



Service Initiative

WHAT IS KINDCARTS?

Health doesn't just come from medicine. Studies have long shown that the environment plays a profound effect on the healing process—the Restful Nights carts at the James Cancer Hospital works off this principle to create a relaxing nighttime atmosphere that increases the amount of patients' sleep and strengthen their bodies. Kindness on the Carts, or KindCarts, augments this atmosphere by providing craft items that lower stress, brighten the environment and bring a smile to those going through some of their roughest times.

WHAT DO WE DO?

We create items/activities to help brighten and augment the patients' experience. Our donations range from the decorative, such as holiday crafts, to the health-related, such as heating and cooling pads.

Projects we've done in the past include creating mini Hope Gardens for the patients' rooms, distributing Hero Badges to patients and staff, and making pun books for April Fool's Day. As of 3/12/16, we have completed twenty-two projects, encompassing hundreds of donations and service hours. In October 2016, we extended our donations to include more health-related items and hope to expand to year-round amenities by June 2016.

Collaborations:

KindCarts encourages collaboration and interdisciplinary pursuits. As a service initiative, we often partner with other OSU organizations or groups looking for volunteer opportunities or programs. Examples of past collaborations include Mirrors Sophomore Honorary, MUNDO at OSU, Dr. Sheridan's Neuroimmunology Lab, and Morrill 14th Floor Familia. If requested, Kindcarts service projects can also be combined with our own program exploring "grassroots services" and opportunities on and off campus.

HOW ARE WE FUNDED?

KindCarts is funded through an Honors and Scholars Enrichment Grant, lasting from March 2015-April 2016, and a Professional Development Grant from Critical Difference for Women to finance more tool and materials, lasting from January-April 2016. We just accepted an academic enrichment grant from OSU's Undegraduate Student Government to fund us from May 2016-May 2017. We also accept donations.

HISTORY:

Spring 2014

The idea of a crafting service project was born in the Mirrors Sophomore Honorary.

October 2014

Our first project, The Great Pumpkin, takes place with Mirrors. It is the first of many more to come.

November 2014

KindCarts, then Kindness on the Carts, became officially formalized as a plan. The search for funding begins.

December 2014

KindCarts plans its first project outside of Mirrors Honorary, collaborating with MUNDO at OSU, one of the Big Six Organizations on campus (now called the Involved Living Groups). A program emphasizing the power of grassroots service is created, which can accompany various projects at the request of the collaborator.

The New James Cancer Hospital opens.

March 2015

We receive the Honors and Scholars Academic Enrichment Grant—KindCarts is officially funded!

Summer 2015

KindCarts meets regularly in order to continue serving our patients with joy and smiles!

Throughout the summer, we complete four different service projects, experimenting with new donations and recruiting more regular volunteers.

September 2015

We've have our first project branching outside the James Cancer Hospital, this time benefitting the children of BuckeyeVillage. We volunteered at the event and sponsored a crafting table as many of the children were given their first introduction to Halloween traditions in the U.S.

October 2015

KindCarts receives additional funding (\$1000) through a Professional Development Grant from Critical Difference for Women!

January 2016

The official KindCarts logo is designed, showcasing how random acts of kindness, like sharing an umbrella, bring us closer together.

February 2016

Although it's not its actual birthday, KindCarts celebrates its one-year anniversary on February 17th, otherwise known as Random Acts of Kindness Day.

March 2016

We won a grant from OSU's Undergraduate Student Government which will allow KindCarts to be funded and run for another year!

We only continue to grow in our passions and abilities. As of April 10, 2016, we have completed 24 projects, encompassing hundreds of service hours and donations.

WHO JOINS KINDCARTS?

Anyone! Our volunteers have come from all majors, ages and career paths. With interests spanning from medicine to military, our community simply shares a passion for patients, fun and giving back.

HOW DO YOU GET INVOLVED?

Check out any of our planning/crafting sessions to find out what we're about! Email our founder, Ana Sucaldito, (contact info below), in order to find out the current meeting site or for any other questions.

FAQs:

What is Restful Nights?

Restful Nights is a program within the James Cancer Hospital. From 6-8pm, every night, excepting Saturday, a series of carts travel the floors delivering general amenities to the patients. The hospital provides many amenities in order to give patients a more restful experience, such as sleep masks and ear plugs to help aid sleep, or magazines for leisure. Often, other organizations give handmade donations for the carts that the volunteers then help distribute.

When do we meet?

The timing and occurrence of our meetings changes with the semester. In the summer, crafting sessions are determined by the availability of the volunteers. Interested volunteers email in their schedule and meetings are scheduled so that as many people as possible can craft!

Coming in groups is encouraged so that we can all craft together!

In the spring and fall semesters, meetings will be scheduled for 1-1.5hr timespans. The meetings will be scheduled in accordance of need, determined by the number of projects per semester, but will be, most likely, bimonthly.

What is the time commitment?

What you make of it! You can come to as many or as few sessions as you want.

How are we affiliated with OSU?

Our members are largely OSU students, although anyone can participate, and all donations benefit the OSU Medical Center and community. However, in order to receive our grant funding, we have not applied for official student organization status via the Ohio Union. We plan to do so in Spring 2016, so that we can receive OSU benefits/funds at that time and still be able to use our grants for as long as possible.

What is the method for recording service hours?

Service hours are recorded and reported to Regina Wicks-Frank at the Volunteer Office at the James Cancer Hospital. If you are a regular volunteer there, the hours will show up on your Volunteer page account. If not, records of all hours are kept in the KindCarts binder, and, if requested, KindCarts will provide an official document for any verification needs.

How do we decide what to make/donate?

Deciding projects happens as a collaborative effort. We often receive feedback from patients or Patience Experience staff about patient requests and give those suggestions first priority. Volunteers also offer their ideas and we then decide what project to pursue.

Want to get involved?

Contact us for more details about where and when our next project is!

Email: Sucaldito.3@buckeyemail.osu.edu

Phone: (513)-767-5183



It's
Spring!

★ Because you
inspire me to
reach for the
sky... ★



KindCarts

