

Community Volunteers FAQ's

Why volunteer?

Volunteering at the RI Mission of Mercy (RIMOM) project provides a sense of commitment and service with ourselves, our communities and our state. It is a soul satisfying experience because it comes from the goodness of your own heart, with no expectation of receiving anything in return. Your service at an RIMOM event also highlights the continued problem of access to dental care to the citizens, legislature, and leaders of Rhode Island.

Why does Rhode Island need a MOM?

There is an access-to-care issue in Rhode Island affecting people of all ages. Oral healthcare is often neglected and at times unavailable for thousands individuals who need it most. Neglecting oral health can lead to greater whole body health concerns.

Several outstanding dental organizations offer nearly free dental services for children, for the elderly, for people with disabilities, for the homeless, and for people living with HIV/AIDS. Often, adults who are without dental insurance and who are unable to afford dental treatment are without dental resources.

The RIOHF signature event the RIMOM provided a way to help this situation.

What should I expect at RIMOM?

RIMOM's goal for treatment is to relieve a patient's pain and infection. Unless advised by RIMOM clinical leads, only the patient's first priorities will be addressed. Limiting treatment to a patient's urgent need enables RIMOM to serve more individuals.

As patients register at RIMOM, they will be asked complete a form asking for basic demographic information and their health history. Dentists will be responsible for assessing and prioritizing patients' treatment needs. Patients will be asked about their dental care concerns and then the patient and triage dentist together will determine the RIMOM treatment priorities.

Is there a minimum age for volunteers?

In order to ensure everyone's safety, we'd like all RIMOM volunteers to be at least 16 years old.

Volunteers under age 18 will need the signature of a parent or guardian. Patients under 16 will generally not be assisting in the patient care clinical areas.

I have difficulty in standing and walking for extended periods of time. Will I still be able to volunteer?

Absolutely! We have a number of volunteer positions which can be performed while sitting. Please let us know of any concerns you have on your registration application and we will do our best to accommodate your needs. If you find you are unable to perform your assigned duties, just let us know and we will see where we can utilize your talents and contributions.

Will there be designated parking for RIMOM volunteers?

Yes. You will be sent a parking pass that you can print down and bring with you upon arrival you will be directed by parking attendants.

What should I wear?

All volunteers will be given a RIMOM t-shirt and are required to wear it during the clinic. Dress for the RIMOM is casual, so whatever is most comfortable for you. Remember to wear comfortable and supportive, closed-toed shoes.

Will there be food available for volunteers at RIMOM?

All volunteers will be provided with a place for meals and breaks, and will be provided with food, beverages and water. Everyone should plan to eat or drink in the designated volunteer break area. Please do not eat or drink in clinical treatment areas.

Please note: There are no secure areas for your personal belongings we suggest locking them in your car.