50 Ideas for Volunteering in a Nursing Home

There is something for everyone!

1. Visit with residents; group, or one-one.
2. Do manicures
4. Help with gardening
5. Answer the phone at the reception desk
6. Paint a mural with resident's help
7. Play a musical instrument
8. Help with fundraising
9. Play cards
10. Escort residents to in-house appointments
11. Start a club about something you enjoy
12. Lead a Bible study or Devotional readings
13. Help in the dining room during meals
14. Decorate for holidays
15. Mend clothing
16. Distribute mail
17. Help put together jigsaw puzzles
18. Teach residents to use a computer
19. Wash wheelchairs & other equipment
20. Read some jokes
21. Set up and clean-up for special events
22. Join residents on outings
23. Play board games
24. Video call facilitation: Volunteers set up calls so residents can connect with distant family members
25. Bring a pet to visit
26. Do hand massages with lotion
27. Read to residents

Sonya Barsness and Karen Stobbe

28. Help residents write letters
29. Ask a resident to teach you something
30. Represent at a conference at the booth.
31. Visit with residents and listen to their stories
32. Smartphone and tablet coaching: Volunteers teach residents how to use touch screens, text, or access social media.
33. Transport residents to meals, activities, and rehab sessions
34. Virtual reality (VR) travel: Volunteers bring VR headsets to let residents "visit" their childhood hometowns or travel the world from an armchair.
35. Shine residents' shoes
36. Teach a resident to use a Smartphone
37. Lead sing-a-longs
38. Help in the coffee shop or gift shop
39. Become a volunteer ombudsman
40. Decorate bulletin boards
41. Help with worship services
42. Assist with craft projects
43. Rearrange funeral flower arrangements into individual bouquets
44. Do clerical tasks; copying, envelope stuffing)
45. Accompany residents outdoors
46. Lead an indoor walking group
47. Document life stories
48. Bring babies/children to visit
49. Greet visitors at the front desk
50. Lead a baking/cooking class

"Volunteers do not necessarily have the time; they just have the heart."
Elizabeth Andrew

"The world is hugged by the faithful arms of volunteers." Terri Guillemets