

VOLUNTEERING WITH BREAST CANCER COALITION OF ROCHESTER

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The Breast Cancer Coalition of Rochester's mission is to provide support to those touched by a diagnosis of breast cancer, to make access to information and care a priority through education and advocacy, and to empower women and men to participate fully in decisions relating to breast cancer.

We are a grassroots, community-based organization and we are grateful for the time and talent others bring to the mission and work of the organization. The time you give to us is appreciated beyond words. We are eager to welcome you to our volunteer family and have established the following guidelines to assist in making volunteering for the Coalition a meaningful experience for you. We are a community of individuals with diverse talents, ideas, beliefs and interests. We value this diversity and welcome your **colorful** and **energizing** presence!

Why do we involve volunteers?

- *To increase our ability to reach those diagnosed with breast cancer*
- To benefit from the skills and perspectives volunteers bring to our work
- *To offer our volunteers new skills and experiences*
- To help ensure that our services match the needs of those living in the aftermath of breast cancer

Tips for maximizing your volunteer experience:

- *Please be on time. If you are running late, please let us know as early as possible.*
- Please be reliable. If you are unable to fulfill a commitment, please call as far in advance as possible. Be realistic about times you can volunteer and let us know if we are calling on you too frequently or if you need a break from certain activities.
- *Maintain confidentiality. As a volunteer, you may be privy to matters which must remain confidential. It is critical that you keep that information confidential and not divulge it to anyone. Please remember that there are confidentiality laws that pertain to certain information.*
- If you are feeling uncertain about a situation, ask before you act. Practice common sense and don't be afraid to ask for clarification or help.
- *If someone asks you a question about the Coalition and you don't have the answer, it's okay to say "I am not sure. Can I get back to you with that information?"*
- Please dress appropriately for the type of service you will be performing. Be sensitive to those we serve in choosing attire.
- *Smoking or use of tobacco, using or possessing illegal drugs, being under the influence of alcohol while on our grounds or while out representing the Coalition is strictly prohibited.*
- Please remember that the Coalition is a scent-free zone. Breast cancer treatments can make people extremely sensitive to smells, even when applied lightly.
- *If you have a cold or other illness, kindly stay home. Those undergoing treatment for breast cancer are often immune-compromised. Let us know of your illness as soon as possible so that we may make arrangements for someone to replace you.*
- Volunteers are assigned a primary contact. Please make note of this contact and feel free to share any experiences you have, rewarding or difficult, with this individual.
- We value your opinion. Volunteers are encouraged to express their views on matters concerning their experience with the Coalition. You are invited to communicate your views at any time with our Executive Director or the Chair of our Board of Directors.

THANK YOU FOR ALL YOU DO!