Volunteer Role Descriptions

R = Remote or remote optional C = Clerical (little to no patient interaction) Please note- we do not have openings for all roles.

Agress Summer Health Corps Program

The Agress Summer Health Corps Program is an educational hands-on program for high school students ages 15 through 17. The six weeks program is in session Monday through Thursday, 9 a.m. - 2 p.m. Through this program teens can explore health care careers while gaining experience in a hospital setting. Applications open in December and close in January.



Maternity Volunteer

Volunteers assist with stocking rooms, creating baby bags and NICU kits, creating patient packets, and delivering items to patients who are pre- or post-delivery of their babies. Patient interaction is minimal but volunteers get exposed to maternity unit operations. (Eligible volunteers are 15+)



Bowdoin St. Clinic Food Pantry Volunteer

Volunteers help offload bags of groceries, and boxes of fruits and vegetables, set up packages in a designated space at the health center, and assist recipients with groceries. (Spanish, Portuguese, and/or Cape Verdean Creole speaking volunteers esp. needed) (Eligible volunteers are 18+)



Brain Builders Volunteer

Volunteers provide socially, emotionally and cognitively enriching environments for patients with traumatic brain injury (TBI) and other neurological conditions, including stroke, dementia, aneurysm, Parkinson's and neurosurgery. This program is in high demand and openings are rare. (Eligible volunteers are 18+)



R Cardiac Clinic Telehealth Helper

Volunteers contact patients by phone that have telehealth appointments in the Cardiac Structural Heart clinic and assist them with logging on to the zoom link. Patients may need help with finding the link, downloading zoom, etc. The volunteer can listen in to make sure there are no tech issues during the call, while also gaining valuable shadowing experience. (Eligible volunteers are 18+)



Eucharistic Ministers

Volunteers serve as Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion. This role is open to people who are active members of a Roman Catholic parish. Visits may involve connecting compassionately and praying with patients. Training is provided by one's parish and the Spiritual Care Department. (Eligible volunteers are 18+)



Food Services Volunteer

Volunteers assist with various tasks in the food services department, including preparing trays, packaging food and utensils, rounding on patients and capturing patient experience feedback. Wonderful opportunity to learn about food services, nutritional health, hospitality, and quality improvement. (Eligible volunteers are 15+)



GI Unit Volunteer

Volunteers assist with patient check in, patient escort and transport, delivering items to patients, and clerical duties. This opportunity offers a blend of patient interaction and clerical experience. Weekdays only. (Eligible volunteers are 15+)



Healing Hands - Hand Massage Volunteer

Volunteers visit patients and staff members on different floors to give a gentle hand massage in 10-15minute sessions. Hand massage has been shown to lower anxiety and discomfort and improve the patient experience. This opportunity offers patient interaction and provides hand massage training/shadowing by a current hand massage volunteer.



(Eligible volunteers are 18+)

R Mental Health App - Evaluator

Using an algorithm, volunteers evaluate mental health apps, help maintain the database, and have the opportunity to teach patients at BIDMC and those on the psychiatry inpatient unit about mental health apps. Hybrid or remote.



(Eligible volunteers are 15+)

R Mental Health App- Digital Clinic Navigator

Volunteers assist patients who are receiving smartphone-based mental health support through the Digital Clinic of the Psychiatry Department with: downloading and using the app, troubleshooting, and answering questions. Volunteer may also assist with patient recruitment. 5-hr commitment/week. (Eligible volunteers are 15+)



NICU Cuddler

Cuddlers rock, sing, and/or read to infants in the NICU when a parent cannot be there. They are specially-trained to know how much - or little - stimulation (including touch, motion and sound) infants can tolerate. This position has a long waiting list and involves several months of training.



(Eligible volunteers are 18+)

R NICU Mentor

Volunteers are paired with new NICU families, and develop a supportive relationship that is consistent, caring and respectful to program participants, helping to provide them with information and guidance through the point of view of a former NICU parent. (Eligible volunteers are 18+)



C Nuclear Medicine Volunteer

Volunteers assist with clerical tasks such as pulling charts, pulling orders, making copies, and mailing letters, to help ensure that staff members have complete, well organized information in preparation for the patient visit. This is a primarily clerical role but volunteers may be asked to assist with patient transport. 2 – 4 hour shifts between 8:30 and 4. (Eligible volunteers are 15+)



PACU Volunteer

Volunteers assist staff in post-operative care unit to deliver food and drinks to patients, stock carts, make beds, make patient packets, escort patients to their rides, and collect patient belongings to return to patients.



(Eligible volunteers are 18+)

R Parent Connection

Trained volunteer mentors are matched with a new parent, and provide weekly phone call support through the first 12 weeks post-delivery. Mentors lend valuable support, encouragement and reassurance as well as resource information particularly around breastfeeding, or when to call the pediatrician.



(Eligible volunteers are 18+)



Patient Companion

Volunteers keep patients company, talk with them, play music, play games, or anything to pass the time. Volunteers interact with patients in patients' hospital rooms. Volunteers provide socially, emotionally and cognitively enriching activities and conversation for patients who are lonely, lack family visitors, and/or are long-stay patients. This can be an add-on to another role, or done on an "on-call" basis.



(Eligible volunteers are 18+)

Patient Experience Volunteer

Volunteers take a cart to inpatient units and offer patients and family members reading material, puzzle books, reading glasses, cards, chargers, and other items to enhance their experience at BIDMC. Volunteers may also spend time with patients who can benefit from a friendly visitor. Afternoons and evenings. Can be done in pairs if 2 people wish to volunteer together.



(Eligible volunteers are 15+)

Pet Therapy Handlers and Dogs

BIDMC uses dogs and handlers who are certified by a national pet therapy organization of local equivalent. Handlers and dogs visit staff and/or patients during scheduled visits to units and departments throughout the hospital. Teams are supported by an employee escort. (Eligible volunteers are 18+)



Pet Therapy Volunteer Escorts

Employees volunteer to escort therapy dogs and their handlers to prearranged locations throughout the hospital. Escorts assist with navigation, ensure that patients and staff practice hand hygiene, and act as a liaison between handler, and patients.



(Eligible volunteers are 18+)

Pharmacy Volunteer

Volunteers assist with inventory, logging of refrigerator temperatures, checking dates, and helping maintain clean and organized pharmacy shelving and work areas. Ideal for a student interested in a pharmacy career.



(Eligible volunteers are 18+)

R Pillow Makers and Knitters

Volunteers are needed to sew heart-shaped comfort pillows used by breast cancer patients recovering from surgery, as well as small hearts or sachets to be given out by volunteers who visit with patients. We also need volunteers to knit comfort shawls, which are given to patients to help provide comfort and compassion. (Eligible volunteers are 15+)



C Radiation Oncology Volunteer

Volunteers mainly assist with clerical tasks such as mailings and scanning patient records. Occasionally, volunteers may assist with deliveries, patient transport, and helping patients with directions, but there may not be patient interaction on every shift. Weekdays only, 3-4 hours between 9 and 3. (Eligible volunteers are 15+)



Reiki Volunteer

Trained Reiki volunteers provide Reiki sessions to patients throughout the hospital to patients and staff members, giving them with a few quiet moments to refocus and relax. Volunteers must have 6 months experience providing Reiki. (Eligible volunteers are 18+)



Shapiro 9 Infusion Suite Volunteer

Infusion Suite volunteers provide a warm and caring presence for the patients undergoing chemotherapy and their family/friends. They welcome each patient, offer coffee, snacks, and warm blankets (Eligible volunteers are 18+)



Simulated Family Member

Volunteers assist with education of medical residents who are learning about communicating with families of critically ill patients. Volunteers will participate in a role play with interns which will simulate family meetings. Volunteers may be asked to provide feedback about how the conversation felt. 8 – 9 AM on Wednesdays, 2-3 times a month. (Eligible volunteers are 18+)



Surgical Liaison and Concierges

Surgical Liaisons and Concierges provide a warm and caring presence for the waiting families of patients undergoing surgery. They provide updated information about the process, alert physicians who need to communicate with the families, and maintain communication between the surgical recovery unit staff and the families. (Eligible volunteers are 18+)



Take 5 Cart

Volunteers take a cart filled with snacks, treats, self-care items, and stress toys to inpatient and outpatient units as well as clerical and service areas. The Take 5 cart improves staff morale and encourages employees to take 5 minutes out of their day to enjoy the variety of items on the cart. (Eligible volunteers are 15+)

