

Volunteer Best Practices

Presented by 99 Balloons

3 Pitfalls to Avoid:

- 1. Pity / Charity Mentality
 - Our ministry does not flow out of pity for them. Our friends with disabilities are a vital part of the body of Christ.
- 2. Special Angels
 - Our friends with disabilities do not exist for our inspiration. While we each have unique lives and roads that we travel, there is one human experience and we all need Jesus. There can be no "othering."
- 3. If you are not comfortable, we are not comfortable
 - We always want to be respectful and preserve the dignity of our Honored Guests, but please feel free to ask for help or to signal your discomfort to your volunteer team leadership so that they can help.

General Guidelines:

- Volunteers are NEVER to be alone with an Honored Guest.
 - Steer clear of empty rooms, restrooms, and any one-to-one situations.
- All volunteers need to wear a visible name tag throughout the entire event.
- Volunteers should NEVER administer medications.
- Familiarize yourself with the event space:
 - Bathrooms (are they handicap accessible or not?)
 - Sensory Room or Calming Spaces (as some of our friends may be seeking quiet as the night gets more overwhelming for them)
 - Food & Water
 - Stairs / Ramps / Trip Hazards