

Volunteer of the Year Nominee

Example Application

Name: John Smith

Organisation: Hospital Helpers

Age: 47

What is outstanding about the nominee's volunteering commitment?

John is an exceptional volunteer who deserves to be recognised for his continuous efforts to helping others. In the past five years he has proved himself to be a dedicated volunteer of the Hospital Helpers program at the Princess Diana Hospital. He works as part of a team of volunteers who help to brighten the lives of patients by, for example, taking them for coffee, reading to them and accompanying them to appointments. What is impressive about John's commitment to the role is the fact that he juggles his participation within Hospital Helpers with a full time job as well as being a father to two young kids. Despite these other responsibilities, John has never missed his weekly Sunday morning shift and is always putting his hand up for further participation at special events hosted by the hospital.

John's achievements can be exemplified in the impact that he has made to the Hospital Helpers program. He goes above and beyond his duties as a volunteer by regularly coming up with new ideas for the program. During the last year, John has organised visits from therapy dogs, connected the hospital with the local TAFE College to have students teach art classes for patients and has also held a donation drive for additional reading material for the hospital library.

Throughout this year John has also expanded his volunteering efforts for the Princess Diana Hospital by also participating in the Youth Support, a program that targets assisting our younger patients. His work here has included organising birthday surprises for patients, tutoring them so they do not fall behind in their schoolwork and arranging visits from local sporting heroes.

What positive impact has the nominee had on the Queensland community?

John's overall contributions and efforts towards volunteering this year have had a significant impact on the hospital. Without his dedication, hard work and enthusiasm for volunteering we believe the volunteering programs at Princess Diana Hospital would have not have enjoyed the success they have had in the last year.

Through his volunteering work, John has left lasting impressions and created lasting memories for the sick patients at Princess Diana Hospital. Patients at the hospital often enter into a tiresome routine of daily medication, check-ups and rehabilitation. John's volunteering contributions has helped break this routine and reintroduced joy, laughter and energy back into their lives and making their stay more enjoyable.

John's creative ideas for the program such as the aforementioned therapy dogs, art classes and surprise events have received unanimously positive feedback from patients, their families and friends – creating a ripple effect. They are, like us, incredibly impressed and emotionally moved with the lengths to which John has gone to and the dedication he has shown in helping others.



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Where and how long has the nominee been a volunteer?

Unsurprisingly, Hospital Helpers is not John's first volunteering role. John has been with Hospital Helpers for the past 5 years but has been volunteering fairly consistently since he was a teenager.

Some of his past contributions include:

- Scouts Queensland – 3 years
- Surf Life Saving Queensland – 8 years
- St Vincent de Paul Society – 10 years
- Hospital Helpers – 5 years

How is the nominee an inspiration?

John's nomination stems from his humility, dedication and general enthusiasm that he has shown to volunteering. John does not volunteer in search of praise or recognition but out of care and empathy. Clocking over 400 unpaid hours in the last year, John's commitment to volunteering is astounding and is undeniably impressive. He has affirmed his dedication to the program by voicing plans of several fundraising events he hopes to execute in the next year as well as more ideas to help patient well-being.

John's passion for volunteering can also be seen through the fact that he has encouraged many of his co-workers, friends and family to join the program and become regular volunteers.

Other volunteers in the program speak highly of John and say that his dedication and commitment to helping others has inspired them to do more themselves. Many volunteers have taken John's lead and have begun contributing their own ideas for improving and bettering the programs at the hospital, including ways for volunteers to have more of an impact. This is an initiative that John brought to fruition and we are excited to see where this will lead.

Main emphasis:

- Highlight the volunteer's contributions with clear examples in the past year
- Show their ongoing dedication to volunteering
- Demonstrate the effects and impact of their volunteering work at a personal, operational and strategic level



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Level 12, 127 Creek Street, Brisbane, Qld 4000
GPO Box 623, Brisbane, Qld 4001

T: (+61 7) 3002 7600
reception@volunteeringqld.org.au

volunteeringqld.org.au

#volunteeringqld

