



About the Heart Valve Disease Ambassador Program

As a survivor of heart valve disease, you understand the burden it can place on patients and caregivers – physically, emotionally and socially. The American Heart Association (AHA) is establishing a group of volunteer ambassadors who can offer support to the millions of Americans impacted by this disease by sharing their personal experiences and helpful information.

Who Are the Ambassadors?

AHA ambassadors are a small, volunteer-based group of heart valve disease patients and caregivers. They represent the face of heart valve disease in America and show that it can affect people of different ages, backgrounds and lifestyles. Ambassadors will be leaders in the patient community, and they will work directly with AHA to raise awareness about heart valve disease and share available resources for patients.

What Will Ambassadors Do?

Ambassadors will reach out to the heart valve disease community – both online and at in-person events – to offer support and direct patients to resources that are available through the AHA.

Responsibilities include:

- Developing social media posts for both your own network and AHA's Support Network
- Serving as a community manager for AHA's online support group by reaching out to other heart valve disease patients seeking support
- Conducting local, in-person outreach in your community
- Participating in discussions related to heart valve disease, potentially including media interviews
- Speaking with patients at local charity events or conferences
- Attending one training session at the AHA headquarters in Dallas or AHA Scientific Sessions with other ambassadors
- Staying in contact with AHA to provide updates and feedback

What is the Commitment?

Ambassadors will work with the AHA and receive some guidance throughout the process, though they will complete the activities independently.

AHA expects that:

- Most activities should only take an hour or two per week
- Ambassadors will serve a one-year term
- AHA will reimburse for significant travel expenses

How Can You Help?

Through your firsthand experience, you can offer valuable perspective and insights to other patients and caregivers struggling with heart valve disease. For more information about how you can volunteer for the ambassador program, please contact Oge Okeke at 214-706-4843 or oge.okeke@heart.org