



Lifting the spirit of those who are sick and lonely,  
and cultivating compassion in health care.

## Raggedy Ann & Andy VOLUNTEER JOB DESCRIPTION

### The Volunteer Mission

Raggedy Ann and Raggedy Andy volunteers are “Ambassadors of Goodwill” who visit hospitals and skilled nursing facilities in full costume, once-a-week for two hours, all year round. Their mission is to lift the spirit and reduce the emotional suffering of those who are ill and alone. They bring encouragement, compassion and joy to the patients, their family members, and the staff.

### Raggedy Ann & Andy volunteer duties

- Extend friendship and create rapport with everyone you meet.
- Listen carefully, ask good questions, and take a genuine interest in the lives of the patients.
- Recognize the emotions associated with illness and loss, and respond appropriately.
- Stay in character as Raggedy Ann or Raggedy Andy and express the values of kindness, simplicity and innocence that Raggedys represent.
- Communicate in ways that bring more love, joy, and hope into the lives of patients, families, and staff.

### Time Commitment

Two hours per week, for a minimum of one year.

### The Raggedy Paradox

Even though the Adventures in Caring volunteers dress as Raggedy Ann & Andy, their purpose is not to entertain. Instead, they allow the patient to be the center of attention, and lift the spirit by being a good listener who takes an active interest in the patient's life.

Here is a list of things that Raggedys don't do:

- Entertain, clown, or perform for individuals or groups.
- Participate in parades, parties, picnics, fairs, concerts, or any fundraising, entertainment, or promotional events.
- Administer treatment.
- Provide counsel or advice.

### Raggedy Qualities

Volunteering as Raggedy Ann or Raggedy Andy is not for everyone. We have found that, although a thorough training is provided, those who succeed as Raggedy volunteers, already have the following qualities.

1. The emotional and mental maturity to be a source of comfort in a traumatic situation.
2. Have the time available to commit two hours a week, for one year.
3. Able to set personal needs, feelings and opinions aside in order to serve others.
4. Willing to serve all people, regardless of race, religion, social status, age, or illness.
5. Trustworthy: able to maintain confidentiality.
6. Reliable: will keep agreements.
7. Able to understand, and willing to follow, the instructions of nursing staff and Adventures in Caring staff.
8. Able to see the good in people, accept people as they are, and be nonjudgmental.
9. A good listener, with the ability to respond to the subtle needs and nonverbal cues of others.
10. A positive attitude towards life.
11. Have the desire to learn something new, and as a result, grow.
12. Patient, kind, joyful, gracious, and able to follow the intuition of the heart.
13. Motivated by compassion.

### Age Limits

Raggedy volunteers must be at least 16 years of age, self-motivated, and have reliable transportation.

### Volunteer Training Provided

A pre-seminar interview is required for entry into the program. Participants must successfully complete the entire thirty-hour seminar to qualify as a Raggedy Ann or Raggedy Andy volunteer. See the Volunteer Training Seminar information for details.

### Benefits

It only takes two hours a week to discover how much difference you can make. As a friendly face and a good listener, at the bedside of someone who is ill, you can lift the spirit in a time of need. You can bring hope where there was none.

In this award-winning program that is pioneering a new form of patient support, you will enrich your life by serving others. And the feeling lasts a lifetime.

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