



## ***LIFESPAN Volunteer Program Guidelines***

"The ultimate expression of generosity is not in giving of what you have,  
but in giving of who you are." ~ Johnnetta B. Cole

## **LIFESPAN Mission**

*LIFESPAN transforms the lives of children and adults with developmental disabilities by providing education, employment, and enrichment opportunities that promote inclusion, choice, family supports, and other best practices.*

## **LIFESPAN History**

LIFESPAN was founded on October 10, 1973, when five children were not accepted into the Charlotte-Mecklenburg School System due to their significant disabilities. Our programs serve individuals from six weeks of age through their senior years who struggle daily with their own developmental delays or disabilities (i.e. mental retardation, Down syndrome, autism, cerebral palsy, etc.).

LIFESPAN currently supports 1,200 individuals with developmental disabilities in our collection of community programs across North Carolina.

## **Volunteer Responsibilities**

We ask that our volunteers:

- Complete the volunteer application and appropriate paperwork
- Participate in orientation and training
- Follow all LIFESPAN policies and philosophies
- Sign in and out at the front desk each time they volunteer
- Never be alone with an individual who we support
- Maintain confidentiality
- Ask questions and fully participate – be willing to learn
- Be sincere in their offer of service
- Accept the guidance and decisions of staff, but offer suggestions
- Carry out assigned duties in a timely manner
- Arrive on time
- Wear casual, but professional attire (i.e. No open-toe shoes)
- Inform program director if unable to attend
- Work in partnership with staff at all times

## **Volunteer Benefits**

Many volunteers say that their biggest reward comes from helping others. Other rewards include:

- Making new friends
- Serving the community
- Learning/practicing new skills
- Providing much needed support for staff
- Changing preconceived ideas
- Making a difference
- Becoming an advocate

## **Volunteer Rights**

Volunteers have the right to:

- Be valued
- Have risks explained
- Have their time used wisely
- Work in a safe environment
- Be treated as a co-worker
- Be appropriately recognized for their efforts

## ***Possible Individual Volunteer Opportunities***

### **LIFESPAN Education Services (Iredell, Surry and Alamance counties only)**

Become a lunch buddy  
Read to a child  
Host a supply drive  
Mentor a child  
Provide light maintenance  
Assist in the classrooms

### **LIFESPAN Employment Services**

Become a mentor  
Assist in the Compensatory Education classroom  
Share a life skill  
Offer your company as a host "job sampling" location  
Offer employment services through your company  
Host a supply drive to put together "going to work" kits

### **LIFESPAN Enrichment Services**

Organize a game night in one of the residential programs (*Charlotte only*)  
Paint with an aspiring artist in the art program  
Provide support in the horticulture program  
Create a piece of pottery in one of the pottery studios  
Share your skills and talents – teach someone to knit, bring in a musical instrument, host a cooking class, etc.  
Host a supply drive  
Assist with clerical support

***Thank you for your interest in volunteering at LIFESPAN!***

***"Everyone can be great, because everyone can serve". ~ Martin Luther King***