

Volunteer Spotlight

November 2016



Eric Weaver

Eric has been volunteering at My Little Waiting Room - St. Vincent (MLWR) for two months and he's already made quite the impression. Staff share that Eric is an exceptional volunteer, always going above and beyond, and they feel really lucky to have him.

A student in PSU's School of Social Work, Eric is completing his practicum as a Trauma-Informed Child Interventionist Volunteer at MLWR. He knew other PSU students who volunteered with VOA Oregon for their practicums so he inquired as to how he could also get involved. MLWR is a great fit because Eric can learn to interact with kids who may feel vulnerable and help them find happiness while a family member is ill. He gets to work with a diverse group of children and it's a bonus that Eric speaks Spanish!

One thing Eric is learning is the difference (and challenges) between a drop-in childcare center and a daycare. Unlike traditional daycare settings, drop-in programs see a varied group of children each day and many of the kids are facing difficult or traumatic circumstances. Staff and volunteers need to be empathetic and supportive of children's diverse needs without having already established that long term bond they may have formed in a daycare relationship. It takes skilled and compassionate individuals to comfort a children in crisis.

So far Eric has been having a great experience at MLWR and encourages anyone interested in working with children to absolutely get involved!

Thank you for being a part of our team, Eric!