THE CDCE PROGRAM NEEDS YOU!
VOLUNTEERS ARE MAKING A DIFFERENCE IN VA HEALTH CARE

The CDCE program provides a role for all who desire to volunteer. The gift of your time is the greatest gift one could possibly give. Won't you consider the hospitalized veterans?

No qualifications are needed except to CARE and SHARE and want to help the hospitalized veteran. The time given by the volunteers does aid the professional staff and does make the veterans' stay in the hospital much more pleasant. The staff will give information on what can and cannot be done. Each Medical Center does have its own programs, and this information will be given to the volunteers.

Volunteer assignments can be during days, evenings, nights and weekends in medical centers, clinics, and community-based programs. Some assignments involve direct patient contact; others do not. If you are interested in the CDCE program, read the following to find out how you can become one of those WHO CARE.

The Center for Development and Civic Engagement (CDCE) program is one of the largest volunteer programs in the Federal government. Our mission is to enhance the veterans' health care experience through utilization of volunteers and donations.

The generosity of the volunteer's time allows us to provide many of the additional niceties that otherwise could not be accomplished by the paid staff on a day-to-day basis. CDCE offers volunteer assignments that fulfill the volunteer's desire to make a difference in a veteran's life. The program can be tailored to meet the volunteer needs of an individual student, family, large group, or corporation.

The benefits of volunteering include health benefits by increasing your physical and mental activity, improving your physical and mental health, and extending your life. The social benefits help you make new friends, be part of a team, feel needed by making a positive impact and gaining a sense of pride, satisfaction, and achievement. The civic benefits let you share your skills, fulfill our civic duty, serve those who have served our country, and set the example for family, friends, and co-workers. Your career benefits may be to explore career paths, learn new skills, build your resume, and earn volunteer hours.

There are many volunteer opportunities by greeting patients at the information desk; a guest services ambassador delivering personal hygiene items, magazines, etc. to all inpatients; assist staff with feeding veterans who are not physically able to feed themselves; drive a transport van; teach veterans skills in indoor and outdoor sports; provide comfort in the hospice to families; escort patients to and from hospital appointments via wheelchair or gurney.

Individuals of all backgrounds and abilities are welcome. All volunteers are carefully screened and may be required to complete an interview, volunteer application, background investigation, general orientation, job specific competencies. This process is not only to ensure the safety and well-being of our veterans, but to provide a successful volunteer experience as well.

Contact the Voluntary Service staff at a VA facility near you if you are interested in volunteering or would like more information about volunteering.