

Angels in Sugar Land

Volunteers Touch Lives at Memorial Hermann Hospital

Written by Ingrid Karazincir Photos by Marisa Hugonnett

The heart and soul of Memorial Hermann Hospital is alive in the many Sugar Land volunteers who grace its halls daily. From high schoolers to senior citizens, many dedicated volunteers work behind the scenes to change lives of others one good deed at a time.

Dedication Through the Years

The volunteer program began when the hospital first opened its doors in 1983 at the original location in Missouri City. The first group of volunteers consisted of approximately 15 men and women who lived in the Missouri City and Sugar Land communities. “Twenty six years later, we are very fortunate to have five to six of those original members,” says Cathy Clark, director of volunteer services.

Clark shares the story of one hospital volunteer, Doris Shannon, who has been helping others since she was an army nurse in the World War II. “Her education and experience in healthcare provided her with the vision to establish our organization as an auxiliary, creating by-laws, setting up an executive board, and creating the vision to operate exclusively as a charitable organization. We continue to operate the same way today.”

Students and Adults Welcome

Memorial Hermann Sugar Land has numerous volunteer opportunities for both adults and students. The student program

is offered twice a year and is open to students ages 15 and up. The program allows students to work one day a week from 4-7 p.m. during the school year. The hospital also has a summer program for students needing more flexible hours.

Volunteer Requirements

Adult volunteers can apply anytime and will be scheduled for an interview. After a criminal background check, a TB tine test, and orientation, volunteers are placed in a role that matches their interests. Volunteers help in many areas including the information desk, gift shop, nursing units, patient and family services, and physical therapy center, just to name a few. “Our application and orientation process enables us to ensure the safety and well being of our patients and yourself,” says Clark. “It also allows the opportunity to match your skills and interests with service opportunities available throughout the hospital.”

If you are interested in giving your time as a hospital volunteer, call Cathy Clark at 281-725-5254 or visit memorialhermann.org/volunteer. **SLM**

INGRID KARAZINCIR is a Sugar Land area author, wife, and mother of two little girls, Emily, 4, and Elise, 21 months.

Lesley Ridyard and Betty Monroe are longtime volunteers

Erum Makkoni, Marilyn Vossler, Miassa Metouri, and Sonny Brasseaux assisting at the front desk



Pat Weber and Vera Luera
volunteering at the gift shop



Volunteer Program
Director Cathy Clark

