A Message from Voluntary Service

Thank you for taking the first step to becoming a VA Volunteer! On behalf of the Corporal Michael J.Crescenz VA Medical Center, we are delighted that you are interested in volunteering at our organization.

Our mission:
“Honor America’s Veterans by providing exceptional health care that improves their health and well being.” With a unique mission, we also have unique volunteers who bring an abundance of compassion, energy, and spirit to our Veterans. Your decision to volunteer at the VA Medical Center will be very fulfilling and rewarding.

Please take a few minutes to review the enclosed information carefully, complete and return the forms: Via mail or e-mail, or drop off to our office.
- Volunteer application
- Two reference forms from individuals other than relatives
- 0711 form (for your fingerprints)

The process will begin once Voluntary Service receives all your completed forms. The first step will begin with an interview and information session.

We look forward to meeting you and having you serve our Veterans. If you have any questions, please feel free to call (215) 823-5868.

Volunteer Opportunities

Volunteer opportunities are found in the Medical Center, Community Living Center, and our Community-Based Outpatient Clinics. Our goal is to meet the needs of our Veterans while meeting your interests, skills, and talents as a volunteer.

Volunteer Opportunities are categorized in the following areas:

Administrative Support
Volunteers provide administrative support to departments such as data entry, answering phones, running errands, assisting with department-specific projects.

Patient Experience
Volunteers are trained to interact with Veteran patients. Departments include: nursing units, Community Living Center, emergency room, short procedure unit.

Engagement
Volunteers serve as liaisons for the incoming community (patients, visitors) and assist them with finding their way throughout the Medical Center. Areas include: patient escort, messenger, and the information desk.

“I shall pass through this world but once. Any good therefore that I can do or any kindness that I can show to any human being, let me do it now. Let me not defer or, neglect it, for I shall not pass this way again.”
- Mahatma Gandhi
Time Commitment

While any time you are able to give to our Veterans is valuable, we do ask for a minimum time commitment.

**Adult volunteers:** Four (4) hours per week
**College students:** Three (3) hours per week
*High School students: Summer Only

**Summer only: Deadline April 1.**

Still tight on time? Well, we have more opportunities to choose from!

If you are affiliated with a group (Fraternity, Sorority, Boy/Girl Scouts, Service Organization like the Veterans of Foreign Wars, or even your place of employment, etc.), we have opportunities for you!

Organizations visit our Veteran residents at the Community Living Center (located right across the street from the Medical Center) for bingo games, entertainment, and much more. We ask there be no more than 10 - 12 volunteers in a group.

Donations

Okay, so you don’t have time to volunteer, but still want to help our Veterans? We can always use donations – both monetary and gifts-in-kind. Please ask for a copy of our current needs list.

**Monetary**

Monetary gifts are placed in our General Post Funds (money designated to use only for our Veterans). The following General Post Funds need continuous funding:

- **Canteen Books**
  Funds used to purchase Canteen Books which patients can use to purchase items in the retail store. The books have a monetary value of $1.00.

- **General Purpose**
  Funds used to purchase needed items for Veterans, sponsor day trips, social events
  - Community Living Center General Purpose
  - Social Work
  - Womans Health
  - Recreation Therapy
  - General Purpose Fund

- If you wish to inquire about other funds, please contact Voluntary Service.

**Gift Cards**

Any monetary amount to stores such as Wawa, Target, Kohls, Wal-Mart, Acme, Superfresh, Giant are helpful for our Veterans.

**Gifts-in-Kind**

While a monetary donation may not be feasible at this time for you, Voluntary Service is always in need of donated items for our Veterans. Please call for the most updated needs list.
Organizational Volunteering Opportunities

Elementary School and High School
Our Veterans love to get cards. Why not create cards all year round (Veterans Day, Memorial Day, Thanksgiving, etc.)? Cards are placed on the meal trays for our patients. You could start a book drive, magazine drive, or even a food drive (call Voluntary Service for an approved list of food to be donated). Call Voluntary Service for card requirements.

Colleges and Universities
Not sure what to do on a Sunday afternoon during football season? Why not sponsor a football party and watch the game with our Veterans?

Businesses and Service Organizations
Has your business experienced the rewards of a company-sponsored volunteer program? What a great way to get to know your colleagues and to help others.

These opportunities are only a snapshot of what can be done for our Veterans!

Call Voluntary Service today at (215) 823-5868 to discuss your options for our Veterans at the CMC Veterans Affairs Medical Center.

“Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world; indeed, it’s the only thing that ever has.”
Margaret Mead

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