



Heroes Among Us

TODD QUINTO, PhD Virtually every Thursday evening, Todd Quinto, PhD, leaves his day job and comes directly to Children's Hospital Boston, where for 13 years he has been a volunteer. Quinto, a math professor at Tufts University, has logged nearly 1,600 volunteer hours.

Despite a busy career and family, Quinto rarely misses a week and sometimes even makes an extra trip to the hospital for special occasions. Last year, for example, Quinto came to Children's on his "day off" to attend a patient's baptism.

Not surprisingly, Quinto has become a familiar face on 9 East, the inpatient unit where he volunteers and is shown with patients Ricardo Delgado, 9, and Steven Yankopoulos, 17. "Todd is more than a volunteer," says child life specialist Suzanne Graca, CLS, who works closely with Quinto. "He is

part of our 'family.' He is very nurturing and helps make the hospital experience a little better for patients. The fact that he is so consistent about his attendance is also important, because the children know they can count on him."

In addition to giving his time, Quinto supports Children's in other significant ways. He and his wife, Judy, make an annual contribution and are members of the Abigail Loring Society, a group of donors who have included the hospital in their estate plans.

"I started volunteering because I like children and wanted to help them, but I honestly feel I get more out of it than they do," says Quinto. "These kids are wonderful. Although they're ill, they have a sense of joy, love and inner strength that is truly inspiring."