

The Cardiac Intensive Care Unit (CICU) needs volunteers to provide comfort to our patient's loved ones.

Can you help our patients and their families?

- Have you ever had open heart surgery?
- Are you a relative of someone who is a member of the "zipper club"?
- Are you a student needing to complete volunteer hours or to expand your resume or broaden your knowledge?
- Are you an individual just looking to help out families and patients in need?



HEARTMENDERS AT SHANDS AT UF CICU/CCU

If you are interested in joining the heartmenders team please contact Shands volunteer services at **352-265-0360** or visit our website at www.shands.org/volunteer (Click on Shands at UF)



Shands at the University of Florida

1600 SW Archer Road
Gainesville, FL 32608
www.shands.org

Shands at UF CICU/CCU

Heartmenders



Heart and major blood vessel surgery can be a frightening experience. When a loved one is in the operating room the wait can seem endless. Your volunteer service can make a difference for the patients, families, and visitors during this difficult time.

Heartmenders with Shands Volunteer Services



- Help show someone where to get a cup of coffee
- Direct loved ones where to wait for a surgeon after surgery
- Provide a shoulder to lean on during a difficult time/situation
- Help orient visitors to the CICU/CCU unit and Shands at UF
- Discuss your own personal stories about your experience with open heart surgery
- Assist loved ones to waiting rooms

The medical staff at the Cardiovascular Intensive Care Unit (CICU) at Shands at UF provides intensive care to patients following open heart surgery and/or surgery on the major blood vessels. Our goal is to provide exceptional care not only for the patient, but also for the patient's loved ones.

OPEN VISITATION

The CICU/CCU has an open visitation policy and we encourage families and loved ones to visit our patients at anytime. Major heart and blood vessel surgery can cause feelings of anxiety and increase stress

for patients and family members.



Our goal is to help reduce anxiety and create a healing environment for both patients and families.

HEARMENDERS VOLUNTEER PROGRAM

The heartmenders volunteer program aims to provide patients and families compassionate and knowledgeable assistance. Often family members need someone to show them where to find a cup of coffee, the Food Court and sometimes just a nice quiet place outside where they can get some fresh air. Our heart surgery families need someone that can help gather everyone involved and coordinate meetings with the surgical team. In short we want our families to have someone like you.

I'VE BEEN THERE BEFORE TOO

Although it is not a requirement for the heartmenders program, if you have had a personal experience with open heart surgery, we'd love for you to share your stories. It might be helpful for other patients and families to hear how you got through the difficult times, and the steps you took to help with your own recovery.

