

**"LET EACH OF YOU LOOK NOT ONLY TO HIS OWN INTERESTS, BUT ALSO TO THE INTERESTS OF OTHERS."**

**PHILIPPIANS 2: 4**



# **VOLUNTEERS**

**LOOK WHO  
SHOWED UP TO  
VOLUNTEER!**



# OVER 100 VOLUNTEERS!

No! Your eyes did not deceive you! Tim Trafford and Melody Childers have over 100 volunteers and growing! At this point, you might ask, “Why so many?”

Answer:

1) When more helping hands are available, engagement of participants becomes a certainty!

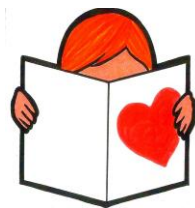
2) Volunteers guarantee the time for activity directors to think outside the box!

3) Dreams suddenly become a reality!

At this point, please don't push your panic button, thinking that all the volunteers will approach at the same time, thus, creating bedlam. You will soon discover individuals desiring to volunteer possess such unique gifts and passions that plugging them into your existing program makes the ordinary become extraordinary. Simply stated, they can be scheduled to arrive for different occasions and times, based on residents' needs and the activity you have planned. Due to the aging process, almost every resident requires assistance during the winter season of life; making it not humanly possible for just two people to effectively operate. Since most residents have mobility issues, difficulty using their limbs, along with visual and hearing challenges, adding volunteers to your program can redefine the word “engagement”. (Important to center on bedridden residents, as well)

First, let us focus on a few of the numerous ways in which volunteers support Tim and Melody's program, followed by specific aspects of obtaining volunteers, training, and assigning them to tasks.

## USING VOLUNTEERS:



### READING:

*Volunteers can read to residents on a one to one basis, whether they're in wheelchairs, mobile, or bedridden. You will find a variety of materials on [www.devotionalembbers.com](http://www.devotionalembbers.com) that can be downloaded to a reader. It is becoming a common occurrence for an activity director to download the materials to the healthcare facility reader and have it available for any volunteer upon arrival. The old people simply think they are watching TV. This special one on one time offers the opportunity for much needed stimulating conversation. When you review the material available on the website listed above, you will discover a variety of selections that allow the ability to meet the residents' needs. Mixing up the material choices adds spice to your time together as well as meeting their ever changing state of health. Some days are simply better than others. (Their physical and mental condition impacts your decision.)* **Please note the story books for all ages are dearly loved by everyone!**



### ENTERTAINMENT:

*Local church musical groups are always willing to perform for nursing home residents. In addition, educational institutions are delighted to have groups visit the elderly because it offers the ability for the students to get involved in community service. Even the center on aging has retired groups of people desirous of performing for old folks. Home school organizations that have choirs and orchestras go out of their way to include performing at health care facilities as a part of their educational curriculum for students. If a local high school is within walking distance of your facility, the marching band would love the opportunity to perform right outside in the driveway. Residents can be rolled out on the patio or view the excitement through windows. Even music teachers invite the privilege of having a recital just for you. Remember this: **THE ACTIVITY DIRECTORS ARE ALWAYS INVOLVED WITH THE RESIDENTS THROUGHOUT THE ENTIRE PERFORMANCE. THEY CLAP, LAUGH, AND COMMENT DURING THE TIME A GROUP IS OFFERING ENTERTAINMENT. THEY DO NOT INTRODUCE THE GROUP AND LEAVE THE ROOM! ENTERTAINERS WILL PLACE FACILITIES WHERE THERE IS THIS TYPE OF INVOLVEMENT AT THE TOP OF THEIR LIST. IN FACT, YOU WILL HAVE SO MANY GROUPS DESIRING TO PERFORM THAT IT WILL TAKE A MIRACLE TO SCHEDULE THEM ALL. HAVING THEM TO BECOME A REGULAR PART OF YOUR ACTIVITIES ALLOWS YOU TO USE YOUR BUDGET WISELY. WORD OF MOUTH SPREADS EVERYWHERE REGARDING THE VALUE YOU PLACE UPON THEIR EFFORTS!***

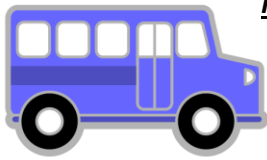


### ANNUAL CHRISTMAS DINNER

*Many facilities have begun offering family Christmas dinners for the residents and their relatives; a time when tables are covered with white cloths and adorned with beautiful decorations. Tim and Melody make this event truly special by clustering family members in private settings all over the facility. Every alcove in the various wings becomes a private dining room with live soft music being performed by students from the local colleges and universities playing seasonal renditions on harps, flutes, pianos, keyboards, accordions, and fiddles. Invitations go out well in advance of the special dinner so that RSVPs can be sent in on time. (Limit of 2 relatives) Although staff members serve the family members, volunteers are scheduled in for advanced preparation as well as cleanup. Helping hands are a must to pull this event off in grand style. The activity director organizes a floor plan (like a wedding) so that everyone has a table assignment. Family names are a part of the centerpiece as a friendly welcome.*

*As the time draws near, it is interesting to listen to the comments made by the residents regarding the entire affair. Since the health care facility where they now reside is home, it is like inviting them into their own residence. They often describe the assortment of food the family can expect to savor. After all, this truly is their home and the other residents there are their family. Those without family*

*members attending are invited by other residents to sit at their tables without being prompted. If the elderly living in a health care facility are cherished, the entire place becomes like a caring community. They look out for one another and eagerly share what they have with those left alone. This is truly an event that strums the strings of the heart!*



### FIELDTRIPS

*Whether you take the residents fishing, on a ride to see the fall leaves, to a pumpkin patch, or special concert, volunteers are a “MUST”. All those extra hands make tending to the entire group a much easier task.*



### CRAFT TIME

*Given the fact that so many elderly people living in facilities have challenges using their limbs, when doing crafts, volunteers are necessary for every table. Sometimes the resident is only able to dictate what he/she would like to accomplish on the craft project of choice which requires the volunteer’s hands to be the critical factor for completing the artistic endeavor.*

After having reviewed the possibilities above, do you now see how important it is to have volunteers? The sky is the limit when you know help is simply a contact away.

### 1) Attracting volunteers:

When first beginning a volunteer program, contacts to approach are as follows: Churches, Senior Centers, Local Civic Organizations, and Charitable Societies. Also, if residents’ family members observe the numerous activities, they either volunteer to help, or encourage relatives and friends to get involved. Before you know it, volunteers will arrive! The main draw that attracts volunteers is an activity department possessing a high energy level due to all the exciting things that are constantly transpiring. Develop this type of program and “THEY WILL COME TO YOU.”

### 2) Initial Interview:

Be prepared to gather important information regarding your volunteer. It is not all about your needs, but also making certain you tap into their talents and passions, as well. Otherwise, it will be hard to keep them on board. The following information sheet will guide you through your initial interview and serve as a card for your file or computer. (Be sure to take the volunteer on a tour of the facility.)





**VOLUNTEER INFORMATION FORM**



1) Name: \_\_\_\_\_

2) Address: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

3) Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_ Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

4) Hobbies: \_\_\_\_\_

5) Is there something you already have in mind to share with the elderly? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

6) How many days per week/month would you like to volunteer? \_\_\_\_\_

7) Is there a day or time that is better for you? \_\_\_\_\_

8) Are you open to receiving a call if help is needed when doing a project or special activity?

\_\_\_\_\_

9) How much advance time do you need to clear your schedule for an activity? \_\_\_\_\_

10) Are you willing to work with a large group? \_\_\_\_\_

11) Are you willing to work on a one to one basis? \_\_\_\_\_

12) Do you mind reading or visiting a bed ridden individual? \_\_\_\_\_

13) Do you have a reader (technical device) of your own? \_\_\_\_\_

14) Have you worked with elderly people before? \_\_\_\_\_

15) Would you be willing to ride along on field trips? \_\_\_\_\_

16) Additional information:

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**\*\*Please accept our gratitude for the time you are willing to donate as a volunteer! Here is the contact information for the facility: Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_**

**You will be receiving an activity calendar every month via email**

### 3) Volunteer Training:

If you are training more than one volunteer, it is suggested that you try to group them into one session. Since you will already have interviewed the volunteer, have in your mind the individual you think would be a good match. Introduce the volunteer and the resident so the stage can be set. If it is a one on one time with a bedridden resident, help the volunteer locate the best place for carrying on a conversation. (Is the resident hard of hearing or facing vision challenges?) Suggest simply a time of visiting together for the first visit. Then after a bit, the volunteer can ask if the resident would mind if some of the visit be a time of reading and discussing material. Example: One resident loved scientific articles about lightening. The volunteer found articles on this. (Or use [devotionalembers.com](http://devotionalembers.com) for devotional material at various levels.) Be creative and flexible. Above all, please remember how much the resident cherishes your presence.

**\*\*If you are having a challenge, don't hesitate to contact the activity director. Since you get the opportunity of spending time on an individual basis with the resident, you will obtain valuable information the activity director needs to hear in order to better meet the needs of that individual. Since the activity director doesn't have the freedom to focus solely on one resident, any input you can submit will be extremely valuable.**

**SPREAD THE WORD TO YOUR FRIENDS ABOUT BEING A VOLUNTEER. TOGETHER WE CAN HONOR THESE SWEET PEOPLE IN THEIR WINTER SEASON OF LIFE.**

# TWO HEARTS BECOME ONE!

