

## Why Volunteer

Cathy was visiting her grandmother in a nursing home. Her grandmother had been ill for a long time. She usually did not know when Cathy was there. The nursing home was not Cathy's favorite place. It was full of people who were sick. It made Cathy uncomfortable, but she really missed her grandmother. Cathy decided to visit every two weeks.

One day as she was leaving, she passed a large room with a group of patients getting ready for a party. One patient caught Cathy's eye. She was eighty-five-years-old, with curly, white hair and a wonderful attitude. She talked to everyone. She encouraged them to have fun. Cathy walked in the room to watch this person. The lady noticed Cathy and asked her to join them.



She decided to go anyway. When she went back the next week, she was so busy that the time passed quickly. There were patients working on different projects. Cathy spotted Naomi right away and said hello. Naomi introduced Cathy to everyone. Then she asked her if she would like to help at a table. Cathy helped five patients that day. As she left, the people told her how glad they were that she had come.

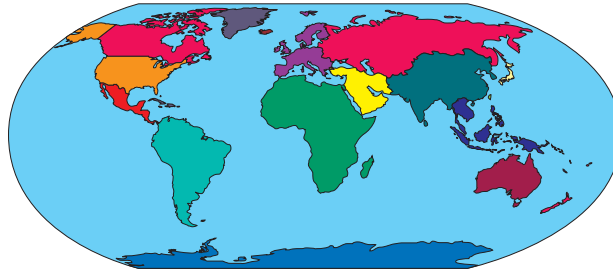
As Cathy went back each week she talked to the patients and learned about their families. Many of these people did not have many visitors and were lonely. They looked forward to seeing Cathy. They depended on her to be there. Cathy volunteered at the nursing home for the next two years.

Cathy felt out of place. She found out that the lady's name was Naomi. Naomi included Cathy in the activities. When they were finished, she asked Cathy to come back the following week. She asked if Cathy would help with the craft activity. Cathy wasn't really sure if she wanted to go back the next week.

Cathy still feels good about her work at the nursing home. She became an important person in the lives of the patients.

Cathy also realized how many important things she learned from this experience. It has helped her to become a more caring and helpful person.

# Making a Better World



## **“GIVE JUST FIVE HOURS A WEEK TO ANY VOLUNTEER PROGRAM AND MAKE THE WORLD A BETTER PLACE”**

This is a slogan used on TV. As the commercial says, “volunteering is an important activity for everyone.” Taxes and private business cannot take care of all the needs we have in our world. Each one of us is responsible for making the world a better place. Volunteering is the best way to give your time, effort and talent for a good cause. The good that you do will be repeated many times over.

Many people now are getting involved in volunteer programs. Some people volunteer for an hour or two a week. Others volunteer for more than five hours a week. Many cities have a Volunteer Center, which will help place people as volunteers in hospitals, schools, nursing home facilities and non-profit agencies, such as the March of Dimes.

As part of the Transition Class, students are required to complete a 15-hour volunteer assignment as outlined below:

- Students may choose their assignments with approval from their transition teacher. If students are not sure, their transition teacher can help them decide.
- Students will keep a log of their experiences while volunteering
- Students will report their volunteer experiences to the class.

**Name three places you might like to volunteer:**

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Student Signature

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Date