



For Immediate Release

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Students Donate Of Their Time and Energy to Harlingen Medical Center

Harlingen – They are not your typical teenagers. Instead of spending their summer break hanging out with friends, going to the mall, and going to the movies, a group of Rio Grande Valley high school students offered their time and energy to the Volunteer Services program at Harlingen Medical Center. In just two-and-a-half-months, nearly two dozen student volunteers donated more than a thousand hours of service and brought countless of smiles to hospital, staff, guests, and patients.



Todd Mann (Far Left), President & Chief Executive Officer at Harlingen Medical Center and Letty Kretz (Far Right), Director of Marketing are pictured here with members of the Harlingen Medical Center student volunteer team.

“We had a most productive team of student volunteers this summer,” said Manny Chacon, who manages the Volunteer Services program at Harlingen Medical Center. “They were all very eager to learn and help. And, all of them were simply exceptional in their service to Harlingen Medical Center.”

Student volunteers offered their support and service to various departments within the hospital. Their areas of service this summer included: the concierge desk, the women’s center, the emergency department, the business office, the marketing department, the human resources department, and labor and delivery.

“I volunteered at the concierge desk and the business office and it was a great learning experience for me,” said Geneva Clark, a student volunteer at Harlingen Medical Center. “This was my first summer doing this, but I plan to come back next summer. My work here really instilled in me a sense of service to my community, me doing something to help someone else.”

The Volunteer Services program at Harlingen Medical Center is designed to offer adults, with a wide range of skills and experience, to serve others in a healthcare setting. And, it is designed to offer young adults an opportunity to serve others while at the same time they learn about the everyday operations of a healthcare organization.

“Our volunteer program is a great opportunity for young adults to see what is out there in regards to professional opportunities once they complete their academic studies, whether it is post university or technical school,” said Chacon. “We have had student volunteers who have supported staff in clinical areas and at the end of the summer program confirm that that is what their dream is, to be a nurse or a doctor.”

High school students who participate in the Volunteer Services program at Harlingen Medical Center get the experience they are looking for regarding serving others, serving their community, and getting an inside look at the clinical and non-clinical sides of healthcare.

“There are so many opportunities as far as professions at a hospital. I never knew there were so many, but it’s great to be able to see that now, and then have some sense of direction as to what you want to do with your life,” said Clark. “I recommend this program to all students in high school.”

To become a member of the Volunteer Services program at Harlingen Medical Center, one must submit an application, complete a health screening and security screening, be 15 years of age or older, attend a hospital orientation, and adhere to a dress code. Assignments are given according to an individual’s interests and department availability.

For more information on volunteering at Harlingen Medical Center, contact Manny Chacon, in Community Relations, at (956) 365-1888, or log on to www.hmcrgv.com.

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Harlingen Medical Center is redefining the way healthcare is delivered throughout the Rio Grande Valley! HMC is a general acute care hospital led by physicians specializing in bariatric, cardiac surgery, cardiology, emergency, gastroenterology, internal medicine, neurology, obstetric and gynecology, orthopaedic, orthopaedic surgery, pediatric, vascular & endovascular surgery, and wound healing care.

Harlingen Medical Center is leading the way in promoting the best in patient care, striving to achieve better outcomes, and making available advanced treatment options. Our **mission** is to improve clinical outcomes for cardiac patients through a physician, patient focused approach.