



Health First Spiritual Care Volunteer Program

Who are Health First's Spiritual Care Volunteers? What do they do?

Spiritual Care Volunteers are an extension, and specially trained team, of our hospital Pastoral & Spiritual Care department. Under the direct supervision of our hospital chaplains, Spiritual Care Volunteers visit a preselected list of patients and their families in the hospital. They introduce themselves as a Spiritual Care Volunteer, greet the patient and family, confirm their faith identification and ask how Pastoral & Spiritual Care might support them in their stay. A Spiritual Care Volunteer may visit up to 20 or more patients of a like persuasion (Protestant, Catholic, multifaith, etc.) and may find themselves visiting between 60 to 90 minutes once a week. At the conclusion of their visits, the Spiritual Care Volunteer returns the patient list with any notes or corrections. In short, the work and mission of a Spiritual Care Volunteer is to specifically, briefly and lightly visit patients here in the hospital.

How do I learn more about becoming a Health First Spiritual Care Volunteer at my hospital?

To learn more, simply let our hospital chaplains know of your interest. Their contact information is:

- **Father Bob Bruckart**, Robert.Bruckart@Health-First.org or 321.434.7183
- **Derly Foerste**, Derly.Foerste@Health-First.org or 321.434.3510
- **Flavia Varela**, Pastoral Care Coordinator, Flavia.Varela@Health-First.org or 321.434.8512

After a brief conversation with our hospital chaplain, Spiritual Care Volunteer candidates attend a Spiritual Care Volunteer Department Orientation, receive a tuberculosis test, a background check and creation of their personalized Spiritual Care Volunteer badge. The final step is the shadowing of two experienced Spiritual Care Volunteers. All of this can unfold over about four weeks. Once completed, the new Spiritual Care Volunteer receives their list at the hospital site they have selected to visit on a weekly or semi-weekly basis. Specific day of the week and schedule is determined by our hospital chaplain and you.

Our goal is for each patient in our Health First healthcare system to receive a brief visit each day — "Every Patient – Every Day". Each day a patient receives a visit from you, a Spiritual Care Volunteer, they find themselves encouraged and spiritually refreshed. Our visits significantly enhance their journey of health while here in our hospitals. We hope you will consider joining us.