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Senior Project in Radiation Oncology J409 – 21359

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11 November 2025

## **Service-Learning Activity (SLA) Assignment**

### **Introduction**

For my Service – Learning Activity, I volunteered at the Susan G. Komen More Than Pink Breast Cancer Walk in downtown Indianapolis. According to the 2025 Komen Indianapolis More than Pink Walk website, this is the “largest fundraising event series...hosting over 100,000 participants...that continues to be part of a community committed to [their] vision of a world without breast cancer.” There were so many different aspects and moving parts to this event including sponsor tables, games to play for the kids, the main stage with the DJ playing, a mascot dance-off, a few very motivational speeches, the opening ceremony, and lastly the More Than Pink Walk. The role I provided was general support with event setup, organization, and booth assistance to ensure a smooth event; more specifically, transferring food, restocking supplies, cleaning up trash, decorating a trolley, and handling cash. In doing this, I learned how important flexibility and teamwork is when supporting such a large event.

Along with this, I kept in mind the Profiles of Learning for Undergraduate Success program – otherwise known as the PLUS program. As a Bepko Scholar through IU Indianapolis, I must complete at least 20 volunteer hours and make thorough reflections that emphasize what I learn and how I contribute using the PLUS principles. After each volunteer event, I choose out of the four key profiles – communicator, problem solver, innovator, community contributor - that I focused on most throughout the service. Although, each of these values are critical in mastering to create a well-rounded student and radiation therapist – I believe that I most focused on being a problem solver and community contributor throughout this experience.

### ***Problem Solver***

When it comes to problem solving, thinking critically and coming up with creative solutions when challenges arise is a huge part of the skill which can be extremely relevant and significant as a radiation therapist. During the More Than Pink event, I was assigned to put up a sign on one of the sponsor booths. One of the sponsors was wondering where they were positioned and had notified me that they did not bring a tent. Because of this, I had to align with our volunteer coordinator to locate a tent and table for the sponsor to use. This is an example of how I incorporated problem solving into the service – learning activity.

### ***Community Contributor***

This event is the definition of the principal - community contributor - and was the perfect service-learning engagement activity to allow me to be a better radiation therapist. The PLUS principle of being a community contributor, I want to emphasize is so important as it allows connection to the community and to become more prepared to treat patients with the passion they deserve. I was very happy I was able to participate in this event, as it helps me correlate it to my radiation therapy profession and see the support that the community has given. All the volunteers and team leads did an amazing job organizing everything; I found an admiration for the dedication it takes to raise awareness for breast cancer research and will absolutely be doing it again.

### **Conclusion**

Being in a radiation therapy program and given the opportunity to volunteer at an event like this was truly inspiring and I felt it was very important for me to be a part of. Not only did I feel very involved with the group of volunteers and team leads but also the community as a whole. By working the event and seeing how people can come together, I gained a deeper appreciation for the strength within the oncology community. The sheer number of volunteers, participants, and overall supporters that came out to honor the survivors, fighters and angels affected by cancer.