



Ronald McDonald House Charities Greater Houston

MD Anderson Gap Year Student Program

MISSION:

Ronald McDonald House Charities Greater Houston offers a home away from home providing care, compassion, and hope to families with seriously ill children being treated in hospitals inside the Texas Medical Center.

PURPOSE:

The RMHC Greater Houston Gap Year Student Program is designed to gain hands on family centered care experience as part of a small cohort of like-minded pre-med students. You will provide direct comfort and care to families of patients in the Pediatric Inpatient Oncology unit at MD Anderson Children's Cancer Hospital.

PROGRAM SCHEDULE:

Program will begin in August 2024 and run through May 2025

This position requires a minimum commitment of 320 hours total, with consistent attendance. Two three-hour hospitality volunteer shifts per week, two three-hour Family Activity hosting shifts per month, with additional opportunities for talks, discussions, and study groups.

Shifts available Monday through Friday between 10:00 am to 6:00 pm.

SUPERVISOR:

Dora Santillan Hospital Programs Director-MD Anderson Children's Cancer Hospital

DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES:

- Provide snacks for patients and assist with serving donated meals.
- Spend one-on-one time with patients in the Pedi Dome during play time.
- Keep House areas and equipment neat, clean, and disinfected.
- Answer telephones/direct calls/take messages.
- Register, provide orientation, and give tours to first time guests in House.
- Prepare rooms for overnight guests and nappers.
- Sort donations and organize storage areas if needed.
- Attend talks and join discussions throughout the year at various TMC member institutions.

QUALIFICATIONS:

- Ability to communicate compassionately with patients/families on a one-on-one basis.
- Ability to interact comfortably with patients who may be very ill.
- Ability to relate to families and children of various ages and cultural backgrounds.
- Ability to comply with Hospital policies.
- Ability to walk long distances, lift and carry items.
- Ability to be a good communicator, listener, and detail oriented.
- Ability to demonstrate good judgment, flexibility, and dependability.



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- Must be 18 years or older.

EDUCATIONAL BENEFITS:

- Experience working directly with patients and families in a Texas Medical Center hospital setting.
- Experience interacting compassionately with families in healthcare crisis.
- Learn and practice empathetic listening skills.
- Increase familiarity with hospitals and hospital staff roles.
- Participate in inventory management.
- Learn and practice food safety guidelines for settings with immune-compromised patients.
- Letter of Recommendation and Volunteer Hour record available upon successful completion of minimum time commitment.

PHYSICAL DEMANDS:

The physical demands described here are representative of those that must be met by a volunteer to successfully perform the essential functions of this job. Reasonable accommodations may be made to enable individuals with disabilities to perform the essential functions.

- The volunteer is regularly required to walk distances, sit, and stand, exhibit hand/finger dexterity, see, talk, and hear.
- The volunteer may be required to lift up to 25 pounds.
- The vision requirements include close, distance, peripheral, and depth perception.
- The volunteer will be required to walk long distances in the hospital setting.

REQUIREMENTS:

- Complete RMHC Greater Houston Volunteer application
- Successful clearance of criminal background check.
- Health Clearance (Instructions will be given upon acceptance into the program).
- Provide proof of immunization for the following:
 - COVID vaccination Card
 - Flu Vaccine (only required during flu season)
 - MMR (2 shots)
 - Varicella (2 shots)
 - (TDAP) – Tetanus, Diphtheria, & Pertussis
 - TB Test Results: *Please note: If you do not have TB test handy, we can help free of charge!*

HOW TO APPLY:

Please visit RMHCHouston.org for the registration link located under the Individual Volunteer tab.

Application submissions will begin May 1st and close May 31st, 2024.

We are unable to interview every applicant. Applicants will receive an email acknowledgement indicating whether they have been selected for an interview. Interviews will take place in the first two weeks of June 2024.