STATEMENT OF CORE VALUES

The work of the Melanoma Research Foundation (MRF) would not be possible without the dedication and generosity of its wide and diverse network of volunteers. The MRF strongly recognizes and is grateful for the critical role that our volunteers and ambassadors serve in the melanoma community. For this reason, it is of upmost importance to foster an open, safe and welcoming environment among everyone in this community, as outlined in this Statement of Core Values.

Through its programs, the MRF seeks to advance melanoma research, promote melanoma education and lead advocacy efforts for policies that will best serve the melanoma community. Success in these critical program areas will improve the lives of those affected by melanoma, strengthen the community of patients, caregivers, physicians and supporters and drive the progress of melanoma research.

MRF staff, volunteers, partners and supporters all share in this mission and work together, with high expectations of ourselves and one another, towards our common goal: a cure for melanoma.

Melanoma Research Foundation volunteers affirm that they share these core values and will follow the accompanying guidelines:

Respect

- Treat all individuals with a sense of dignity, respect, and worth. Make a personal commitment to acknowledge cultural differences, backgrounds, beliefs and the lifestyle of each person with whom you interact. Be courteous, polite and honest in every action.
- Respect the reputation of the MRF and recognize that the perception of your words or actions can influence this reputation.
- Avoid profane and abusive language and disruptive behavior that could be dangerous to self and others.
- Respect all confidential information. Volunteers are responsible for maintaining the confidentiality of all proprietary or privileged information to which they are exposed while serving as a volunteer, whether this information involves the MRF, its staff, volunteers, clients or other persons. If you are unsure about what information may or may not be appropriate to share, ask an employee of the MRF.
• Respect differences of opinion and do not pressure anyone to accept your own political, cultural, religious, or health and wellness beliefs.

Personal responsibility

• Be dependable, recognizing the commitment and responsibility to your volunteer assignment.
• Accept assignments consistent with interests, abilities, and available time.
• Seek out volunteer roles with an open mind and a willingness to learn.
• Avoid conflict of interest situations and refrain from actions that may be perceived as such. Volunteers should disclose any potential or actual conflicts of interest as they arise.
• Make clear your role as a volunteer, not an official representative, of the MRF in your interactions with individuals, sponsors, other melanoma-focused organizations and healthcare partners. If you find yourself in doubt when answering questions or sharing information, refer these third parties to an employee of the MRF.

Safety

• Do not use, possess, or be under the influence of alcohol or illegal drugs while in your role as an MRF volunteer.
• Abstain from all illegal activity while volunteering or otherwise acting as an ambassador on behalf of the MRF.
• Follow safe workplace practices by participating in applicable trainings, using appropriate personal safety equipment and reporting accidents, injuries, and unsafe situations to an employee of the MRF.
• Report suspicious activities to an employee of the MRF or the appropriate legal authorities.

Collaboration

• Be a team player. Keep an open mind and value the input and suggestions of staff, fellow volunteers, event hosts, colleagues and community members.
• Within your abilities, seek to help where you can. From assisting on a project to striking up a conversation and offering a smile, your work as an MRF volunteer could have more of an impact in the community than you may be aware.