

Help out at Native hospital

To the Editor:

Our Native hospital, the Alaska Native Medical Center here in Anchorage, is more than just a hospital to our Native people. It also is where we can meet our friends and relatives, even when they or we aren't sick or injured.

It can be even more than that too. It can be a place where we can see our own Eskimo, Aleut, Athabascan, Eyak, Tlingit, or Haida and Tsimshian friends or relatives volunteering personal time, part-time, in helping the regular hospital staff in providing as good as possible hospital care for the patient.

Wouldn't it be nice, and wouldn't we feel proud inside, as visitors to patients, to see other Alaskan Natives volunteering by pushing a patient to the x-ray department or es-

corting them to somewhere else outside this hospital, pushing the book/magazine cart to the different floors, and whatever else a volunteer could do?

If you will remember, it is

out basic nature — be we men or women, youth or children, and tradition back in our villages to share ourselves, helping somebody with something or giving some of what we have
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Bring village volunteer spirit to Native hospital

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to some one else — without pay.

Do we have to leave those traditions back in the village? No! Those traditions are needed here in the big city too.

Certainly there are a number of "Gussak" (white) ladies, and a couple of Native lady volunteers now. Most of these persons have done their work during the fall, winter and

spring so they're spending the summer with their families. This means, basically that the auxiliary program of volunteers will be closed for the summer.

Had we had a good number of Native volunteers as well, the hospital would not be faced with "another shortage" of help!

I've been a patient more than once at our Anchorage hospital and I've enjoyed the magazines and books I chose

from the cart brought around by a volunteer, been taken by wheelchair to x-ray, physical therapy or occupational therapy, giving the nursing staff time to do their nursing duties.

I'm sure, if you will think about it, you would agree that it would be real great to see Native "auxiliary volunteers" when we are visitors or patients.

It would show that we as a people care enough about "our

hospital" that is here for "our people" by volunteering, in our village tradition. A few hours a day or week, you know. Men, young men included could help as well. It need not be limited to women only.

To show good faith, this Tlingit gentleman is going to sign up to volunteer some of my precious personal time . . . join me, won't you?

This call for help need not

be limited to Anchorage, Alaska. Natives, American Indians, wherever you are, "stand up and be counted." Volunteer at your hospital. Your people need you.

If you are interested in providing some of your time as a volunteer, contact the Auxiliary Patient Services Department at Anchorage Medical Center, phone 279-6661 x323-185.