



How to contact us:  
East 65th St. at Lake Michigan  
Chicago, Illinois 60649  
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[www.larabida.org](http://www.larabida.org)

# Volunteer at La Rabida

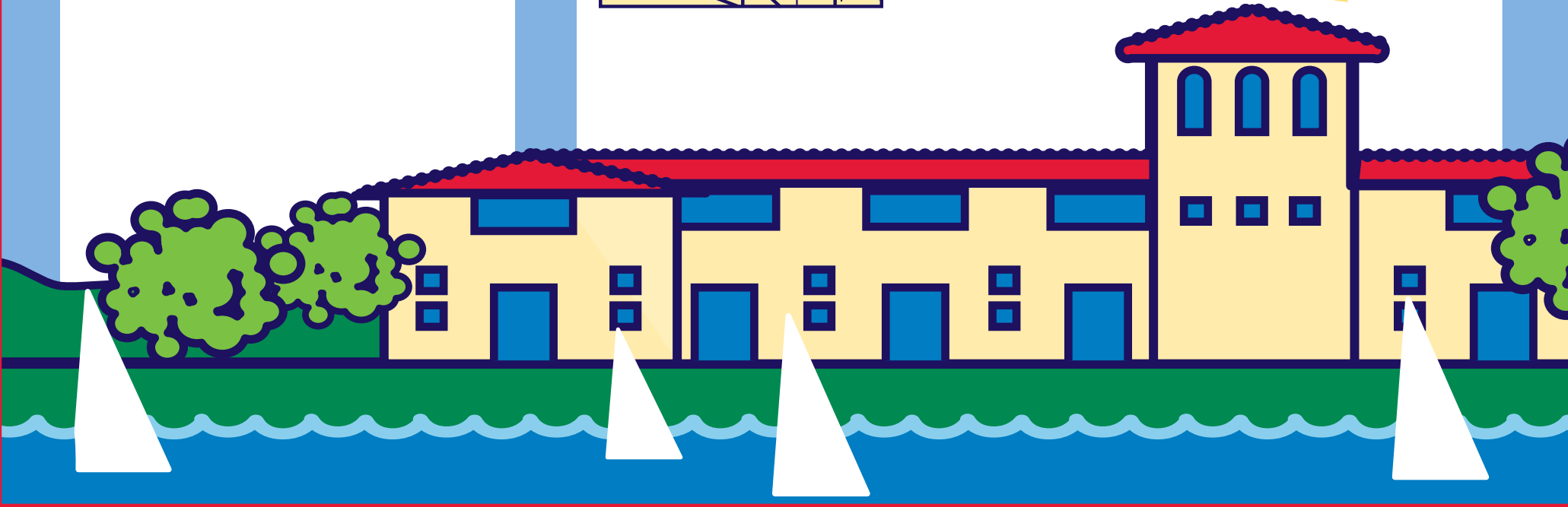
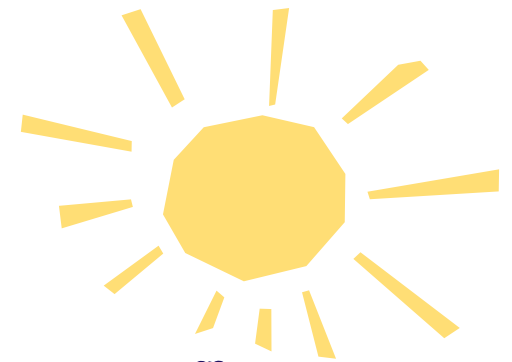
Where you are rewarded in smiles

### Make a Difference in a Child's Life

Give your time, energy and love to the children who come to La Rabida Children's Hospital for care.

Volunteers fill many special roles at La Rabida and are an important part of the safe, nurturing environment that La Rabida offers its patients. The love and support that our volunteers give to our children are "just what the doctor ordered."

Just minutes south of downtown.  
Accessible by CTA bus #67



**Choose Your Schedule**

Volunteer opportunities are available days, evenings and weekends. We will match your availability and interests to one of the following volunteer roles we offer.

**Ambulatory Services**

Volunteers in Ambulatory Services provide support to patients, families and staff in our emergency treatment room, the outpatient clinic area and outpatient registration. Escorting patients to x-ray, running labs and preparing exam rooms are just a few of the duties performed by these volunteers.

**Child Life/Night Life**

Volunteers assist Child Life staff with activities for the children, including arts and crafts, story times, recreation, and the school program. They may work in our Children’s Pavilion, nursing unit play areas, or at the child’s bedside.

**Feeder-Rocker**

These volunteers are specially trained to feed infants, toddlers and others who are not self-feeders. Feeder-rockers work one-on-one with assigned patients who require prolonged feedings or who have other feeding difficulties. They encourage patients to finish their meals and may facilitate group dining experiences.

**Information Desk**



Volunteers welcome patients, families and visitors, give directions, answer telephones, and escort patients among other duties. Volunteers at the Information Desk may provide the first contact our patients, families and visitors have with La Rabida.

**Literacy**

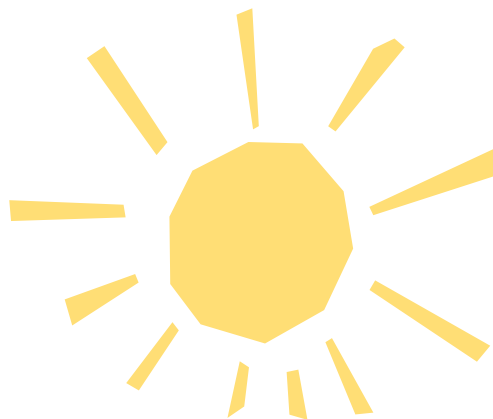
Literacy Program volunteers are part of a hospital-wide effort to encourage reading and a love of books in our children. These volunteers read to our children in the outpatient waiting areas and also work with siblings and accompanying family members in an effort to encourage reading at home.

**Nursing**

Nursing volunteers work with patients on our inpatient unit. They offer reading, puzzles and other play activities to our children. They provide supervision and socialization during meal times and may help facilitate group dining experiences. Nursing volunteers also help the children with daily living activities. Providing one-on-one attention and visiting children at the bedside are important parts of a nursing volunteer’s duties.

**Tutoring**

La Rabida’s tutors provide one-on-one help with school work and reading to an assigned child at weekly tutoring sessions. Tutors should have a desire to improve the educational experience while serving as a role model for the children in the tutoring program.



Individuals interested in becoming a volunteer must meet the following requirements:

**Our Student Program...**

- Is open to high school students ages 16-18
- Students must make a minimum commitment of two hours per week for 20 weeks during the school year or four hours per week for 10 weeks during the summer (for a total of 40 hours).

**Our Adult Program...**

- Is open to college students and adults who are at least 18 years of age
- Adult volunteers must be willing to make a commitment of two hours per week for one year.

**Additional Requirements for All Volunteers include...**

- Completion of an application for volunteer service
- Interview with the volunteer manager
- Submission of a letter of recommendation
- Completion of background checks and a health screening
- Completion of volunteer orientation and appropriate on-the-job training

**To Learn More...**

To receive more information about volunteering at La Rabida, including the initial application, contact Judi Blakemore, Manager of Volunteer Services, at 773.256.5985 or at [jblakemore@larabida.org](mailto:jblakemore@larabida.org). Or, visit our web site: [www.larabida.org](http://www.larabida.org).

# Why La Rabida is a Special Place



“You think volunteering is about *you* giving *your* time. But with the kids at La Rabida, what you get in return cannot be measured in hours or minutes.”

~ *Marlette Tyler,*  
*Literacy and Volunteer Tour Guide*



“There is a need for adults to sincerely help children who are in need. I decided to share my time and experiences with them.”

~ *Eugene Hamilton,*  
*Child Life and Member, Volunteer Advocacy Council*



## Why La Rabida is a Special Place



“Volunteering at La Rabida is one of the most rewarding experiences of my life. Every day I come in, I always feel excited to go through the rooms to play with, talk with, or even just sit with the children. No matter what kind of day it is, I guarantee that you will walk out of those doors with the most genuine smile upon your face.”

~ *Theresa Sanchez,*

*Feeder-Rocker and Member, Volunteer Advisory Council*



“I adore the kids. Spending time with them is the highlight of my week.”

~ *Michelle Sheehy*

*Feeder-Rocker,  
Tutor and Volunteer  
Tour Guide and  
Member, Volunteer  
Advisory Council*



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