

## CARITAS Medical Volunteer Guidelines (Formerly Registered Nurse Volunteer Guidelines)

The role of the volunteer medical volunteer for our CARITAS guests aligns with Second Baptist Church's mission statement, "A loving community transformed by Christ for unbounded service". In order to help with this weeklong mission event held at the church, the medical staff coordinator should enlist help from Second Baptist members who are registered nurses, doctors or EMT professionals.

In order to provide medical care:

- Volunteer medical professionals are recruited to "staff" each evening to support CARITAS guests with appropriate medical/nursing care such as blood pressure checks, medication checks, post medical office/hospital questions, teaching, offering OTC products when appropriate and all within our licensed scope of practice.
- Utilize "medical tackle box" from Adult Education Minister for your daily checks. Check supplies before the week begins and refill box at the end of the week. Check expiration dates. Bring the box with you daily.
- Time frames can vary nightly depending on volunteer's availability. Guest arrive via bus for dinner nightly. During this time it is easy to make an announcement about your purpose and your availability for the evening. Many guest will seek you out after dinner. An easy way to see people is by asking if anyone wants their blood pressure checked.
- Most will seek your help after the first night if they have needs, one trust is established.
- Do not go beyond your medical scope of practice. Meet the guests in their comfort zone and try to remain confidential in your encounters.
- Introduce yourself nightly to the CARITAS overnight host and other volunteers. They may see a concern that needs to be brought to your attention.
- Use a daily log to track guests by using a first name or a description of the person for another volunteer to recognize and provide continuity of care or follow-up as appropriate.
- Don't offer to buy OTC medications for individuals but give out what you have in your box. Many people rely on Benedryl to sleep at night. Always ask about allergies before you give a medication and ask if they have had any of the medication during the day.
- Provide appropriate medical education especially to diabetics, smokers, hypertensive and obese patients. Use your nursing expertise to help those in need. Encourage guests to seek medical attention when you see a problem. Most of these guests are patients at the Daily Planet, CrossOver Healthcare Ministry, VCU (VCC), Bon Secours (Care Card), Don Secours Care a Van or the Minute Clinic. If there is an emergency call 911.
- Many CARITAS guest suffer from mental illness, substance abuse and chronic health issues. We are available to support them while they are at SBC.