National Volunteer month in the United States is officially designated during the month of April. This month reminds all of you just how much your efforts are appreciated. But, when I think of our Mended Hearts Accredited Visitors, I think of the value of time that's given throughout the year. In our lives, one thing we cannot create, accumulate, acquire, buy or even borrow is TIME. The greatest gift you can give someone is your TIME because when you give your time, you are giving a portion of your life that you will never get back. We have a limited amount of time for sleep, work, family and our own interests. Therefore, an Accredited Visitor's time is a very precious commodity.

Thank you for being an Accredited Visitor who chooses to give up your personal time and energy and expend it to help others. Your commitment and support are greatly appreciated. Thanks also to those fantastic Accredited Visitor Chairpersons or chapter designees acting as chairs for their chapters. An Accredited Visitor chairperson has among his/her many roles that of recognizing Accredited Visitors. Know also that this recognition is appropriate at any time and not just during National Volunteer Month. Some chapters use their anniversary month for such recognition.

Recognizing Accredited Visitors for their efforts and commitment is important at any time and is also vital to the quality and success of the Mended Hearts patient and family visiting program. While patient and family visiting must not be perceived as a "contest" or "competition" among Accredited Visitors, individualized ways should be found to recognize and salute successful visiting. Ongoing acknowledgement of the value of patient and family visiting is essential for growth and improvement.

♥ A simple “thank you” goes a long way.
♥ Each month, spotlight a different accredited visitor in the newsletter or on the website.
♥ Host an accredited visitor appreciation night.
♥ Recognize accredited visitors at monthly meetings.
♥ Present them with certificates of appreciation.
♥ Nominate them for a chapter or national award.

Thank you for being an Accredited Visitor who chooses to give up personal time and energy and expend it to help others. Your commitment and support are greatly appreciated.

For ideas on Fun Ways to Recognize Volunteers, click HERE and view the PowerPoint or PDF document under “Manuals and Resources” membership engagement section.
Note from MH National Resource Center:

The National Resource Center is in the process of renewing the liability insurance on each accredited visitor. When the office staff produced the list of members who have been accredited within the past year, the following information was generated:

1631 members who have taken/received accreditation - going back to Day One.

349 members who are currently accredited - within the past year.

Please note that a member must be currently accredited in order to be covered by our liability policy.

Action need now: Chapter/group officers, please go into the web officer/coordinator portals and update your members’ accreditation dates (if they have received accreditation training within the last year. This needs to be done quickly. Remember, each visitor must receive annual accreditation per our visiting policies.

Directions for completing this process:

Log on to officer portal, select member records, click member name and scroll down to accreditation and add necessary information. If you are unable to log on or have questions, please contact us.

Heartfelt Regards,

Dr. Fredonia B. Williams
National Visiting Chair
Southern Assistant Regional Director

Future Questions/Topics

We want to hear from you!
Other challenging questions for this newsletter may be emailed to fredoniabw@att.net.