

WHAT WE NEED TO KNOW ABOUT YOU

If you decide to apply to become a Spiritual Care Services volunteer visitor at Aberdeen, Glengarry, Mt. Tolmie or Priory Hospital, or the Geriatric Short Stay Unit at the Gorge Road Hospital, you will be interviewed by the chaplain responsible for these sites. You will be asked to provide information that will enable the chaplain to determine your suitability to be a Spiritual Care Services volunteer visitor.

One of the key requirements is that you are able and ready to visit people of all different faiths, or no faith at all, and support them in their faith even if it is different from your own faith. You would be expected to refrain from any attempt to convert the resident you are visiting to your own faith or way of thinking. Not everyone can or wants to do this. It is no reflection on you, if your faith does not permit you to support people in a faith different from your own.

Here are some other questions you will be asked.

- What is your religious affiliation?
- What is the name and address where your faith community gathers: (church, synagogue, temple, mosque, or other religious centre)?
- What are the names and phone numbers of people we can call (on a weekday between 8:30am-4:30pm) as references in support of your application, in particular
 - the leader in your faith community who knows you,
 - a personal reference, other than family, who has known you at least 2 years,
 - current or recent employer,
 - from where you are currently, or previously have been volunteering?
- What special skills, interests, hobbies do you have?
- What languages do you speak or write?
- Do you have any health or psychiatric problems or restrictions that might affect your volunteer work?

In general we will want to know why you want to become a Spiritual Care Services volunteer visitor in our long-term care facilities and what qualifications you may possess.

The interview is friendly and non-judgemental. We want to make sure that you would enjoy being a volunteer. We want to encourage in you in your desire to help others, and we want to assist you to determine how you can best help others. With your gifts and interests, you might make a greater contribution to society in some other kind of helping capacity than being a

hospital volunteer. But if we agree that you are suitable to be a volunteer, we will do everything possible to make it a good experience for you.

If you are accepted as a volunteer you may be asked to take a training course before you begin your volunteer work. Or you may be asked to take a training course and reapply after the course. Spiritual Care Services does offer an annual training course for spiritual care visitors in long-term care facilities. Information about the course can be accessed on the Spiritual Care Services web site (http://editwww.viha.ca/spiritual_care/volunteering/volunteer_training.htm)