



Benefits of Volunteering

In addition to the benefit of helping patients, families and staff in a meaningful way, you may benefit from the following:

Gift Shop

Discounts on goods and services that are available to employees are also extended to volunteers. Of special interest are discounted movie theater tickets and good-any-day tickets to Ohio amusement parks. These tickets are available in the Gift Shop, and you will be required to show your volunteer ID to purchase them. More ticket information can be obtained by calling 722-4970.

The Gift Shop is open Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m.; Saturday 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., and Sunday from noon to 5 p.m.

Information on Hospital Activities

Stat Chat, the bi-weekly staff newsletter, is kept in the Volunteer Center. The hospital publication, *Spotlight*, features the Volunteer of the Month and more in-depth articles about hospital happenings. Hospital information is also available on the website. *Volunteer Vision*, the volunteer newsletter, will be mailed to your home. It is important for volunteers to use these publications to make themselves aware of hospital activities and changes in procedures.

Liability Insurance

Volunteers are covered by the hospital's professional liability insurance program for actions performed in the scope of volunteering at Nationwide Children's Hospital and its subsidiary organizations. Volunteers are not covered by Workers' Compensation because they are not employees.


Educational Opportunities

Volunteers are encouraged to take advantage of the many educational opportunities that the hospital and Family and Volunteer Services Department have to offer. Some programs are offered on a regular basis and are open to volunteers as well as employees. Information on many educational programs is posted in the Volunteer Center. If you are interested in a program, please ask volunteer services staff to register you to attend.

Library

The Family and Volunteer Services Department has a small library relating to volunteering and working with hospitalized children. Please let staff know if you would be interested in borrowing a book from our collection.

You are also welcome to visit the Nationwide Children's Hospital Library, a branch of the Ohio State University Health Sciences Library. The library is located on the second floor of the Education Center.



The Family Health Information Center (FHIC) is a special consumer health information service located within the library. The FHIC has a wide variety of children and family-related health information, including books, magazines, pamphlets and videos covering topics including chronic and acute illnesses, general parenting and family issues, diversity, death and dying. The FHIC welcomes all visitors, especially children and families receiving care at Nationwide Children's Hospital.

Photocopying is available in the library for a nominal fee. A computer lab is also available.

The library is open Monday through Thursday from 8:30 a.m. to 7 p.m., and Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. The library phone number is 722-3200.

Tax Benefits

When you volunteer, you may incur some out-of-pocket expenses which you may be entitled to deduct from your itemized tax return.

Direct gifts of money to Nationwide Children's Hospital or the Nationwide Children's Hospital Foundation may be deducted. A receipt for the gift will be necessary to claim the donation as a deduction on your tax return, as is the case whenever a monetary gift is made.

Recognition and Appreciation

Nationwide Children's Hospital and Family and Volunteer Services staff recognize the many contributions of volunteers, and we try to share our appreciation informally each time you volunteer. We also have more formal recognition events including celebrating National Volunteer Week in April.

Service pins are distributed each year. Additional pins are earned throughout each volunteer's years of service. Special awards are also given at the volunteer recognition event.

The **New Kid on the Block Award** is presented to a volunteer who joined the program in the previous eighteen months and has made a significant contribution to the hospital and the volunteer program during that time.

The Volunteer of the Month Award is presented to volunteers who consistently demonstrate outstanding performance. Eligible volunteers have at least one year of consistent service and have not been selected as a Volunteer of the Month in the previous two years. Other selection criteria include the volunteer's quality and quantity of work; attitude toward patients, families and staff; dedication toward volunteerism; and support of the hospital mission.

The Volunteer of the Year Award is presented to one individual who has been previously chosen volunteer of the month.

The Virginia Denman Award is presented to volunteers who demonstrate a special spirit of volunteering, which includes caring, sensitivity, commitment and contributions beyond those normally requested of volunteers.

The Wilma Ryan Award is presented to volunteers who have demonstrated dedication and sustained longevity to Nationwide Children's Hospital. The candidates for this award are selected by the staff of the Family and Volunteer Services Department.

The Dotty Isaac Volunteen Scholarship is presented annually to a graduating volunteen. To be considered for the scholarship, a volunteen must be a graduating high school senior planning higher education; have given exemplary service to Nationwide Children’s Hospital; have maintained a good scholastic record in high school; and exhibit positive citizenship within his or her school and community. Attitude and consistency while volunteering are also considerations affecting the selection of the scholarship winner.

Volunteers are welcome to contribute to the scholarship fund through the Nationwide Children’s Hospital Foundation.

The Service Star Program is available to volunteers and employees. Volunteers can be nominated for outstanding performance in any of the five Nationwide Children’s Hospital Customer Service Principles. Nominations come from staff, patients, families, visitors and other volunteers.

Volunteers receive a coupon that can be redeemed in the cafeteria or at Food for Thought. Star pins are earned for 5, 10, 25, 35, 50, 55, 60, 75, 85 and 100 nominations.

