



St. Patrick's Home of Ottawa Inc.
VOLUNTEER SERVICES

DESCRIPTION OF VOLUNTEER PARTICIPATION

Position: SPECIAL CARE UNIT COMPANION

Purpose: To provide encouragement, guidance, company and enjoyment to cognitively impaired residents during a variety of activities and social events

Tasks and Responsibilities:

1. Report to facility at scheduled time, sign in at the reception desk on arrival
2. Receive updated information on residents from staff
3. Accompany and assist residents throughout planned activities or initiate activities with residents using available material in the lounge (games, water colour painting, go through picture books, go for a walk, read, sing ...)
4. Assist staff in preparing for activity, meals, if applicable
5. Assist at meal time in feeding residents
6. Report any concerns or incidents regarding residents to the nursing staff immediately
7. Inform staff of your departure, sign out at the reception desk on departure

Time Commitment: Flexible, as determined with Coordinator of Volunteer Services

Skills and Qualifications:

- Good interpersonal skills
- Good listener, patient, calm
- Have an interest in helping residents with special needs
- Be comfortable with cognitively impaired residents
- Ability to follow directions and act appropriately and promptly
- Ability to work independently and in a team

Orientation and Training:

- A general orientation to the Home will be provided prior to beginning your responsibilities
- Wheelchair safety and etiquette
- Emergency codes
- Video "The Alzheimer's Journey"
- View video "The Hands That Feed"
- "On-the-job" training in Special Care
- Ongoing educational programs as necessary

Health and Safety:

- All workers under the Occupational Health & Safety Act have the responsibility to observe safe work practices, avoid risks and to use common sense. Any hazardous conditions or accidents, whether anyone is hurt or not, should be reported immediately to your supervisor and/or nurse.
- Volunteers should not come to work if they are ill, have a rash, cold, or other infectious disease.
- Handwashing is the best infection control.
- Influenza immunization is strongly recommended

Limits and Boundaries:

- If resident is taken out of the unit, you must notify the staff and sign resident out at the nursing station
- Never leave a resident unattended while out of Special Care
- Comfortable, flat closed-toe footwear must be worn at all times while on duty.
- Volunteers do not have permission to transfer residents

Accountability:

- Responsible to Recreation staff, Nursing staff and/or Coordinator of Volunteer Services
- Volunteer participation adds to the quality of life of the residents, therefore, it is essential that you notify your supervisor as soon as possible if you cannot attend as planned

Benefits:

- Exposure to the field of gerontology
- Opportunity for leadership in activities
- Increased understanding of residents needs and Alzheimer's disease
- Experience in working with individuals having special needs
- Self satisfaction in offering a fun, caring environment for residents
- Free parking
- References can be obtained for employment and/or educational pursuit
- Recognition events throughout the year