Voluntary Service at the Aleda E. Lutz VA in Saginaw has many positions for volunteers to help Veterans and staff. Some of these positions include escorting Veterans by wheelchair throughout the medical center, driving parking lot shuttle, assisting departments with light clerical duties, drivers for the Veterans Transportation Network, and volunteering in the “No Veteran Dies Alone” program.

One such volunteer, Phillip Markey, can tell you first hand just how volunteering helped him. Phillip was attending Saginaw Valley State University as a pre-med student when he was accepted into the Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences (USUHS). Although his grades were a large factor in his acceptance, his volunteer assignment at the Aleda E. Lutz VA, along with a letter of recommendation from the Chief, Voluntary Service, were certainly noteworthy in the University’s decision.

“I feel my experience at the Aleda E. Lutz VA Medical Center helped shape my decision to join the US Army and apply to the USUHS. The body of patients at the VA Hospital were a much easier population to work with than those at other hospitals I had volunteered at, and the staff and other volunteers were incredibly friendly. There was just a sense of community around the hospital that I appreciated. That, along with my prior urge to serve our country, led me to apply and pursue medicine at USUHS in order to “learn to care for those in harm’s way,” which is the motto of USUHS. The men and women out there protecting our Nation’s freedoms and values deserve everything, and I will be honored to provide them with the quality medical care they deserve,” stated Phillip J. Markey, B.S. Biochemistry | Saginaw Valley State University – Class of 2018.

This is just one testimony and example of an individual who found volunteering to be life-changing. Those who volunteer at the Aleda E. Lutz VA in Saginaw have a wonderful mission to fulfill, caring for those who have served our nation. Volunteers work alongside a dedicated group of individuals, receive detailed attention, and truly become part of our volunteer family, as well as part of our health care team. If you have an interest in giving back and can volunteer a minimum of four hours per month, please
contact us at 989-497-2500 ext. 13360. Our volunteer ages range from 15 to 96, so all are welcome to apply.

The Aleda E. Lutz VAMC in Saginaw, Michigan operates an 81-bed skilled nursing and rehabilitation Community Living Center, with an additional 8-bed acute medicine and telemetry wing. It provides care to over 36,300 Veterans in a 35-county geographic area, from mid-Michigan to the Mackinac Bridge. Veterans also receive care at one of our nine VA Community Based Outpatient Clinics located throughout Michigan. More information about this VA can be found at www.saginaw.va.gov.

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