

Department of Kansas - VFW Auxiliary Hospital Program

Kelle Brewer-Brown, Chairman – November 2023 - #3

Volunteers are especially needed during the holidays to cheer patients and fill the gaps for staff vacations.

HOSPITAL Program VOLUNTEERS -

Becoming a hospital volunteer is a rewarding way to spend your time. People who donate their time, skills and energy to hospital communities play a crucial role in the healthcare and emotional well-being of patients receiving care. By spending time with patients, delivering gifts or speaking with family members, volunteers lift people's spirits. Similarly, when volunteers complete tasks and other duties, nurses, patient care advocates, doctors and technicians are able to focus their time and energy on providing sick or injured people with the medical services they need.

If you have a special skill, or you really enjoy helping people in need, you may be interested in volunteering your time at a hospital or other medical care facility. Volunteers can typically make their own schedules, and the position offers a lot of flexibility. As volunteers work to provide support for sick or injured patients, it's important that they have a cheerful demeanor and kind disposition. Expectations are high for volunteers, and the position sometimes can be very emotional. However, the sense of reward volunteers often feel contribute to an overall positive environment.

Here are 8 types of hospital volunteer jobs to consider....

Cashier

Hospitals often have gift shops where people can buy toys, flowers cards or other gifts for people receiving care. Most hospitals have full-time or part-time cashiers in these stores, but they may need volunteers to run the register or operate the shop when paid workers are unavailable.

Inventory

Hospitals hire inventory managers and stockers to help maintain operations and functionality. Sometimes volunteers assist in taking inventory and stocking medical supplies when other employees are unavailable.

Door greeter

Hospitals have many departments, and some departments have their own wings, buildings, floors or units. For large hospital campuses, volunteer door greeters are essential to smooth operations. People in these positions help patients, family members and other visitors find the departments they're looking for. Visiting someone in a hospital can be a joyous, stressful or emotional time. Door greeters offer information and help visitors and patients feel more comfortable and less stressed

Receptionist

Hospitals receive many phone calls at all hours of the day and night. Volunteer receptionists help answer phones, take messages and forward callers to the appropriate departments or voicemails. Most hospitals have many full-time and part-time receptionists, however, volunteers are often needed to fill in scheduling gaps.

Gift delivery

Volunteering to deliver gifts like cards, stuffed animals or flowers is a common volunteer option. Volunteers often deliver these items to people and short-term or long-term care, and they visit patients in multiple areas of the hospital. Volunteering as a gift delivery person helps bring cheer and boosts morale to patients.

Restocking patients rooms

Hospitals serve a wide variety of patients in multiple departments. Each of the short-term stay, long-term stay and medical imagery patient rooms need to be well stocked with items like blankets, pillow, socks, gowns and sanitary items. Volunteering to restock patient rooms helps doctors and nurses spend their time and energy offering care to patients in need.

Socializing with patients

Patients who are admitted to the hospital may become upset or lonely. People who volunteer to socialize with patients offer a listening ear and friendly companionship. They help relieve people's stress and feelings of loneliness. They boost morale and may even assist in patient recovery.

Entertainer

Sometimes, an overnight stay or extended hospitalization can cause upsetting emotions. Hospitals regularly need entertainers to help lift people's spirits. Volunteering to read to patients, sing or perform comedy routines is helpful in this process.

HOW TO VOLUNTEER AT A HOSPITAL – Five Steps

1. Contact your local hospital, nursing home, medical facility or volunteer center.

Visit your local hospital and search for the volunteer services department. Contact volunteer services by phone or email and ask what opportunities are available.. Review the positions available and consider what way you would most like to help.

2. Complete a volunteer application

You may be able to find this application online, or you may need to request it from someone working in your local hospital volunteer services department. Your application is likely to ask for your full legal name, any previous names you've had and a consent for a background check; Background checks are essential for ensuring the safety and well-being of patients, doctors, volunteers and other personnel; and may also include a skills section, and space for your basic history.

3. Take a physical exam and/or required vaccinations (varies by facility)

Most hospitals ask that their volunteers complete a physical exam to determine their wellness and ability to complete certain types of tasks. Getting a physical exam / vaccinations benefits volunteers and it helps maintain a safe and healthy environment for doctors, patients, volunteers and other hospital personnel.

4. Interview with a volunteer coordinator.

After submitting an application and completing a background check and physical examination, the next step to becoming a hospital volunteer is to have an interview with the volunteer coordinator. Most likely, the volunteer coordinator will contact you via email or phone call. Your volunteer interview will be like that of an interview for a paid position. The coordinator may ask questions about your work history and volunteer history, and they're likely to want to hear about times in which you have volunteered in the past.

5. Complete your orientation session

After being screened and interviewed, the final step to becoming a hospital volunteer is to complete your orientation session. Every hospital will have its own unique orientation process, which is likely to include safety procedures and other important information. This is where you will meet other volunteers and receive training on how to interact with patients. Your training session or sessions may be done in person or online, and they may take place over the course of a day, weekend or week. These sessions will explain the expectations for volunteers. This final step is crucial to the volunteer process, as this is where you are likely to learn the specifications of your assignments.

HAPPY THANKSGIVING



Gimme 3 Clues - name the band/bandleader - Jan 2024- SNEAK PEAK (6.1)

1. Chatanooga, Trombone, MIA
(bandleader)

1 _____

2. Liverpool, Mop-Top, Yesterday
(band)

2 _____

3. San Francisco, Perry, Faithfully
(band)

3 _____

4. Washington, Cobain, Nevermind
(band)

4 _____

5. Homewood, Schlapman, Girl Crush
(band)

5 _____

6. New York, DiMucci, I Wonder Why
(band)

6 _____

VFW Auxiliary Teams- Banding Together- Working for Veterans Dreams - - - Deadline April 30, 2024

District # _____ Name: _____

Auxiliary # _____ Address: _____