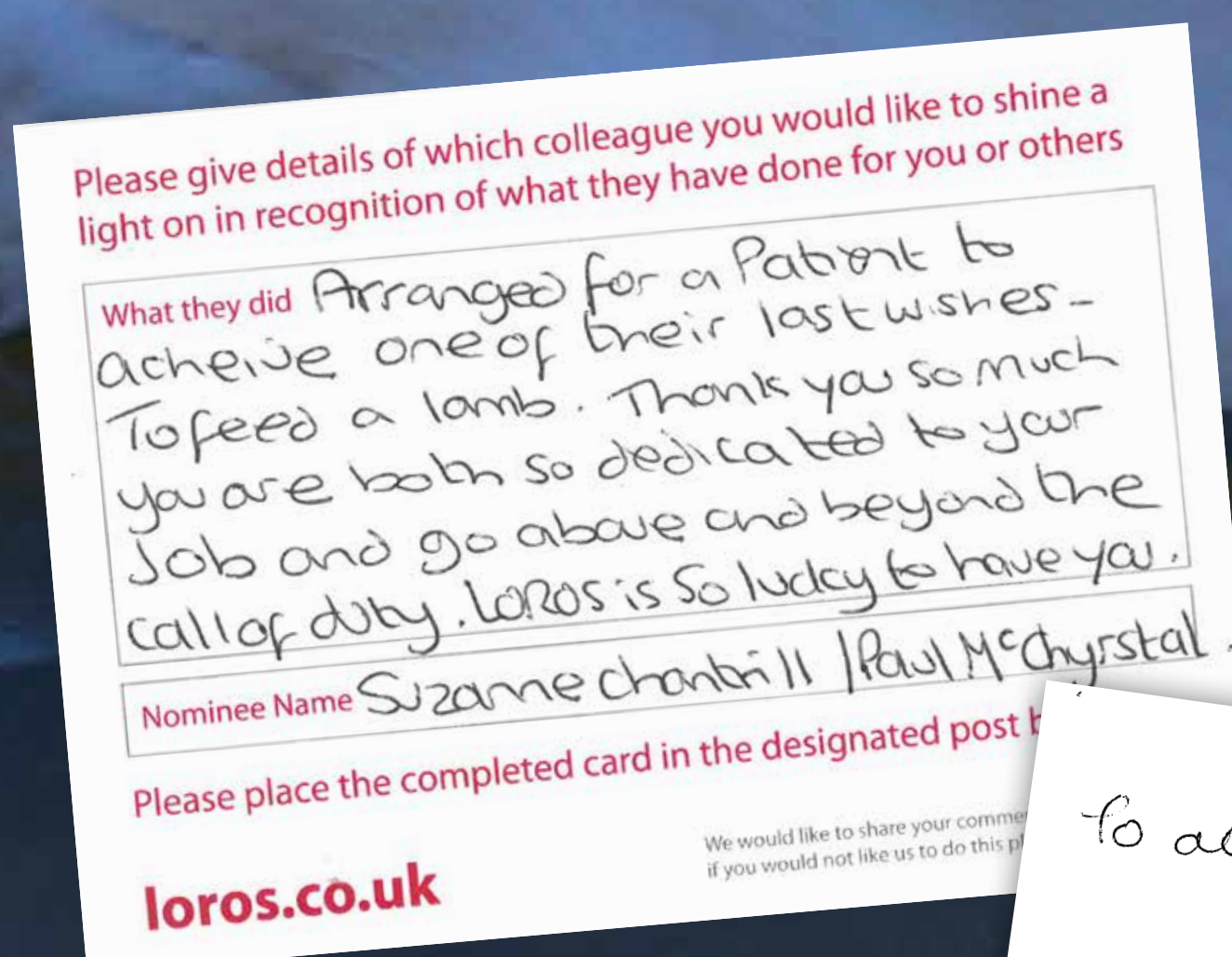
## What do you get out of being a ward companion?

"A patient was so upset when I went to see her, so I sat with her and chatted and we went outside to the fish pond, I kept making her laugh as I hate to see someone upset and I comforted her.

I brushed her hair and made her feel comfortable, the little things mean so much to someone.

I felt so humbled."

Alison Carter  
Volunteer Ward Companion



## What difference does a ward companion make?

"It gives a patient unrestricted time with someone to voice any fears or concerns I feel that ward companions are amazing and so invaluable, their care and compassion is just breath taking

Well done ward companions keep up the excellent work you do."

Nurse - LOROS Ward

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**LOROS**

Hospice Care for Leicester, Leicestershire & Rutland

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and your family