

## MAKE A DIFFERENCE IN YOUR LIFE... AND IN THE LIVES OF OTHERS

Cuddling babies. Helping families in the emergency room. Enjoying an afternoon of play with a group of children. Sharing a conversation with a senior over a meal. These are just some of the ways that volunteers at the University of Chicago Hospitals make a difference in the lives of our patients.

We truly value our volunteers, knowing how much they make our patients' stays better. At the same time, many of our volunteers say that personal fulfillment from helping a patient or family members is the greatest reward. Other volunteers enjoy friendships they share with fellow volunteers and employees. Any way you look at it, volunteering at the Hospitals is an invaluable and rewarding experience. We encourage you to join our team.

## TO FIND OUT MORE INFORMATION

Join the University of Chicago Hospitals team! Our volunteers play an important role in patient care. We're looking for enthusiastic and service oriented people who are willing to contribute their time and talents and receive the richness of a new relationship in return.

For more information, call 773-702-4421. You can also email us at [volunteers@uchospitals.edu](mailto:volunteers@uchospitals.edu) or log on to [www.uchospitals.edu](http://www.uchospitals.edu)

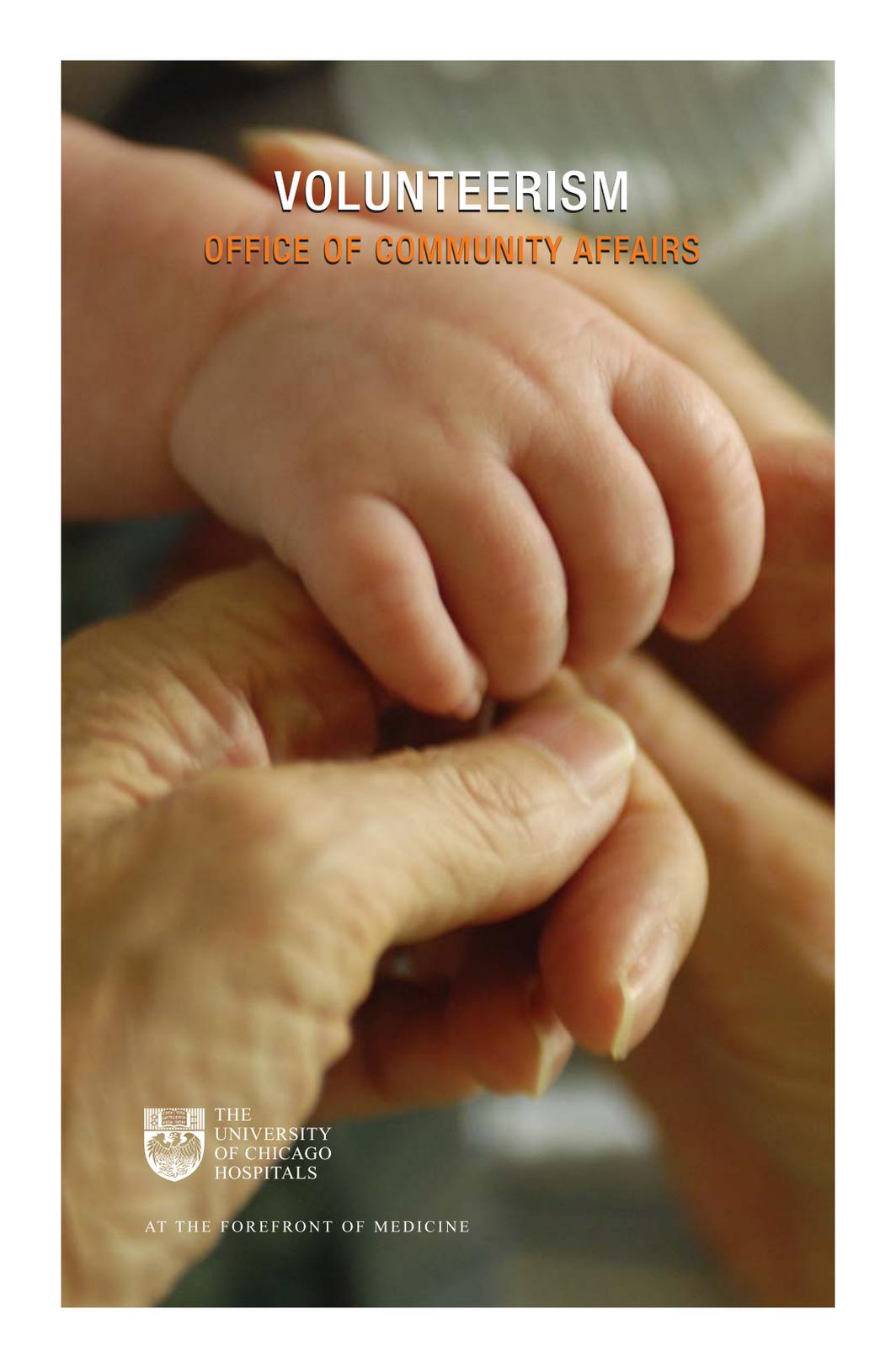
**Note:** Volunteers do not take the place of salaried staff at The University of Chicago Hospitals and Health System. Volunteers service is not intended in any way to lead to paid employment.



AT THE FOREFRONT OF MEDICINE®

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# VOLUNTEERISM

## OFFICE OF COMMUNITY AFFAIRS



THE  
UNIVERSITY  
OF CHICAGO  
HOSPITALS

AT THE FOREFRONT OF MEDICINE



## BECOMING A VOLUNTEER

At the University of Chicago Hospitals (UCH), everyone is welcome to volunteer. No experience is necessary — just your enthusiasm. Our volunteers range in age from 16 to 85.

All volunteers are carefully screened and placed into appropriate assignments. Because of concerns about health care delivery and patients' privacy rights, each volunteer must:

- adhere to standard policies and procedures
- be in good health and at least 16 years old
- be willing to commit four hours per week for a minimum of six months of service

Candidates must complete an application and interview, and pass health-screening tests (offered at no cost to the applicant) for tuberculosis, measles, German measles, chickenpox and illegal drugs.

## VOLUNTEER ASSIGNMENTS

Volunteers play an important role in patient care. You'll interact with patients and their families, as well as with medical personnel and other staff. Our goal is to place you in a position that allows your talents to shine.

There are several areas where you can volunteer:

### TLC Companionship

Volunteers give their time to adult patients by helping deliver meal trays, eating with the patients,



watching TV with them, keeping them company and assisting with personal tasks. Senior patients and those with families who live far away especially appreciate the companionship that the volunteers offer.

### Baby Cuddlers

Baby Cuddlers are volunteers who hold premature or ill babies in the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit. Often, these babies' parents either live far away and can't be present all the time, or they have other work or home responsibilities. Using our Touch Therapy, Baby Cuddlers provide the human contact necessary for infants to thrive.

### Child Life

Children in the hospital need comforting, and when their friends

and families can't be there, our volunteers provide lots of undivided attention. Volunteers bring our youngest patients to our sunlight-filled playroom to enjoy the games and toys there. For patients who can't travel to the playroom, volunteers use pet therapy and bedside play.

Additional volunteer opportunities include:

- Assisting the staff with work in the Emergency Room(s)
- Welcoming new patients and families as a greeter
- Serving as liaisons to patients' families
- Staffing the family surgical waiting room



- Distributing magazines, books, newspapers and other items on inpatient floors
- Answering phones, filing and other light office work

### THE REWARDS OF VOLUNTEERING

When you volunteer, you help brighten the lives of our patients. Yet volunteering benefits you as well! As a volunteer, you'll get to meet new people and you'll learn or refine skills that you can use on the job, at school or in your personal life. You'll be part of the UCH team, and we acknowledge our volunteers' contributions in many different ways.

In appreciation of the work and time our volunteers contribute, the Hospitals offers benefits to volunteers including:

- Free parking in the visitors' garage
- Access to Hospital Concierge services and invitations to UCH special events (e.g., annual employee picnic and UCH Town Hall meetings)
- Eligibility to participate in UCH Academy enrichment classes at reduced employee rates
- Free flu shots and health screenings in addition to the requisite screenings for qualification

Reaching out to help others has never been easier. Call today for more information at 773-702-4421. You can also email us at [volunteers@uchospitals.edu](mailto:volunteers@uchospitals.edu) or log on to [www.uchospitals.edu](http://www.uchospitals.edu).