I would like to help the **Wishard Volunteer Advocates Program!**

I would like to learn more about becoming a Volunteer Advocate

Name:
Address:
Davidina Dhama
Daytime Phone:
Evening Phone:
E-mail:
Occupation:
Employer:
Are you a current Wishard Volunteer?

I would like to make a donation.

Please provide name and address above.

Amount of Donation: \$

No

No

Make check payable to: Wishard Foundation. Please write Wishard Volunteer Advocates Program in the memo section of your check.

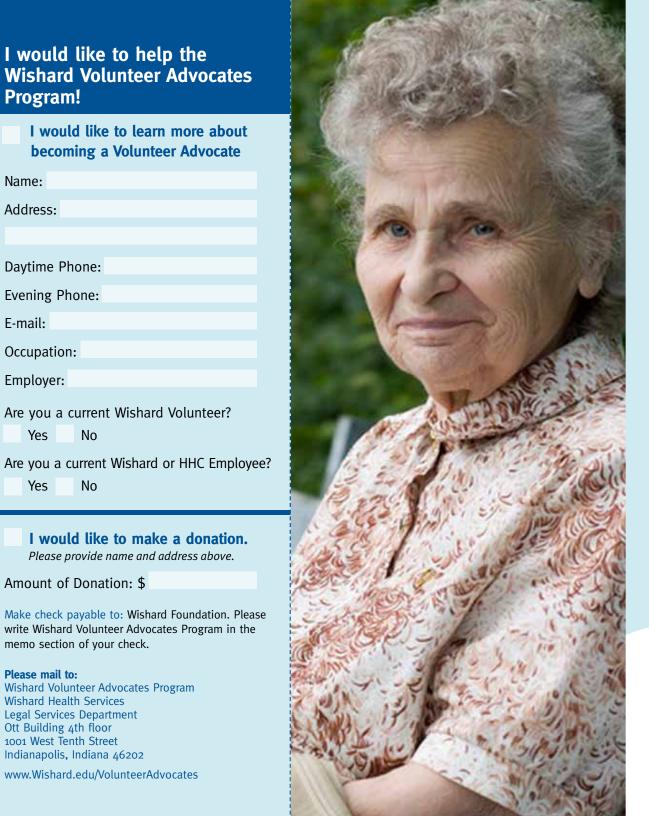
Please mail to:

Yes

Yes

Wishard Volunteer Advocates Program Wishard Health Services Legal Services Department Ott Building 4th floor 1001 West Tenth Street Indianapolis, Indiana 46202

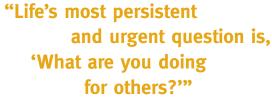
www.Wishard.edu/VolunteerAdvocates





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Wishard Health Services, in partnership with the Marion County Probate Court, founded the Wishard Volunteer Advocates Program in response to the healthcare and social service needs of the increasing population of unbefriended adults and seniors cared for by Wishard Health Services. The program is modeled after the Volunteer Advocates for Seniors Program created by Saint Margaret Mercy and the Lake Superior Court in 2001. The Wishard Volunteer Advocates Program serves ill and at-risk adults who are hospitalized at Wishard Health Services. The program will partner with other community programs serving incapacitated adults and seniors to develop a continuum of advocacy and guardianship services.



- Martin Luther King, Jr.









WISHARD® Volunteer Advocates Program

About the Program

Imagine being homeless or alone and in the hospital, incapacitated, with no friend or relative to help you make important decisions. The Wishard Volunteer Advocates Program provides volunteer, limited-guardian services for adults and seniors who are unbefriended and in the hospital at Wishard Health Services. The program steps in when at-risk adults and seniors are without suitable family involvement, and they are unable to advocate for their own healthcare.

Appointed by the Marion County Probate Court, volunteer advocates assist the court by investigating and assessing an at-risk person's life situation, facilitating healthcare and social services, and planning appropriate residential placement. The program recruits, trains and supervises volunteer advocates to serve as limited guardians for incapacitated adults and seniors.

Located at Wishard Memorial Hospital, the Wishard Volunteer Advocates Program is a member of the National Guardianship Association (NGA) and adheres to the NGA Standards of Practice and the NGA Code of Ethics for Guardians and Guardianship Agencies.





Qualifications and Training

The Wishard Volunteer Advocates Program is closely aligned with the Wishard mission to Advocate, Care, Teach and Serve with special emphasis on the vulnerable populations of Marion County. As a tax-supported public hospital serving nearly 155,000 patients annually, Wishard is one of the busiest safety net hospitals in the United States.

Volunteer advocates:

- Are committed to the care of older, disabled or mentally ill adults
- Can commit to the time required
- Can exercise sound decision-making
- Are at least 21 years old
- Have no criminal history or social services history of violence

- Must successfully complete the application process and training program
- Are able to commit to annual continuing education

Prospective volunteer advocates will complete the Wishard Volunteer Advocates Program application process as well as Wishard's volunteer orientation and health screening program. They will also participate in a screening interview with the Program Director, provide three written references, and authorize us to perform a criminal history check.

Following the application process, volunteer advocates must successfully complete an initial training program and 12 hours of continuing education on an annual basis.

Local professionals will conduct training for the program in the fields of health, mental health, law and social services. The training covers the following topic areas:

- Volunteer advocates' roles and responsibilities
- National Guardianship Association standards of practice and code of ethics
- Conditions of aging and senior care resources
- Conditions of mental illness and mental illness resources
- Conditions of developmental disabilities and resources
- Palliative care and hospice resources
- Medicare, Medicaid and estate planning
- Marion County social services resources
- Cultural competency
- Medical ethics
- Communication and confidentiality
- Case planning and court-report writing



How Can You help?

Wishard Volunteer Advocates perform a vital service in our community. Please consider becoming a volunteer advocate or making a donation to our program using the reply card attached.

If you would like to be a volunteer advocate or have questions about the program, please contact the Program Director at 317-630-6254 for more information.