

HARRISHEALTH SYSTEM

**SPECIAL PROJECT
VOLUNTEERS**



A way to make a
difference with
Harris Health System
in a special way.

Community Partners

Does your organization want to make a difference in the lives of others?
Do you want to boost morale and cohesiveness of your group?
Does your organization want to adopt a project?

Look no further ... the Harris Health System has the perfect opportunity for you and your organization!

How to get started:

1. Contact the Harris Health Community Involvement Manager to:
 - Determine level of involvement,
 - Donate funds in support of a project or initiative,
 - Purchase and donate materials needed for a project,
 - Provide volunteers to facilitate a special volunteer project, or
 - All of the above!
2. Choose a Special Volunteer project.
3. Complete a special project volunteer application form for your group.
4. Attend a brief orientation on hospital volunteer requirements, if applicable.
5. Get started!

"Coming together is a beginning; keeping together is progress; working together is success." – **Henry Ford**

Waiting Room Survival Kits

Approximate cost per kit is \$9

Project Impact: Waiting Room Survival Kits are utilized in the emergency center, surgery waiting areas, radiology and the labor and delivery family areas. Kits provide comfort for family members waiting on news of their loved ones.

Kits include:

- Bottle of water
- Soup in a cup
- Peanut butter or cheese crackers
- Pencil
- Activity book

Groups are encouraged to include a label identifying the donating organization. For example,

Waiting Room Survival Kits
Generously donated by:
Blue Skies, Inc.

Diversion Kits

Approximate cost per kit is \$10

Project Impact: Diversion Kits are distributed to patients and family members in the emergency center, radiology, and labor and delivery waiting areas. The kits provide entertainment for those waiting on loved ones.

Kits include:

- Pencil
- Activity book
- Magazine or handheld game
- Ziploc bag to hold items

Groups are encouraged to include a label identifying the donating organization. For example,

Diversion Kit Generously
donated by: Blue Skies, Inc.

Toiletry Kits

Approximate cost per kit is \$5

Project Impact: Toiletry kits are utilized by patients in all patient care areas for basic hygiene needs. The kits are distributed to patients who are unable to obtain these supplies on their own.

Kits include travel-size essentials such as:

- Toothbrush / Toothpaste
- Shampoo / Condition
- Comb / Brush
- Deodorant
- Mouthwash
- Ziploc bag to hold items

Groups are encouraged to include a label identifying the donating organization. For example,

Toiletry Kits Generously
donated by: Blue Skies, Inc.

Craft Picture Frame

Approximate cost per frame is \$2

Project Impact: Frames can be decorated according to the time of year, i.e., breast cancer awareness month, special holidays or seasons, to be distributed to the appropriate patient population.

For example, October is Breast Cancer Awareness Month; a group can make inspirational pink frames for patients undergoing breast cancer treatment.

Supplies needed:

- Wooden frames
- Paint or fabric
- Assorted decorations



Magazine and Book Drive

Project Impact: Patients and family members throughout our facilities enjoy having something to read while they wait.

Project Description:

- Organize a book or magazine drive
- New and gently used adult and children's books are needed. Magazines should be in good condition, no more than 6 months old and appropriate for all ages. In high demand are magazines in Spanish
- The Volunteer & Guest Services department will cover up the mailing address on donated magazines



Anti-Ouch Pouch

Project Impact: A patient that has surgery needs to protect that surgical site after surgery. An anti-ouch pouch looks like a small purse but is a pouch that cushions or protects a patient's surgical site after surgery.

The anti-ouch pouch is a pillow that hangs from the shoulder, fitting snugly under the arm to cushion the area after breast surgery or during radiation treatment. The wedge shape gently holds the arm away from the body when the patient is standing. The strap holds the pillow in place without having to use sore arm muscles to "clutch" it. The strap is adjustable and the fiberfill may be adjusted via the overlapped opening.

Instructions to sew an anti-ouch pouch can be found at http://www.asg.org/files/projects/Anti_Ouch_Pouch.pdf.

Groups can cut and sew the pouches on their own and bring to the Harris Health patients.

Holiday or Back to School Drive

Project Impact: The holidays or heading back to school can be a difficult time for some of our patients. Harris Health strives to help our patients whenever possible. This project would provide small gifts or school items for our patients.

Groups would hold a drive within their organization to collect requested items to donate to Harris Health patients, i.e. toiletries, lotions, socks, blankets, winter gloves, winter scarves, stuffed animals, toys, backpacks, school supplies, lunchboxes, etc.



Return on Investment

Distribution

- Special project volunteer groups can enhance their experience by touring a patient care area that utilizes their donation.
- Groups can distribute frames, blankets, waiting-room kits, holiday gifts, etc.
- This is your opportunity to see your gift in action!

Benefits

- Personal Satisfaction
- Increased teamwork and cohesiveness within your group.
- Additional recognition and appreciation can be provided: Harris Health Facebook page, Harris Health blog and Twitter, internal Harris Health publications, community newspapers, TMC News and others.
- The most significant benefit is received by Harris Health patients and their families!

*Thank you for considering
Harris Health System for your
community volunteer project.*

For additional information, please contact
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Manager, at 713-873-3305 or
Heather.Rojas@harrishealth.org.