

Each day, one of the more than 200 volunteers dons a smile to bring a little sunshine to UTMB patients. We've asked a few of the volunteers:

"Why do you volunteer?"
"What do you get out of your volunteer experience?"



- 1,700 Hours**
Blanche Scarlett
- 1,800 Hours**
Joy Fertitta
- 2,000 Hours**
Laura Bogenski
- 2,100 Hours**
Judy Bahr
- 2,400 Hours**
Bernie Demoratsky
- 2,400 Hours**
Tillie Demoratsky
- 3,300 Hours**
Ann Powell
- 3,600 Hours**
Louise Henderson
- 4,900 Hours**
Peggy Smith

100 Hours

- Marivic Baicy
- Amelia Collins
- 200 Hours**
Elizabeth Sullivan
- 300 Hours**
Lee Blankenship
- Jim Oreschnigg
- Deidre Rogers
- 500 Hours**
Carol Greaney-Wurst
- 700 Hours**
Frederic Mann
- 1,000 Hours**
Helen McDowell



Dr. Joan Richardson works with Kim Mealer, recently appointed director of volunteer services and volunteer coordinators Becky Saenz and Vicki Ladner to work out the details of a new Executive Volunteer Program. Under this program, staff members will be volunteering their time to assist patients and guests within the clinical facilities.

'Joy to others and fulfillment to me'



David Kane
A volunteer for two years.
Orthopaedics.
"I volunteer to see if my son (Steven Kane, M.D. faculty) is doing a good job and make sure he has lunch—seriously. I enjoy helping to lighten the load and with all the people who are hurting that I come in contact with I try to lift their spirits! This interaction makes me appreciate what I have."

Jim Stricklin

A volunteer for two years.
Clinic patient areas.
"An opportunity to be of service to the general public. Seeing the truth of 'a smile is contagious.' Soothe a crying child with a sucker or crackers. Enjoying being recognized off campus by a patient who remembers me giving a cup of coffee, a lemonade and a smile."

Rachel Thomas

A volunteer for three years
Child Life at Children's Hospital and helps with the Junior Volunteer scrapbook.
"I enjoy playing with the kids, planning art projects and helping with the parties and parades. It's very rewarding and I get a sense of purpose."



Ann Powell
A volunteer for 16 years.
Information Desk in the John Sealy lobby; previously assisted at the Help Desk and as a patient escort.
"I find volunteering very satisfying—a good way to stay active and involved in the community; meeting people, making new friends and at the same time having the good feeling of helping others."

Kelly Cuddeback

A volunteer for four years.
Children's Hospital.
"I volunteer at UTMB with my dog, Shoei, and we go from room to room in Children's Hospital. It makes me happy to be able to share Shoei and to see the looks on the kids' faces when they realize there is a dog in the hospital to visit with them. For a few moments they can forget about the illness that brought them to the hospital and just be a child playing with a dog."

Jonathan Zende Del

A junior volunteer for three years (more than 700 hours). This will be his fourth summer to volunteer.
Various areas, including Children's Hospital and the volunteer office.
His most frequent assignment was to the take out the hospitality cart.

"I love volunteer work and the fulfillment it brings to others and me. I enjoy taking out the library and hospital-ity carts. There are so many patients, visitors and employees who can't get away to buy a snack. Most of the employees in the towers know me by name. I think volunteering has helped develop my leadership skills ... I had the opportunity to represent UTMB at the Texas Association of Hospital Teen Leadership Conference two years in a row."

"I also volunteer with other organizations ... (and) my volunteer experience brings joy to others and fulfillment to me. I also think it helps prove to people that teens can make a positive impact."

Paula Reeg

A volunteer for one year.
Calling bingo numbers for children in Children's Hospital.
"If I can help bring a look of pleasure to these sick children, it pleases me greatly."

Blanche Scarlett

A volunteer for 11 years.
John Sealy Hospital.
"I volunteer to be of service to my fellow man and also to thank God for all blessings. The care, help and concern for all patients, knowing I am doing my best is a payback for all the blessings and favors I've received."

Fredric Mann

A volunteer for one year.
UTMB clinics, surgical pathology, health information management, Express Labels, and filing at UTMB blood bank laboratory.
"I enjoyed volunteering, as I was able to be of some help, three times a week, to the departments on Monday, Thursday and Friday."

Tillie Demoratsky

A volunteer for seven years.
Occupational therapy and social services.
"Volunteering gives me a means of being with people and keeping up with what's going on in the community. It is very gratifying to work in social services in their Telephone Reassurance Program. I talk to people who are lonesome, ill, need help and (are) waiting for a phone call. I'm in my late 80s and to me it's a great feeling that I can still do for others by working as a volunteer at UTMB."

Bernie Demoratsky

A volunteer for seven years.
John Sealy and Children's hospital, working for patient services.
"My volunteer work is scheduled as follows. Every Monday and

Wednesday morning, I pick up a list of patients (usually numbering from 18 to 45) from Patient Services and start making my rounds through the Towers and Children's hospital. I visit with patients and help them with their needs. I leave a card with the phone number of Patient Services explaining to them the role of this department."

"After I have made my calls to the patients (and their families), I leave them with a good feeling and knowing that I've accomplished something that has helped others in a difficult time. There is something positive and lasting that you get out of life when you help people on a one-to-one basis that does more for you than all the medicine in the world."

Ken Steblein

A volunteer for 11 years
Gives group tours, Earth fairs, Beach Clean Up and blood drives.
"(Volunteering is) a great way to meet new people and brighten their day. I learn something new when talking with other people—it could be history, new facts or even how they do a task somewhere else."

Volunteer groups

- UTMB Hospitals' Auxiliary
- Volunteer Lay Chaplains
- Junior League of Galveston
- Senior Aides
- Busy Bees
- Order of the Eastern Star
- Tour Guides
- Aglaian Club
- Vista Volunteers
- Junior Volunteers
- Seaborne Challenge Corp.
- Delta Society (pet therapy)
- Paws for Caring (pet therapy)
- Individual pet therapists
- UTMB faculty and staff

Quick look

- UTMB currently has more than 195 active volunteers who contributed a total of 18,000 hours last year.
- A Volunteer Services website is in development and should be up and running this summer.

Volunteer Advisory Board

As part of UTMB's renewed commitment to volunteer programs, a Volunteer Advisory Board recently was formed. The Board serves several functions:

- To advise UTMB leadership on issues related to volunteers and volunteer programs
- To provide direction for the future growth and development of volunteer programs
- To integrate the efforts of multiple individuals and groups involved with UTMB volunteer activities.

The Board's initial meeting was held in March at the Rosenberg House. Members include:

- Karen Alcott, Pastoral Care
- Susan Antonelli, Children's Advisory Board
- Dana Bjarnason, Nursing Service
- Marjorie Cisneros, Junior League of Galveston
- Joy Fertitta, Hospitals Auxiliary
- Larry Jendrusch, Senior Services
- Vicki Ladner, Volunteer Coordinator
- David Lopez, UTMB Hospitals
- Janis Matthews, Child Life
- Kim Mealer, Hospital Services
- Jennifer Raeke, Office of the President
- Dr. Ben Raimer, Community Outreach
- Becky Saenz, Volunteer Coordinator
- Peggy Smith, Hospitals Auxiliary
- Susan Steinbruecker, Social Work
- Mary Ann Stobo
- Elaine Tacquard, Retiree's Club
- Doris White, Office of University Advancement
- Carol Greaney-Wurst, Hospitals Auxiliary

In addition to their volunteer work at UTMB, Bernie and Tillie Demoratsky also volunteer two days a week at Moody Gardens, all of the activities at the Grant Opera House and Strand Theatre. "Bernie and I do all these things together," Tillie says.

