

**CHRIST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH  
VOLUNTEER POSITION DESCRIPTION**

**POSITION TITLE:** Special Angels Volunteer  
**DEPARTMENT:** Children's Ministry – All age groups

**I. POSITION PURPOSE**

- A. To offer support to a child with special needs during the Sunday school hour, helping the child to grow in his/her relationship with God, teachers and other children.
- B. To assist the regular classroom teacher in mainstreaming or making any necessary modifications for the special needs child.

**II. RESPONSIBILITIES**

- A. Work with the Director of Special Angels Ministry to become familiar with the disorder/difference of the child or children with whom you will be working.
- B. Choose at least one Sunday a month to work with a special needs child, scheduling dates with Special Angels Director.
- C. Have REAL expectations for behavior, being gentle but firm in correcting actions (biting, kicking, screaming) that are not acceptable for church. In the case of tantrums: separate the child from the other children to prevent injury, say "NO", do not give in on any demands that brought on the tantrum (otherwise we reinforce the tantrum), let the tantrum run its course, stay in close proximity, attempt to distract and give a reward/praise when the child has regrouped. Do NOT attempt to physically restrain an autistic tantrum, e.g., as it may cause injury to both you and the child.
- D. Encourage participation in the lesson, even if it is for a few minutes at a time; e.g., sitting with group during circle time, making the craft or art project. Let child have a break and reward any participation.
- E. Work with parents to assess what will best motivate each child to participate.
- F. Stay in close proximity to child, always remain between the door and the child.
- G. Stay in earshot/eyesight of others, allowing for help if the need arises.
- H. Wear comfortable clothing and shoes.
- I. For children with Cerebral Palsy or other physically limiting differences, modify classroom tasks to encourage participation; e.g., pushing a wheelchair around the room during active classroom games, allowing child to hold book for story time or supplies for projects for other children to come and get.
- J. Arrive at least 10 minutes prior to class start time.
- K. Greet children and parents with a smile as they enter the room.
- L. Alert Director of Special Angels if you can not make your assigned Sunday, and try to switch with another Special Angels team member.
- M. Encourage and pray for other members of the special Angels team, the children, teachers and Children's Ministry team.

**III. REQUIREMENTS**

- A. A familiarity with the developmental abilities of the children with whom you are working (see **Special Angels** handout).
- B. A desire to be a contributing member of a dynamic ministry team, a love for children, and an ability to interact well with others.
- C. Participation in annual Special Angels Ministry training and other scheduled meetings.
- D. Membership in CUMC for 6 months.
- E. Completion and return of required forms: Background Check Release, Statement of Receipt of Protection Policies.
- F. Clear background check.