‘Farewell, and thank you’

As I look forward to my retirement from Stormont Vail Health, I will remember many special events over the past 16 years. Many of those involve the Auxiliary and volunteers. Both groups are an integral part of Stormont Vail; without your support many of the services we provide would not be possible. The funding you raise and the care, compassion and ambassadorial role you play are greatly appreciated.

As I retire from Stormont Vail, I hope to continue my connection with the Auxiliary and volunteers and the wonderful work you do for Stormont Vail and the patients we serve.

Bernie Becker, Vice President and Chief Human Resources Officer

Note: You are invited to attend a retirement reception for Bernie at 3 p.m. on Wednesday, Aug. 16, in the Administration lobby.

Cardiac Rehabilitation Volunteers Encourage Patients

Helping cardiovascular patients get back to healthy living is one of the primary goals of the cardiac rehabilitation program at the Cotton O’Neil Heart Center. Patients enrolled in the multi-phase program are assisted by trained and qualified staff who teach them about good dietary habits and risk factor modification while starting them in an exercise program and group discussions.

Stormont Vail volunteers play an important role in this recovery program. Cardiac rehabilitation graduates are recruited as volunteers to provide encouragement and support to the patients because they are familiar with many of the feelings and limitations patients are experiencing. That extra boost can make all the difference in the world.

“Our special volunteers are caring and nurturing,” said Carol Frazee, RN, manager, Cardiac Rehabilitation. “Patients are given more hope when they hear from someone who has ‘been there, done that.’ The first few weeks of rehab can be overwhelming, and the volunteers make that transition period much smoother. We just could not do our job well without them.”

Cardiac rehab volunteers who assist with the Monday-Wednesday-Friday schedule are Jon Seley, Marvin Neukirch, Steve Day, Cindy Beier, Patrick Unrein, Sandy Clapsaddle, Ray Ebberts, Judy Kimes and Bev Tague.

Marvin Neukirch, left, and Steve Day, right, are cardiac rehabilitation volunteers.
Volunteers, Auxiliants Enjoy Summer Celebration

Stormont Vail volunteers and auxiliants were recognized with a summer celebration on July 14 in the Pozez Education Center. The catering staff from Nutritional Services served a delicious barbecue-style buffet to more than 200 attendees. The event marks the second consecutive year of a new format, which includes inviting the student summer program participants in July instead of the traditional awards luncheon during National Volunteer Week in April.

Special recognition was given to the Stormont Vail Health Auxiliary for another successful year under the leadership of Dr. Kathy Harr, Auxiliary president. It was a great time to see volunteers that work offsite, as well as connect with new and current volunteers. If you were unable to attend and would like a copy of the program listing the awardees, please stop by Volunteer Services to pick one up. To see more pictures from the event, visit the Stormont Vail Health Facebook page at www.facebook.com/StormontVailHealth.

Academic School Year Program Begins Sept. 1

We had a great response to the summer program this year and are looking forward to placing middle, high school and college students for the academic school year program. Volunteer Services is taking applications now through Feb. 1 for the school year program and offers students after school and weekend assignments as well as daytime assignments for home-schooled, college students or others who have daytime availability. A six-month commitment is required. Between Nov. 1 and Feb. 1, exceptions to the six-month commitment for the spring semester will be considered on an individual basis. Interested students may apply online at stormontvail.org.

If you are currently participating in the summer program we will need to hear from you no later than Sept. 1 if you wish to continue during the academic school year. After Sept. 1, new volunteers will be placed in available positions.

Stormont Vail Health, Washburn Form Partnership

Stormont Vail Health and Washburn University have entered into an agreement for Stormont Vail to serve as the exclusive provider for athletic training and sports medicine for Washburn University. This partnership provides Washburn with full-time athletic training services provided by Cotton O'Neil Orthopedics & Sports Medicine. Athletes will have dedicated athletic trainers, as well as our sports medicine physicians and orthopedic surgeons, providing emergent and follow-up care. Stormont Vail will also be the official, exclusive sponsor for Washburn University Athletics. Look for our logo and ads on the fields, courts and website of the university. A special thanks to the Cotton O’Neil Orthopedics & Sports Medicine team for the work they have put in to make this possible. We look forward to many more years of working together on this and other future collaborations that benefit our community’s health and wellness.
Chief Human Resources Officer to Join Stormont Vail Health

Darlene Stone, CHHR, SHRM-SCP, will join Stormont Vail Health as senior vice president and chief human resources officer on Monday, Aug. 21.

Stone joins Stormont Vail Health from Baptist Health Care in Pensacola, Florida, where she served as the vice president of human resources and chief human resources officer.

Stone received her Master of Business Administration from the University of Phoenix in 2001 and her bachelor’s in Business Administration from Texas A&M in 1989. Stone is certified in Healthcare Human Resources (CHHR) by the American Hospital Association and is a Certified Professional by the Society for Human Resource Management (SHRM-SCP).

Stone believes that the people are the best part of any job, especially in health care. “The best part of my job is working with people,” Stone said. “Whether it’s employees, administration or the community. We work together to make sure we are doing everything we can for our patients.”

During her tenure at Baptist Health Care, Stone achieved Best in Class Team Member Engagement rankings in the 91st (2014) and 94th (2015) percentiles compared to national results. She encourages a healthy work environment and achieved the Gold (2013) and Platinum (2014) recognition for the Fit Friendly Worksite with the American Heart Association.

Stone and her husband, Eric, have three children; a daughter Emily, 15, and 11-year-old fraternal twins Chase, a boy, and Taylor, a girl.

“Whenever I’m not at work, I’m spending all of that time with my family, whether we are traveling, going to sporting events, or just hanging out in the community,” she said.

Auxiliaries Invited to Attend HAK Convention

The annual convention of the Hospital Auxiliaries of Kansas (HAK) will be held at the DoubleTree by Hilton Wichita Airport, Wichita, on Sept. 7-8. Stormont Vail Health Auxiliary members are welcome to attend.

If you are interested in learning more about the convention, please contact the Auxiliary office at (785) 354-6095. Stormont Vail always has a good representation at this conference, and we welcome any member interested in attending.
Our Student Volunteers

By mid-August we will be winding down the summer program which offers students from local and outlying schools the opportunity to volunteer and learn about the hospital. Here's what some of them had to say about their summer experience.

“I learned how to work better with people.”
— Regan Rohr, 2nd year, Gift Shop

“I have learned to be more attentive to others' needs and get outside of my comfort zone by doing this. I think every teenager should do something like this!”
— Emma Bryan, 1st year, Registration and Perioperative Services

“How to be independent and how to work with others.”
— Josie Martin, 1st year, Stock Aide/Assistant, Nutritional Services

“I have enjoyed volunteering this year. It has helped me work on people skills, but it has also allowed me to meet some great people.”
— Emma Getsinger, 3rd year, Food Connection and Endo/Pain

“Through observing, this experience has made me realize I would like to work in a hospital when I graduate.”
— Addison Donohue, 1st year, Emergency Department

“Greeting people with a smile can go a long way.”
— Amanda Desch, 3rd year, Perioperative Services

“I have enjoyed working as a team player and have learned to pay attention to the small details.”
— Columba Herrera, 2nd year, Nutritional Services

“That I would love to work here one day. I have enjoyed this experience very much.”
— Bryce Johnson, 1st year, Design & Construction

“I have learned the value of hard work.”
— Austin Klesath, 1st year, Food Connection

“I have learned to cherish my childhood. Even though I am working three hours, it is still a long time. And, I have learned what little things can do to help.”
— Turner Seals, 1st year, Nutritional Services