

volunteer voice

A publication for Stormont Vail Auxiliary members & volunteers

● January 2019 ●



Message from the Auxiliary President

I am excited to report that I have survived my first three months as Auxiliary President. It is such an honor to follow those who have served before me and those that have served multiple times. They have laid the foundation for an organization to thrive over the 70 years since established. We will celebrate the 70 years beginning with the March 21, 2019 Lunch and Learn Meeting. Keep an eye out for details. That should be a great meeting for you to invite a friend to learn about the Auxiliary and the work that gets done to help the patients in need. The quarterly general meetings (Lunch & Learn) are such a great opportunity to gain information about the Stormont-Vail Health system. We learn something new every meeting and, hopefully, we communicate to friends and family about Stormont. I am hoping that we will overflow the space and we will have to bring in more chairs for the March meeting.



We have just completed another Holiday season and have experienced all the joy of friends and family and sometimes the sadness of missing those we are no longer able to celebrate with. I know that is amplified many times for those that are ill, in the hospital, or had a clinic visit. But, maybe that was made just a little bit more joyful by a volunteer or auxiliary member through a greeting, a visit, hot food from the Food Connection, a gift from the Gift Shop or even an item of equipment that made them more comfortable. Thank you to the managers, staff and volunteers for your dedication to making their stay better.

Just a reminder, the Auxiliary vision is to enhance its ability to serve as community ambassadors for Stormont Vail Health by:

- Strengthening the Topeka community's perception of the Auxiliary's mission
- Continuing to increase membership and member involvement
- Building on our tradition of caring, commitment, and financial support

All the best in the New Year,
Vernon Long

Help Us Replenish SANE/SART Closet

Joy Thomas, Stormont Vail's SANE/SART coordinator and Auxiliary member has expressed a need to replenish the stuffed animal room for the SANE/SART program. The Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner/Sexual Assault Response Team (SANE/SART) is a community-based coordinated response to child and adult victims of sexual assault. Joy is one of the nurse examiners and has specialized training in the treatment and care of victims of sexual assault. During and after an exam, victims are encouraged to select a stuffed animal to help provide comfort during this traumatic time. If you wish to donate a new stuffed animal (all sizes accepted), please bring one to the Auxiliary Lunch and Learn meeting on Jan. 10. If you are unable to attend, we will also accept donations in the Volunteer Services office.

Report from HAK District 1 Coordinator

At the annual convention in early September, I took over as District 1 Coordinator from Ginny Lancaster who served a three year term. Ginny was very helpful in introducing me to representatives from the 10 hospitals in District 1. In addition to Stormont Vail, the other hospitals are



Atchison, Coffey County, Nemaha Valley, Newman, Hiawatha, Lawrence Memorial, Ransom, Sabetha, and UKHS-St. Francis. The board meeting Nov. 6 and 7 provided the opportunity to get acquainted with the state officers and to hear reports from the committees. Planning is underway for the 2019 convention which will be September

5 and 6 at the Wichita Marriott. The state bylaws are being reviewed and slate of officers is coming together. The membership secretary was compiling the state roster for 2019. My first task was to communicate with presidents in District 1 to encourage timely submission of Form 1. Another activity will be to attend a meeting or activity chosen by the president of the hospitals. My first will be

We are proud to have one of our auxiliary members and past Auxiliary president, Kathleen Harr, serve as the HAK District 1 Coordinator this year. Kathleen's duties include traveling across the District 1 of Kansas to attend hospital meetings, representing our district at state meetings, and serving on the HAK state board.

a January brunch meeting and installation ceremony at Newman Regional Health in Emporia. I'll also be assisting the president at Lawrence Memorial with planning for the District I meeting on Wednesday, April 3. At that meeting members have the option of submitting Forms 2 and 3. Another of my duties will be to review the Form 3's to determine eligibility for Gold, Silver or Bronze Awards. Throughout the year I'll be communicating with auxiliary presidents to share reminders and updates from board meetings. So far, everyone has been very welcoming and I am enjoying being part of the state group.

- Kathleen Harr

Thoughts from the Volunteer Services Department

Happy New Year to all! 2018 was a busy and fulfilling year – the hospital completed the Joint Commission survey, achieved Magnet designation status for the 3rd time, and experienced a solid year financially, to name a few. Our terrific group of volunteers and auxiliary members also contributed almost 50,000 hours of service. I look forward to the New Year as another exciting and fun venture for the volunteer and auxiliary programs. We will continue to support the generous and remarkable group of volunteers and

auxiliary members at Stormont Vail as well as develop new opportunities to support Stormont Vail staff, patients and visitors. The Stormont Vail Auxiliary will celebrate 70 years of service in 2019 – what a remarkable milestone! Activities in March – May will be held to commemorate their service to Stormont Vail.

Technology continues to play an important role as we strive to improve and streamline the work we do. We will also be developing new opportunities for volunteers of all ages. With your help, I am confident

that we will increase our volunteer resources. You are our best recruiters, so keep your eyes open for interested friends and family members that might want to make a contribution as a volunteer. As volunteers and auxiliary members, you play an important role in carrying out our purpose – providing compassion and great care. Thank you for your fine work and commitment to Stormont Vail Health and best wishes to all for a safe and healthy 2019.

- Beverly Rice

“One resolution I have made, and try always to keep is this - To rise above the little things.”

- John Burroughs

Calendar

Jan. 10

Auxiliary Lunch and Learn Meeting – ACC 8 – 10:45 a.m. – Light lunch served

Feb. 1

Begin accepting applications for summer volunteer program

Feb. 1

Annual education modules mailed to volunteers – mandatory requirement

Feb. 6 -8

Auxiliary-sponsored Book & Gift Fair – North Tower, Main Entrance

March 1

Deadline to submit applications for Auxiliary scholarships

March 21

Auxiliary Lunch and Learn Meeting – 70th anniversary celebration – 10:45 a.m. – ACC 8

April 3

HAK District 1 Meeting – Lawrence Memorial Hospital

April 9 – 13

Volunteer Week Activities – details in the March issue

April 10

Volunteer & Auxiliary Recognition Dinner – 6 p.m. – Pozez Education Center

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

Distinguished Auxilian Award Nominations Being Accepted

At the Auxiliary annual meeting each October, one of the highlights of the program is the announcement of the Distinguished Auxilian awardee. It is a true honor to be chosen by fellow members as an Auxiliary member is recognized for the contributions they have given to the Auxiliary and Stormont Vail Health.

It is time to submit nominations for this year's Distinguished Auxilian, and you are encouraged to give consideration in submitting a nomination. Consider nominating a member that:

- 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 and their families.

Nomination forms are available in the department kiosk outside Volunteer Services, or by e-mail to committee chair Vanita Hunt, vanita_hunt@yahoo.com or volunteerdept@stormontvail.org. If you have nominated an individual in prior years but they have not been selected please complete another nomination form as it is helpful for the committee 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 of the 2019 Distinguished Auxilian. The award will be given at the annual meeting in October.

There are many auxiliary members worthy of receiving this award and we appreciate you taking time to honor one of these individuals by submitting their name for this award. The deadline is April 30.

Past Distinguished Auxilians

- Ernestine Reed, 1992
- Katherine Pyle, 1993
- Ramona Ellis, 1994
- Lois Fensler, 1995
- Leah (Tudy) Burton, 1996
- Mary Patterson, 1997
- Clarajeane Huss, 1998
- Lue Anderson, 1999
- Lorraine Cobb, 2000
- Joy Breeden, 2001
- Naomi Nibbelink, 2002
- June Lindsey, 2003
- Betty Wallace, 2003
- Tanzey Cutter, 2004
- Jeanne Merry, 2005
- Mary Wortman, 2006
- Wanda Andrews, 2007
- Helen Heath, 2008
- Lois Jones, 2009
- Bette Tompkins, 2010
- Blenda Blankenship, 2011
- Wilma Naethe, 2012
- Jane Patrick, 2014
- Craig Selley, 2015
- Martha Granger, 2016
- Barbara Brammell, 2017
- Ione Frank, 2018

What Do Stormont Vail Volunteers Do to Affect Patient Safety?

- Follow infection prevention protocols – hand washing is IMPORTANT, and isolation precautions
- Complete orientations and annual review which includes safety education, codes, etc.
- Complete a background check as a new volunteer
- Complete annual health screenings, including a flu immunization required by the health center
- Follow attendance expectations (stay away when ill)
- Report ways to improve overall safety for patients and others to supervisor in area of volunteering
- Has a visual awareness of safety issues in the environment (water on the floor, cords, equipment in proper condition before use, etc.) and reports to appropriate staff
- Follow correct wheelchair and other transport procedures
- Check two forms of patient ID when transporting
- And many more!

1949-2019 - Auxiliary Celebrating 70 Years of Supporting Stormont Vail Health

- Auxiliary Lunch and Learn Meeting
- Thursday, Jan. 10, 2019, 11 a.m. (light lunch will be served at 10:45 a.m.)
- ACC 8, Administration
- No RSVP required

2019 Fundraising Events

The following dates have been set for the 2019 auxiliary fundraising events. Exact times will be announced in upcoming newsletters. Please add these to your calendar and plan to stop by!

Feb. 6-8

Book & Gift Sale, Hospital Main Entrance

June 13-14

Uniform Sale, Centennial A/D, Pozez

July 10-12

Book & Gift Sale, Hospital Main Entrance

Oct. 16-18

Book & Gift Sale, Hospital Main Entrance

Nov. 14-15

Masquerade Jewelry, Centennial Rooms, Pozez Education Center

New Volunteers

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

- Joan Sutton – Registration
- Pat Banks – Neonatal Intensive Care
- Jim Powell – NODA
- Elaine Bunten – Lobby Ambassador
- Rylie Krogman – Neonatal Intensive Care (reassignment)
- Tyler Coursen – Registration
- Alexis Dugan – Building Blocks
- Gabby Sweeney – Physical, Occupational & Speech Therapy
- Madison Dean – Neonatal Intensive Care
- Nacole Tedrow – Neonatal Intensive Care
- Laisha Figueroa – Auxiliary Gift Shop
- Corey Daughenbaugh – Emergency Department
- Tanisha Maru – Perioperative Services
- Raegen Hamm – Radiology CT
- Sherry Clark – Pediatrics
- Katie Dehn – Pediatrics
- Ryan Reynolds – Lobby Ambassador
- Mandi Handlin – Emergency
- Bernie Becker – Customer Resource Center
- Cherie Carter – Patient Room Service & No One Dies Alone
- Sheil Patel – Physical, Occupational & Speech Therapy – Cotton O'Neil North
- Anne Abbo – Blood Pressure Clinic and Behavioral Health
- Kaylee Shook – Building Blocks
- Shantel Thompson-Wright – Building Blocks
- Martha Granger – Building Blocks (new assignment)

Welcome to the Stormont Vail Health volunteer team!

News & Notes

Maternal Fetal Medicine Earns Obstetric Ultrasound Accreditation

The Cotton O'Neil Maternal Fetal Medicine department recently achieved accreditation for obstetric ultrasound from the American Institute of Ultrasound in Medicine. The two-year accreditation is for all phases of pregnancy, including detailed assessment of the fetal anatomy as well as obstetrical ultrasound in the first, second and third trimesters. They are the first ultrasound department in Topeka to achieve this accreditation.

Tax Credit Information Available

A reminder that Volunteer Services will furnish you with the number of hours and/or times you volunteered to assist you in figuring the mileage deduction if itemizing your tax return for 2018. The IRS permits a deduction of \$.14 per mile. Volunteers may also deduct travel expenses related to their volunteer work (if not reimbursed by the organization), paper, copying, convention attendance fees, parking, and uniforms (if the volunteer purchase his/her own).

Auxiliary Provides Hospital Holiday Decorations

Providing holiday decorations throughout the hospital has been a long time tradition that the Auxiliary has provided for the enjoyment of patients, visitors and staff who come to Stormont Vail. Each year, the Auxiliary works with a local florist who decorates the halls with garland, colorful wreaths and winter arrangements in the main entrance, lobbies and high-traffic waiting areas of the hospital. Thank you, Auxiliary for providing this service for all to enjoy.

Auxiliary Offers Student Scholarships

March 1 is the deadline for students seeking scholarships for 2019. Two scholarship programs are available and funded by the Stormont Vail Health Auxiliary. Scholarship program information, including eligibility and criteria, are available by visiting www.stormontvail.org. click on Give and Volunteer, then click on Stormont Vail Health Auxiliary, click on Auxiliary Student Scholarships. Previous scholarship awardees and students who have applied in the past but were not awarded a scholarship are encouraged to reapply. Previous awardees can also reapply. Applications must be received no later than March 1. For questions, contact Beverly Rice, Director Volunteer Services, brice@stormontvail.org or (785) 354-6084.

Save the Date for Annual Dinner

The annual Volunteer & Auxiliary Recognition Dinner will be at 6 p.m. Wednesday, April 10, 2019, in the Pozez Education Center, 1st floor. Other activities during National Volunteer Week will be announced in upcoming issues.

Patient Safety First Rounds Revised

Caring for patients and families is the cornerstone of what we do at Stormont Vail. Every day, patients entrust their health care to our clinicians and staff – and it is our responsibility to provide them with a safe and quality hospital stay. Now more than ever we are focusing on a culture and commitment to safe and quality care. We have recently revised our patient safety rounds to include more frequent meetings with departments that include additional management team members. We recognize that staff knows best what changes are needed and we need to ensure that team members have the resources to get it done. In these safety meetings, team members provide meaningful dialogue and the resulting process changes have already made our organization safer for patients and staff.

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.

How to Report Absences

If you need to be absent from volunteering, it is best to email our group address at volunteerdept@stormontvail.org or call the Volunteer Services office at (785) 354-6095. If you know your department liaison's email, please also include them when reporting your absence. Sometimes email addresses are very different than your name, so we ask that you include your full name and the department you volunteer at the end of the email. Thank you.