

## **Frequently asked questions – Questions about Volunteers**

The Volunteer Services program at NVMHI aims to improve the quality of life for our individuals while they receive treatment services. Our goal is to empower the individuals we serve by enhancing their stay here at NVMHI and supporting them in their transition to the community.

### **How frequently do I need to volunteer?**

We prefer regular hours but understand that everyone has busy schedules. With that in mind, we work with each volunteer to create a schedule that works for everyone.

### **What is included in the background check and drug testing process?**

We use an electronic fingerprinting system that is connected to the Virginia State Police. We conduct the drug testing on site. While all volunteers are fingerprinted, only the ones that will have direct contact with our individuals are drug tested.

### **How will I learn about the duties I will be performing as a volunteer?**

All of our volunteers go through an orientation program before volunteering. This program provides information about our facility, the volunteer role, policies that relate to volunteering, and provides an opportunity to meet your NVMHI supervisor and take a tour.

### **How frequently do you have an orientation program?**

Currently we have a volunteer orientation program once a month.

**Do you have a pet visitation program?**

NVMHI's Occupational Therapy Department has partnered with the PAL (People Animals Love) organization to host pet visitation on the first and third Saturdays of the month. You can find out more information about PAL by going to <http://www.peopleanimalslove.org/>.