

## Danish University Colleges

Volunteers in palliative care in nursing homes – providing quality of life for residents.

Sangild Stølen, Karen Marie; Raunkiær, Mette; Frederiksen, Jesper; Jacobsen, Michael Hviid

*Publication date:*  
2019

*Document Version*  
Publisher's PDF, also known as Version of record

[Link to publication](#)

*Citation for published version (APA):*

Sangild Stølen, K. M., Raunkiær, M., Frederiksen, J., & Jacobsen, M. H. (2019). Volunteers in palliative care in nursing homes – providing quality of life for residents.. Abstract from EAPC 2019 16th World Congress of European Association for Palliative Care, Berlin, Germany.

### General rights

Copyright and moral rights for the publications made accessible in the public portal are retained by the authors and/or other copyright owners and it is a condition of accessing publications that users recognise and abide by the legal requirements associated with these rights.

- Users may download and print one copy of any publication from the public portal for the purpose of private study or research.
- You may not further distribute the material or use it for any profit-making activity or commercial gain
- You may freely distribute the URL identifying the publication in the public portal

### Download policy

If you believe that this document breaches copyright please contact us providing details, and we will remove access to the work immediately and investigate your claim.

# Volunteers in palliative care in nursing homes – providing quality of life for residents

**REHPA**

The Danish Knowledge Centre  
for Rehabilitation and  
Palliative Care

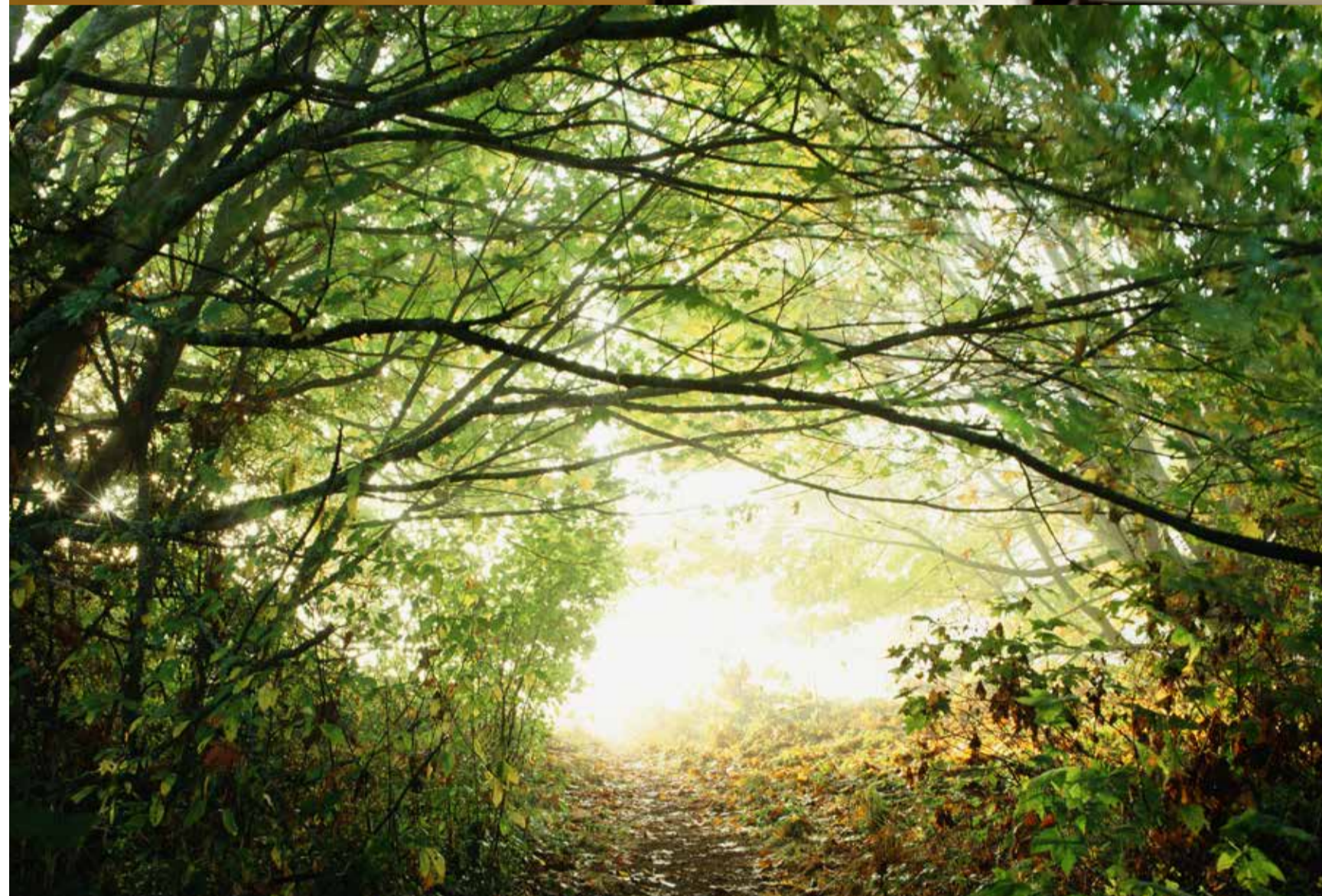
Karen Sangild Stølen<sup>1</sup>, Mette Raunkiær<sup>2</sup>, Jesper Frederiksen<sup>3</sup> and Michael Hviid Jacobsen<sup>4</sup>

1. Department of Nursing and Nutrition, Faculty of Health, University College Copenhagen, Denmark.

2. REHPA, the Danish Knowledge Centre for Rehabilitation and Palliative Care, the Region of Southern Denmark, The University of Southern Denmark.

3. Department of Nursing and Nutrition, Faculty of Health, University College Copenhagen, Denmark.

4. Department of Sociology and Social Work, Aalborg University, Denmark.



## THE AIM

To describe the volunteers activities in nursing homes and how these activities contribute to the quality of life for nursing home residents with palliative needs and their families.

## BACKGROUND

Volunteering has gained an ever-increasing roll in Danish society in general. In health care we are seeing that the municipalities are increasingly working together with volunteers who perform different tasks. In nursing homes volunteers work among serious ill or dying people with palliative needs, and the volunteers seem to offer services for the residents and their families that extend beyond or supplement palliative care provided by professionals.

## METHODS

This study is a part of a PhD thesis planned as three sub-studies: sub-study #1 takes place in peoples own home, sub-study #2 takes place in a nursing home and sub-study #3 takes place in a hospice. The results in this study is related to sub-study #2.

A qualitative design, with participant observations and interviews was used. Three nursing homes in three different Danish municipalities were included:

**Participant observations in three nursing homes:**  
120 hours

**Individual interviews: 14**  
**Informants:**  
8 volunteers  
3 residents and 1 relative  
2 professionals

**Group interviews: 4**  
**Informants:**  
2 Volunteers  
8 professionals

## RESULTS

The volunteers established and provided social fellowships related to for example music, culture, food, nature experiences and psysical movement. The activities seemed to contribute to the quality of life for residents. The activities offered something different from what the professional palliative care could offer, but was limited to those who could come to the common room in the nursing home. The voluntary commitment depended on management and cooperation and recognition from professionals and other volunteers was essential.

## CONCLUSIONS

The findings showed that volunteer activities are characterized by great diversity and contribute to quality of life for the resident and supplement the palliative care in nursing homes. The activities benefit the resident most when the resident is still mobile. Volunteering demands management, cooperation an recognition. Provisions for the families were unclear.

The authors have no conflicts of interests.

