

Position: **Recreational Therapy Assistant Volunteer**

Timeline: October 11 – December 15, 2023

Commitment: Weekly on Wednesdays 9:00 am – 12:00 pm

Location: Bethany Calgary (916 – 18A Street NW, Calgary AB, T2N 1C6)

**We are actively looking for individuals to support our Opening Minds Through Art (OMA) Program.** OMA is an intergenerational art-making program for people living with dementia, which provides them an *opportunity to express their creativity*. They are paired on a weekly basis with students and volunteers who are trained to support the residents' creative expression.

OMA is evidence-based and has received a number of best practice awards. It was established in 2008 at the Scripps Gerontology Centre, Miami University, with over 200 communities partnering with high schools and universities to complete the OMA program. You will develop close relationships with people living with dementia as well as learn how to communicate and facilitate their creative process. OMA's mission is to "*Build bridges across age and cognitive barriers through art*".

We ask that Volunteers:

- Be responsible and patient, compassionate, and demonstrate professionalism
- Have a minimum of 2 doses of a COVID-19 vaccination

All training is provided, and staff are present to facilitate the program. You do not need to be artistic to participate. Projects are mainly abstract so there is no correct way to complete them. This volunteer opportunity is about building connections with your partner and gaining experience.

If you are interested in this volunteer opportunity please contact Suzanne Eckstadt, Volunteer Coordinator at [suzanne.eckstadt@bethanyseniors.com](mailto:suzanne.eckstadt@bethanyseniors.com) or 403-284-6047.