

# volunteer voice

A publication for Stormont Vail Auxiliary members & volunteers

● March 2018 ●



## Clinical Research Center honors 'Medical Heroes'

Every time you take a medicine, thank Cotton O'Neil Clinical Research Center volunteers such as William D. Patterson. Bill, who lives in Topeka, is one of more than 500 current "medical hero" volunteers who participate in clinical trials with the research center. Research volunteers devote time and effort to the research process and are vital to the nation's and the world's scientific pursuit of enhancing health, lengthening life, and reducing the burdens of illness and disability. This ultimate form of volunteerism not only has the potential to impact individual lives, but also those of entire populations.

Bill has participated in two type 2 diabetes clinical trials since 2014. During both experiences, he attended weekly, monthly or quarterly visits with the research staff. He carefully managed his diabetes and collected blood sugar readings and other data in his patient diaries. The study medication from one clinical trial is



*William "Bill" D. Patterson*

currently being reviewed by the FDA for a new approved use to reduce kidney disease in patients with type 2 diabetes. The second research trial Bill participated in is evaluating a rapid-acting insulin that responds more quickly than many others, enabling patients to manage mealtime blood sugars more effectively. Though Bill's contribution to medical science is important, he's personally motivated by his family. "I'm doing this for myself, to help me get better – but also for my grandchildren," Bill said. "If they get diabetes in the future,

I want them to have better options."

All Cotton O'Neil Clinical Research Center trials are conducted by research physicians from our health system, managed by the skilled and trained research staff, and overseen by institutional review boards that are responsible for minimizing participant risks and ensuring scientific integrity.

Thank you, Bill, for your volunteerism and for positively affecting the lives of many! The Cotton O'Neil Clinical Research Center has clinical trials in a variety of therapeutic areas such as Alzheimer's disease, asthma, cancer, chronic cough, clostridium difficile (C. diff), COPD, Crohn's disease, eosinophilic esophagitis, obesity, memory loss, type 1 diabetes, ulcerative colitis, vaccines and more. If you would like to volunteer for a clinical trial or would like additional information, contact the Cotton O'Neil Clinical Research Center at (785) 368-0744.

## Save the Date: National Volunteer Week is April 15-22

Stormont Vail Volunteers are the ♥ of our team! The annual Volunteer and Auxiliary Recognition Dinner is

scheduled for 6 p.m. on Friday, April 20, in the Centennial Rooms of the Pozez Education Center, Stormont Vail

Hospital. An invitation and details of other activities during the week will be sent soon.

# A Message from the Auxiliary President

The third month of 2018 has arrived. Even with the groundhog seeing



*Patty Pressman*

his shadow, I have to believe that winter will eventually end and spring will soon appear.

With winter in its final stages, there are many auxiliary and

volunteer opportunities in which you can engage. The scrub sale will be March 8-9 in the Pozez Education Center's Centennial Rooms. Special thanks to Kathy Davis and the

auxiliary groups who are assisting with the sale. Our next Lunch and Learn is Thursday, March 15. Adrian Horne, Life Star director of aviation operations, and Lisa Martin, our lead communications specialist, will share information regarding Life Star, Stormont Vail's air ambulance program. The KHA District 1 Meeting is slated for April 3 in Sabetha. Please try to attend and open yourself to hearing ideas from other auxiliaries in our area.

As president, I am in and out of the hospital frequently and have made some observations. First

and foremost, Stormont Vail is a friendly and helpful place. I wish to express kudos to our hospital information desk volunteers and lobby ambassadors who so graciously greet our patients and visitors with warm smiles and assist them with the navigation of the hospital. I would also like to recognize the managers of our shops and their staffs and volunteers. As I pass by the shops, I am impressed by the hospitality extended and wide range of choices offered. You, the volunteers, make such a positive difference for the patients, visitors and staff. I want you to know you are noticed and appreciated.

## Annual Education Requirement for Volunteers Due April 1

We appreciate already receiving many of the annual education post-tests back from volunteers who have completed this annual mandatory requirement.

If you are an active volunteer, you received the education module by mail in February. The annual education process, required by the hospital and The Joint Commission, verifies that volunteers have been given the required information to be used to retain the knowledge you gained when you attended new volunteer orientation.

It also provides you with an awareness of health center policies as well as information specific to responsibilities as a volunteer. Annual testing is done by all employees and volunteers. (Employees participate in

annual testing during separate times of the year).

If you did not receive the information, contact Volunteer Services, (785) 354-6095, and we will get a copy to you. The review and self-test is to be completed and returned no later than April 1, 2018. Upon completion, please remember to redeem the thank you coupon included in the mailing for complimentary fruit or cookie in the Food Connection.

If you are currently on leave, you may complete it now or submit prior to returning from leave.

Thank you in advance for completing the annual review. If you have questions or need clarification on any of the information, call Volunteer Services.

## Student Scholarship Deadline is March 1

Applications for the Auxiliary student scholarship program are due March 1. The student scholarship program is funded by the Stormont Vail Health Auxiliary and includes two \$2,500 scholarships and four \$1,000 scholarships each year. Information regarding eligibility and criteria is available by visiting [www.stormontvail.org](http://www.stormontvail.org). Recipients will be notified in March.

# Applications Being Accepted for Summer Volunteer Program

Applications to participate in the summer volunteer program are being accepted now through May 10. The summer program is geared for students between ages 14-17, college students (ages 18+), and adults who can commit to at least eight weeks (minimum of one, 4-hour shift per week) during the 12-week program. The program runs May 29 – Aug. 17.

Applicants will be required to attend one of the onboarding sessions, which include an interview, health assessment and placement, if

accepted. Because placements are made on a first-come, first-served basis, we encourage applicants to contact Volunteer Services to set up a time as soon as the application is submitted.

If you know of a student or adult who may be interested in applying, please direct them to [www.stormontvail.org](http://www.stormontvail.org). Opportunities and forms are on the website. For more information, contact Volunteer Services at [volunteerdept@stormontvail.org](mailto:volunteerdept@stormontvail.org) or (785) 354-6095.

## Foundation: Thank You, Volunteers

Thank you for your ongoing support to ensure we have the resources to provide the people in our community the highest quality care. One way to strengthen our ability to serve our community is by remembering the Stormont Vail Foundation in

your estate plan. If you have already remembered us, please let us know to include you in our upcoming Stormont Vail Legacy Society activities. Or, if you would like additional information, please call 785.354.6851 or email [aburns@stormontvail.org](mailto:aburns@stormontvail.org).



## Lunch & Learn to Feature Life Star

You are invited to the next Auxiliary Lunch and Learn Meeting at 11 a.m. on Thursday, March 15, in Administrative Conference Room #8, 2nd floor, Administration, Stormont Vail Hospital. The guest speakers will be Adrian Horne, director of aviation

operations, and Lisa Martin, lead communications specialist, both from the Life Star air ambulance service. A light lunch will be served. No RSVP is required. All Auxiliary members and volunteers are encouraged to attend.

## New Volunteers

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

- Kembry Gibbs – Patient Advocate
- Kelsey Dowers – Parenting & Family Education
- Dana Nelson – Surgery Waiting Room
- DeAnna Emerson – Building Blocks
- Sadie Sellers – Registration
- Julie Streff – Neonatal Intensive Care
- Maya Jaradat – Senior Behavioral Health
- Myisha Edmonds – Breastfeeding Clinic
- Riley Baphaw – Senior Behavioral Health
- Jon Cloud – Rehabilitation Services
- Mercedes Crutchley – Senior Behavioral Health
- Pepper Daniel – Customer Resource Center-Pavilion
- Jackie Pierron – Senior Behavioral Health and Periop. Services
- Maleigha Maag – Periop. Services and Cancer Center
- Gaylene Epke – Neonatal Intensive Care and Cancer Center Lobby Ambassador
- Leah Forrer – Building Blocks and Auxiliary Gift Shop
- Grace Shore – Building Blocks
- Emily Bowbay – Neonatal Intensive Care
- Tori Leffew – Emergency Registration
- Pat Carter – Cancer Center Lobby Ambassador

Welcome to the Stormont Vail Health volunteer team!

# Pet Therapy Team Wins Gift Shop Drawing

We are launching something new for 2018! Beginning with January, we will be selecting a Stormont Vail volunteer during every odd month to feature in the Volunteer Voice newsletter. Selection is from a random drawing of active volunteers, and winners receive a gift certificate to the Stormont Vail Health Auxiliary Gift Shop.

Our first volunteer winner is Carlie Gurske and her dog, Jenny, a pet therapy team that visits the Cotton O'Neil Cancer Center and 6-West, Senior Behavioral Health. On a recent visit to the Volunteer Services office, it was evident that Jenny loves to socialize. Having just come from a visit at the Cotton O'Neil Cancer Center, the pet therapy team still had plenty of energy to give to staff and volunteers who caught a glimpse of our four-legged friend and partner. Jenny, a border collie, attracts people like a magnet and gives an appreciative "look" when receiving pats on the head.



*Pet therapy team Carlie Gurske and Jenny greet Nathan Hopeck during their rounds.*

Carlie and Jenny became a team after Carlie retired from Stormont Vail. She was looking at getting involved in something that would have a positive impact. Being a retired oncology nurse, Carlie was aware there are many patients and their families that have needs. The program through Pet

Partners, International gave her the inspiration and Jenny the training to receive the certification required to make visits to the hospital and clinic. For almost four years, Carlie and Jenny have been making weekly visits at the Cancer Center and Homestead of Topeka, as well as three times per month with the Senior Behavioral Unit. Carlie says, "The patients really enjoy our visits, like loving, talking and petting Jenny. Pets can help the patients feel better. I have seen moods lighten, patients smile and their eyes light up. Patients begin to open up about themselves and share their experiences. It is a big time commitment but very rewarding and an activity both of us thoroughly enjoy."

And, you can see by the photo that hospital and clinic staff also benefit from their visits. Thank you for creating a happy experience for our patients and staff!

## Distinguished Auxilian Nominations Sought

It is time to submit nominations for this year's Distinguished Auxilian award. Consider nominating a member that is:

- A leader by example – not necessarily by position or title
- A provider of distinguished service as an auxilian.
- An Auxilian who makes or has made a significant contribution to

Stormont Vail patients, families or staff.

Nomination forms are available in the department kiosk outside Volunteer Services, or by email to committee chair Vanita Hunt, [vanita\\_hunt@yahoo.com](mailto:vanita_hunt@yahoo.com) or [volunteerdept@stormontvail.org](mailto:volunteerdept@stormontvail.org). If you have nominated an individual in prior years but they have not been selected,

please complete a new nomination form in order to have the most updated information.

The committee will review all nominations and select two nominees. Those nominees will be submitted to the Executive Committee for final selection, and the awardee will be announced at the annual meeting in October. The deadline is April 30.

## News & Notes

### Gift Shop Spreads Love on Valentine's Day

Vibrant reds, beautiful pinks and pale yellow roses were available in the Auxiliary Gift Shop on Valentine's Day as customers remembered special people in their lives. A special thanks to volunteers Jane Patrick and Virginia Stambaugh for making deliveries to employees at some of the clinic locations.

### Tax Credit for Volunteers

With April 15 fast approaching, there is still opportunity to request a copy of the number of trips to and from your volunteer assignments in 2017. When volunteers drive their own vehicle to carry out a task for an organization, the IRS permits a deduction of \$0.14 per mile. Please contact Volunteer Services if you would like this information and we will be happy to provide it to you.

## Volunteers Receive Small Moments

We continually receive wonderful feedback on all of the things our volunteers do. Here are a couple of accolades we recently received from the Small Moments program:

### Rachel Buthorne, Emergency Department volunteer

"I want to thank Rachel for going above and beyond for me as I waited in the ER waiting room. She could see that I was in a lot of pain and checked to see where I was in the line for a room. She checked on me and brought me a warm blanket, too. Very warm and caring spirit! Good luck in college!"

– Suzanne M.

### Andy Tompkins, Lobby Ambassador volunteer

"He made it so easy to move to Radiology and exit – thank you!"

–Jerry L.

### Send Us Small Moments!

We know that every single day, small moments happen at Stormont Vail, whether it is making a patient's day brighter, assisting a family or visitor to find their destination, taking an interest in someone who needs to be listened to, or sharing your willingness to help a volunteer or staff team member. GOOD DEEDS HAPPEN ALL OF THE TIME. We would like to know more about the stories and instances where you create small moments for the people you connect with while serving as a volunteer. As giving as all of you are, it is natural to want to avoid the spotlight. We think it is important to share those stories.

## Volunteer Services Employees Honored at Banquet

Four employees from Volunteer Services were honored at the 2018 Employee Awards Banquet for years of service to Stormont Vail Health. Employees recognized were Betsy Yadon, CRC Receptionist

(15 years); Lucas Brown, Patient Advocate (5 years); Frank Young, CRC Receptionist & Lobby Ambassador (5 years); Karen Seel, CRC Receptionist (5 years). Please congratulate these employees

for their exceptional service to the organization. We also thank Jeanne Billings, Volunteer Support Coordinator, for serving on the Banquet Committee. Great job, everyone!