

volunteer voice

A publication for Stormont Vail Auxiliary members & volunteers

● June 2019 ●



Stormont Vail Welcomes Summer Program Volunteers

On Tuesday, May 28, the 2019 summer student volunteer program officially began. Last-minute applications, orientation sessions, work schedules and paperwork are being finalized so that we will be prepared to welcome students from area middle and high schools have a valuable volunteer experience. Final numbers will be shared in the July newsletter along with a complete list of participants.

Students ages 14 through college provide voluntary service to Stormont Vail during the 11-week program, which provides them with an experience to learn firsthand about the health care environment. We encourage summer participants to network with staff and learn as much as they can. Helping high school and college students explore careers in health care and finding people who will help them through this process will continue to be a major focus. Whether a student volunteer aspires to become a nurse, a physician, an accountant, or a dietitian, we make every attempt to place them where they will gain the most experience with their interests.

Hospitals depend on the community for employees and volunteers as the community depends on us for excellent health care. By offering student volunteer opportunities, volunteer programs can serve as a vital link to creating the workforce of the future.

A thank you goes to all of the adult volunteers to helped with the onboarding sessions and providing other support: Bev and Larry Beam, Mary and Richard Allen, Earl and Emmi Homman, Wayne Davis, Warren Abbott, Nancy and Jan Sides, Jane Patrick, Barbara Mosher, and Melody Forbes.

We appreciate all of you that are working with this group of volunteers and providing them with a hands-on "work" experience. You are all great mentors and help create experiences that the summer volunteers will not soon forget. Thank you.



Auxiliary Thanks Staff with Hot Dog Friday

As part of the Stormont Vail Health Auxiliary's 70th anniversary week, May 6-10, a Hot Dog Friday lunch was offered on May 10 for employees and visitors. Six auxiliary members served during the lunch hour at the main entrance. Servers began selling at 11 a.m. and 200 dogs were gone by 1 p.m. Everyone enjoyed the bargain price of \$2, and many had two dogs, chips and a drink for \$3.

Thanks to Chris Jennings, Food Connection manager and his team for organizing Hot Dog Friday and for the delicious homemade egg salad sandwiches and vegetable soup served in the Food Connection during the anniversary week. A front window display created by Gift Shop staff Cathy Hebert and Rexie Evans, mgr. was viewed by the many customers that frequented the Auxiliary Shops that week. Staff also were able to take advantage of the Take 10% off day and retro candy to commemorate the founding of the Auxiliary over 70 years ago. Happy Anniversary, Stormont Vail Health Auxiliary!

Volunteer Recognition Dinner Was Eventful Evening

The Stormont Vail Health volunteer recognition dinner held April 10 was enjoyed by more than 200 participants who attended the event in the Pozez Education Center. Guests had the opportunity to hear from Dr. Rob Kenagy, president & CEO, volunteers Cherie Carter and Larry Beam, and Vernon Long, Auxiliary president. Darlene Stone, senior vice president and chief experience officer presented the awards for hours and years of service. Emmi Homman, a volunteer at the Customer Resource Center, the Food Connection and special events received the top award for 16,000 hours of service. A total of 89 awardees were recognized. It was a great evening that demonstrated just how extraordinary our Stormont Vail volunteers are.

Thank you for your interest and the contributions you make to our



organization. Also, a thank you to Marilee Lowrey and Jeanne Billings, Volunteer Services, for their efforts in carrying out the various activities during volunteer week. We hope volunteers feel appreciated during this national recognition week and throughout the year.



Stormont Vail Health Invests in Downtown Plaza

Stormont Vail Health and Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Kansas announced today that they plan to partner together to financially support the downtown revitalization efforts.

The two organizations are sharing sponsorship of the plaza's video screen. In addition, Stormont and Blue Cross will initiate and support programming that brings the community together around health and wellness events, such as weekly exercise classes, health fairs, youth-focused programs, and support of 5K and other activities that take place on Kansas Avenue.

Both organizations have a long history in Topeka and a devotion to ensuring the health and well-being of the communities they serve. As two of the largest employers in Topeka, both organizations see this sponsorship as a great way to partner with other leading businesses to help move Topeka forward both through the physical and economic health of the community.

"Stormont Vail's contribution will be an investment in the health and wellness of the community," Rob Kenagy, M.D., president and chief executive officer, said. "The downtown revitalization is a pivotal project

for both the economic development of our city and the development of partnerships around a common focus of community health improvement."

"Every Plaza is an exciting addition to downtown Topeka that will provide a new type of gathering place for residents," said Matt All, BCBSKS president and chief executive officer. "Our commitment to downtown Topeka is 77 years strong, and we want to do our part to help Topeka be a thriving and vibrant capital city. Amenities like Every Plaza will make Topeka a more livable city for residents of all ages, and will get downtown Topeka moving."

Review Weather Plan Before Storms Hit

Even though severe weather can occur anytime during the year, we are in the midst of prime severe weather patterns. Please review the Severe Weather Plan for Stormont Vail Hospital.

The National Weather Service will issue the official storm (severe wind, thunderstorm, or tornado) bulletins. When Topeka-Shawnee Civil Defense Authority receives a “warning,” it will activate the warning system.

1. The hospital switchboard receives notification from the National Weather Service.
2. The operator receiving the severe weather watch or warning sounds the alert over the loudspeakers five (5) times, using the words, “The hospital has entered into a (thunderstorm watch, thunderstorm warning, tornado watch, or tornado warning).
3. Depending on what service area you are assigned, generally, if a tornado warning has sounded you must relocate to the basement of the hospital toward the tunnel area (Vail Building – between North and South towers, basement level) and wait until you are notified of the “All Clear.”

If you don’t recall where the tunnel is, please take a few minutes the next time you volunteer to look for it. If you need assistance, don’t hesitate to contact Volunteer Services. Remember: Please don’t put yourself in danger or do something you are uncomfortable doing.

Auxiliary Fundraisers

Uniform & Scrub Sale – June 13-14

The Stormont Vail Health Auxiliary is excited to offer a uniform and scrub sale to team members that are interested in shopping for scrubs, comfort shoes and accessories. Plan on stopping by Centennial A in the Pozez Education Center, Stormont Vail Hospital, and take a look at what our new vendor has to offer. Do you have a favorite brand? Cherokee, Infinity, Heartsoul, Grey’s Anatomy and Dickies are a few of the scrub brands that will be available in your department color. Medical and other comfortable shoes from Klogs, Dansko, Healing Hands, and Med Couture will also be featured along with other medical accessories. Payroll deduction, credit card and cash will be accepted. Sale days are: Thursday, June 13 – 7 a.m.-7 p.m.; Friday, June 14 – 7 a.m.-5 p.m.

Collective Goods (Book) Fair – July 10-12

Summertime means students have more time to read. The Auxiliary invites you to this three-day sale located in the main lobby of the hospital. The event features high quality books at a 40 to 70 percent discount and also includes a selection of children’s books, best-seller titles and other gift items. The Auxiliary offers the book fair three times per year. A percentage from the sales is used to support designated projects throughout the health center including funding of department requests. Sale times are: Wednesday, July 10, 10 a.m.-7 p.m.; Thursday, July 11, 7 a.m.-5 p.m.; Friday July 12, 8 a.m.-3 p.m. Payroll deduction, credit card and cash will be accepted.

New Volunteers

Please welcome these individuals to the Stormont Vail Health volunteer team.

- Haley Wichman, Neonatal Intensive Care
- Gabby Rangel, Auxiliary Gift Shop
- Halle Melton, Emergency
- Deirdre Kosmicki, Neonatal Intensive Care
- Linda Fleeker, Registration
- Chris McCoy, Cardiac Rehab
- Betty Wright, Neonatal Intensive Care
- Palek Patel, Diabetes Learning Center
- Cathleen Reed, Building Blocks
- Harleigh Robertson, Behavioral Health
- Dale Staab, No One Dies Alone
- Caleb Phelps, Health Access
- Laurel King, Cardiac Rehab
- Charles Anderson, Palliative Care
- Diane Hilbert, Building Blocks
- Janet Ziegler, Volunteer Services
- Madison Meyer, No One Dies Alone
- Dena Brake, No One Dies Alone
- Laici Rogers, No One Dies Alone
- Jimmie Patty, Blood Pressure Clinic & Birthplace Pal
- Jennifer Lamb, No One Dies Alone
- Geraldine Blassingame, No One Dies Alone
- Mercedes Elias, Neonatal Intensive Care
- Rilee Estrada, Neonatal Intensive Care
- Maeve Shipp, Neonatal Intensive Care

Calendar

May 28

First day of summer program

June 4

New Volunteer Orientation,
9:45am-12noon – Volunteer
Conference Room

June 11

Retail Operations Committee – 8:30
am - Volunteer Conference Room

June 11

Auxiliary Executive Committee – 9:30
am – Volunteer Conference Room

June 13-14

Scrub Hub Uniform Sale – Centennial
A/D, Pozez

July 10-12

Collective Goods (Book) Fair –
Hospital Main Entrance

July 15-19

Cool Treat Week for Volunteers -
Volunteer Services, 8:00am-4:30pm

July 18

Lunch and Learn Meeting – 11:00 am
– ACC 8

Aug. 9

Last day of summer program

Sept. 5-6

Annual HAK Conference – Wichita

Oct. 3

Auxiliary Annual Meeting – ACC 8 –
11:00am-12:15pm

Oct. 16-18

Collective Goods Fair – Hospital Main
Entrance

Nov. 4

Auxiliary Gift Shop Open House

Nov. 14-15

Masquerade Jewelry – Centennial
Rooms, Pozez

For more information about any
of these activities, please contact
Volunteer Services at (785) 354-6095.

New Volunteer Experiences

Here is what some of our new volunteers are saying about their experience so far:

“My experience has been great! They are awesome people that do amazing things. They also are very patient with helping me learn.”

Caleb Phelps, Health Access

“I have loved my time there and can’t wait to continue!”

Harleigh Robertson, Behavioral Health

“Pediatrics is great, the staff is very helpful and the kids are awesome!”

Peyton Proffitt, Pediatrics

“Amazing I have absolutely loved it!”

Angie Meyer, Neonatal Intensive Care

“It has been going great. Everyone in the Food Connection are super nice.”

Katie Dehn, Food Connection

“Oh my! I LOVE it! Not only am I doing what I love but I believe I’m helping the babies and the nurses. When I am in the NICU, I’m in my happy place. Thank you so much for letting me participate.”

Lori Spain, Neonatal Intensive Care

“It’s been super great so far! I’m really enjoying the little kiddos. They’re all so sweet, it’s even better than I was expecting!”

Dyranique Stewart, Building Blocks

“It is wonderful I love the staff and patients!”

Pepper Daniel, Cancer Center

News & Notes

Recycling Magazines Benefits Waiting Rooms

Wondering what to do with magazines you have read and need recycled? If you have magazines that are six months old or newer, think about bringing them to the hospital for our waiting areas. Currently, the magazine service, located in Volunteer Services, needs new and used magazines to place in the numerous areas throughout the hospital campus. Weekly magazines such as Time and Newsweek cannot be distributed for an extended period of time, but magazines such as Country Living, Cooking Light and the Smithsonian are great examples of magazines that can be used for a longer period. New magazines are also purchased by the Auxiliary and distributed to patients for their reading enjoyment. Magazines can be dropped off to Volunteer Services, Basement Level north tower, Monday through Friday, 7:30 a.m.–4:30 p.m. Thank you for your recycling efforts and benefiting our patients and waiting room patrons.

Don't Forget to Sign In and Sign Out

Please remember the importance of signing in and out at the volunteer computer time and attendance stations. For student volunteers, the sign-in station is in Volunteer

Services. For weekend student volunteers, sign in at the main entrance station. If you volunteer at one of the clinics, you will manually check in at the clinic's designated location. For adult volunteers, the time stations at the main entrance and Volunteer Services can be used.

Refresher Session Offered to Volunteers

If it has been a while since you've attended volunteer orientation and you would like to stay up to date with the policies and procedures, you are invited to attend one of our orientations for new volunteers. Please notify Volunteer Services if you would like to attend an upcoming session.

Volunteers Invited to All-Employee Meetings

At Stormont Vail Health, you are a very important part of our team. Volunteers are invited to attend the June 2019 all-employee meetings in the Pozez Education Center auditorium. Hear from members of the Operating Committee about our organization and the difference you make daily in the lives of our patients, visitors, guests and the community.

- Tuesday, June 4 – 10 a.m. and 2 p.m.
- Wednesday, June 5 – 7:30 a.m.
- Thursday, June 6 – 9 a.m. and 3 p.m.

Stormont Vail Health Named Gold Safe Sleep Champion

Congratulations to the Birthplace, Neonatal Intensive Care and Pediatrics for their work in Stormont Vail Health's recent designation as a Gold Safe Sleep Champion, the highest designation by the National Safe Sleep Hospital Certification Program.

To achieve this honor, the department team members demonstrated community leadership for best practices and education on safe sleep by developing hospital policy, training staff, educating parents, modeling through a wearable blanket program, affiliating with the Cribs

for Kids program, and pledging to participate in ongoing community outreach programs and site audits.

The program was created by Cribs for Kids, a Pittsburgh-based organization dedicated to preventing the sleep-related deaths of infants from accidental suffocation. Assisting in the program creation were other infant health and safety organizations including the National Center for the Review & Prevention of Child Deaths, the Association of SIDS & Infant Mortality Programs, Kids in Danger, Children's Safety Network and the American SIDS Institute.

Come Join Us

As volunteers, you are already a part of the Stormont Vail family, and we thank you for all your contributions. New volunteers receive a one-year complimentary membership so that you can begin learning about this active organization. Membership in the Auxiliary is just another way you can demonstrate your support for the health center, its programs and services. Auxilians pay annual dues of \$12 to help offset costs of fundraising and service activities provided for the benefit of patients and families. A lifetime membership is \$150.

To join the Stormont Vail Health Auxiliary, please contact Vernon Long, membership chair, vlong@cox.net or the Auxiliary office, 785-354-6095.