

# Volunteer Orientation

We have many opportunities for volunteering here at Ave Maria. The following are the areas that need help and you can decide where you might enjoy most and feel most comfortable volunteering.

**Assisted Living** is housing for residents who are in need of various forms of help. They may need medication administration because they cannot remember to take their medication. They may be unstable on their feet and have physical issues that make them unsafe to live alone. Many residents have hearing impairment or vision problems. These residents are the highest functioning of all.

The best time for these residents is from 1pm -4; 30pm each day. They are able to play games and do crafts, love music and dancing. They are in need of someone to polish their nails. Playing games or just visiting is fun for these residents.

**St Luke's** is on our lower level and is for Memory Care Residents. There are only 12 -15 residents and they cannot have more than 2 visitors at a time because they can become agitated when too many people are around. The residents in this area may have no physical problems but have memory problems. Some cannot express what they want to say anymore. They like music and can do some crafts. If you sign up to come here, Amber, Activities Director, will plan a special activity for you to do with the residents.

**The Legacy Nursing home** is housing for residents, who are in wheelchairs or bedridden with more needs than any of the other residents here at Ave Maria. These residents need skilled nursing care and may also have memory problems. They love music or visiting. They want to be read to from the Bible or want a letter written to a loved one. They need help with transporting them to church or to activities. They can play games like Bingo with some assistance.

We also have the **Green Houses**, which are nursing homes as well. They are a new concept in caring for residents who need skilled care. Each house is designed like a home with a large kitchen in the middle so residents can smell food as it is being cooked to stimulate their appetite. They have individual rooms with bathrooms attached and a large living area just like home. It is far from the institutional type nursing homes. These residents have the same needs as the residents in the Legacy Home.

**The Adult Day Care** is for individuals with Alzheimer's as well as those whose family members work and cannot leave them home alone. This center is only open Monday through Friday from 7am-6pm. If you sign up for this area, Jessie, the Activities Director, will plan specific activities for you to help with. The members of the day care have so many different types of mental and medical disabilities that Jessie plans things that are geared to the group who come on that day. Depending on the day the participants may be able to do more on one day than another.

The volunteer experience here at Ave Maria is a rewarding one for the volunteers and the residents. Volunteers are needed on Sunday Morning to help residents get to and from church services. Weekend activities are planned and a director is here for those activities but she will need extra hands to help her with residents. There is much to do here. All volunteers must remain in the area where they have been scheduled unless there has been a change in the home of activities. Some of the most interesting people live at Ave Maria. They have had full lives and can tell you some wonderful stories if you listen about how things use to be. Part of the experience is to listen and get to know the residents.