

volunteer voice

A publication for Stormont Vail Auxiliary members & volunteers

● April 2019 ●



Join Us in Celebrating National Volunteer Week

Stormont Vail Health Volunteers – Connecting Our Community to Better Health

A week of celebration and activities recognizing the service of Stormont Vail Health volunteers and auxiliary members begins in conjunction with National Volunteer Week, April 8-12. We encourage you to participate in as many activities as you can. Invitations were mailed to all active volunteers and auxiliary members.

April 8

Showcasing Our Programs – 11 a.m.–1 p.m. – Main Lobby
– We are kicking off the week with a table staffed by volunteers and team members who will share information about the volunteer and auxiliary programs.

April 8-12

Refreshments in Volunteer Services. Stop by between 9 a.m.–3 p.m., and enjoy light refreshments.

April 8-May 8

Complimentary Coupons - Coupons mailed to active volunteers can be used for a 25 percent discount in the Gift

Shop and a complimentary dessert in the Food Connection. The Auxiliary thanks you for your loyal support.

April 9

Watch the Topeka Capital-Journal for the ad featuring Stormont Vail Health Volunteers!

April 10

Volunteer and Auxiliary Member Recognition Dinner – 6–8 p.m. – Pozez Education Center, 1st floor – Buffet dinner, awards presentation and much more! Meet our new Stormont Vail President and CEO Rob Kenagy, M.D. – RSVP required, 354-6095. You may bring a guest.

April 11

Educational Session – 10:30-11:30 a.m. and 1:30-2:30 p.m., Centennial C (a.m.) and Centennial D (p.m.) – you will learn from Steve Taylor, SVH Security Manager how to be in a state of readiness in a public setting, and include specific information for the hospital setting in the event of an assailant. Many of you have asked about the hospital's plan and Steve will share how we can all be prepared.

Happy Volunteer Week!

Not a Member? Considering Joining the Auxiliary

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 life-time membership is \$150.

If you are not a member of the Stormont Vail Health Auxiliary, please consider joining by contacting Jane Mackey at jwm785@cox.net or the Auxiliary office, (785) 354-6095.

Stormont Vail Health Auxiliary Celebrates 70 Years

The Stormont Vail Health Auxiliary celebrated its 70th anniversary at the March 21 general membership meeting. Interestingly, exactly 70 members and Stormont Vail Health administrators attended the celebration, which featured two special guests – Bishop Thomas Vail and Jane C. Stormont. A conversation with the two “historical figures,” narrated by Auxiliary President Vernon Long, portrayed the importance Bishop Vail and Jane C. Stormont played in the hospital’s history, which eventually led to the merger of two hospitals, Christ’s Hospital and Jane C. Stormont Hospital in 1949. The Auxiliary presented a check to outgoing Stormont Vail President and CEO Randy Peterson, which was designated for the Randy Peterson Education Fund in honor of his retirement (below).

The Auxiliary, which was founded in 1949 by Mrs. Marjorie Raish, was instrumental in promoting the \$2 million bond election which helped fund the newly formed hospital, Stormont Vail. Auxiliary members accomplished this by conducting a telephone campaign covering the city and providing transportation to voters needing a ride to the voting polls.

Over seven decades, the support by hundreds of Auxiliary



members has been outstanding. Through voluntary, financial and advocacy support, the Auxiliary has often taken the lead to help support major building additions and renovations of Stormont Vail. In recent years, it has supported the Surgery and CCU additions, the NICU, Cancer Center, and Pavilion building projects with \$100,000 given to each. More than \$3 million has been raised since the Auxiliary’s inception primarily through the Auxiliary Gift Shop and Food Connection. More celebration activities will be held in May in the Gift Shop and Food Connection. Watch for details by email and the May issue of the newsletter.

Foundation Establishes Randy Peterson Education Fund

In honor of Randy Peterson’s leadership as Stormont Vail Health’s fifth chief executive officer, the Stormont Vail Foundation established a fund to commemorate his many contributions to the health care system.

Under Randy’s guidance, Stormont Vail grew into one of the strongest independent, not-for-profit health systems in the Midwest. His accomplishments include the organization’s membership in the Mayo Clinic Care Network and growth to serve more than 270,000 patients annually. In 2016, Randy received the Charles S. Billings

Award for lifetime achievement, recognizing his involvement in health care advocacy.

One of Randy’s lasting legacies will be the cultural transformation embodied by Stormont Vail’s Small Moments initiative. To honor this influence, the Randy Peterson Education Fund will support initiatives that enhance the experience for patients, providers and team members. If you would like to make a donation in Randy’s honor, please send a check payable to the Stormont Vail Foundation, 1500 S.W. 10th Ave., Topeka, KS 66604. Call 354-6851 with any questions.

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!

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

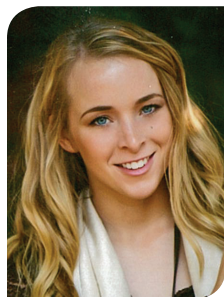
Masquerade Jewelry, Centennial Rooms, Pozez Education Center

Auxiliary Announces 2019 Scholarship Recipients

Six student scholarships were awarded by the Auxiliary Scholarship Selection Committee for 2019. The recipients were chosen from current and past volunteers that have accumulated at least 50 hours of service and enrolled in an accredited technical school or university. The student scholarship program is comprised of two \$2,500 scholarships (Maynard Oliverius Leadership Scholarship) and four \$1,000 scholarships awarded each year.

Josie Hutcheson

Josie was awarded one of two Maynard Oliverius Leadership Scholarships. She will use the scholarship to continue her career path in nursing, having attended Allen County Community College in



2018-19 with plans to enroll in the nursing program at Washburn University in fall 2019. In attention to

taking 27 credit hours this year, she also works for her mother's home care agency, Angels at Homecare. She hopes to complete Washburn's two year program and continue her education in the nurse practitioner program. Josie states, "With each new subject I learn and each client I care for, my quest in becoming a health care professional has changed me and opened my eyes to new perspectives. I am excited for the adventurous journey that is still to come."

Alexandria Wilson

This is the first time Alexandria has received an Stormont Vail Health Auxiliary scholarship and received

the Maynard Oliverius Leadership Scholarship. A graduate of Valley Falls High School, Alexandria volunteered



three summers ('16-'18) at Stormont Vail. She is completing course work at Highland/Allen Community College and

has been accepted for the Fall '19 semester to Fort Hays State University majoring in medical biology. Alexandria has also applied to the White Coat Professionals learning community, which will help her be able to live and have study opportunities with those who have the same interests and curriculum. After graduating from Fort Hays, Alexandria hopes to attend the University of Kansas medical school.

Frances Befort

This is the third year Frances has received a scholarship from the Auxiliary. Frances is a long-term student summer volunteer having volunteered since 2012. She has



contributed 397 hours of service and volunteered in several areas of the health center, her favorite being Patient Room

Service. She is a May 2017 graduate of Hayden High School and attends Washburn University, majoring in molecular biology and biotechnology. Her academic goal is to graduate in four years and go to medical school. Frances continues to achieve academic excellence with a 4.0 GPA

all while taking 16 credit hours. This coming year, Frances will be studying for the MCAT to prepare for this strenuous test and obtain a score that is competitive in the application process.

According to Frances, "volunteering at Stormont Vail has given me the opportunities to get to know myself and discover a world that I am extremely interested in. When I volunteer, I see daily the passion and dedication healthcare professionals have for their patients. It has been truly inspiring to me and I am invested in my goals of medical school."

Alma Mena

This is the third year Alma has been awarded a \$1,000 scholarship. After graduating from Topeka High School in May 2017, Alma is currently in



her second year at Washburn University studying pre-nursing in hopes of applying to the nursing school later

this year. Alma shares that she has desired a career in health care since she was very young. "I wanted to be a pediatrician, and as children do, changed my mind several times before ultimately deciding I would love to be a nurse. I enjoy nurturing others and making them happy, and adapt quickly to changes, all good qualities to have as a nurse."

She expresses appreciation for the opportunity to volunteer for the past seven years in the Transportation

Scholarship

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department. Having accumulated almost 1,500 hours to date, she has had a wonderful experience interacting with patients, nurses, and staff in various departments.

Hailey Hall

This is Hailey's first time to receive one of six

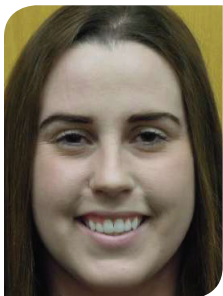


scholarships awarded annually by the Auxiliary. Hailey attends the Radiologic Technology program at Washburn University. According to Kathleen Bogina from Stormont Vail's radiology

department, "Hailey always showed initiative to help the techologists with whatever she could, and displayed a keen interest in the work she observed."

Erin Boyd

Erin also received a \$1,000 scholarship from the Auxiliary this year. She volunteered at Stormont Vail for two years and accumulated 70 hours of service. During her first summer of volunteering, Erin spent time in the radiology department learning about the importance and



collaboration to the nursing field. During the second summer, she volunteered in Perioperative Services which helped her gain confidence with patient interaction and building relationships with staff.

Her role as a volunteer was both a great way to help patients while learning great fundamentals that she will utilize as a nurse. Erin is currently in her second level of Washburn University's nursing program. During her clinicals, one area she served was in the Emergency department and most recently was hired in that department. After earning her bachelor's degree in nursing, Erin's plan is to explore the option of furthering her education and possibly studying to become an advanced practice registered nurse.

Summer Volunteer Program Enrollment Opportunity

Applications to participate in the summer volunteer program are now being accepted through May 10. The summer program is geared for students between ages 14-17, college students (ages 18+) and adults who can commit at least eight weeks (minimum of one, 4-hour shift per week) during the 11- week program. The program begins May 28 through Aug. 9. If the student is a 2018 returnee, they should have received notification on what is required to return - they will not be required to submit another application. If they volunteered prior to 2018, please ask them to contact Volunteer Services, 354-6095 for instructions on how to re-apply as some forms may need to be resubmitted.

Stormont-Vail continues to have an active summer program with 150-180 participants each year and we anticipate another busy summer. The program has a twofold purpose: (1) Provides extra assistance to staff, and enhances the services we provide to patients and visitors, and (2) gives students an opportunity to learn about the health care environment. We emphasize the importance of serving others as the key qualification in recruiting students and adults to this 11-week program.

Applicants will be required to attend one of the on boarding sessions, which include an interview and placement, if accepted. Since placement is done on a first come, first-served basis, we encourage applicants to contact Volunteer Services to set up a time at one of the on boarding sessions following the submission of the application. These sessions will be conducted on April 24, 29, May 2, 7 from 2:30-5:30 p.m. Mandatory orientation will be: May 9 or May 15, 4:30-6:45 pm. Individuals accepted must attend one of these sessions.

If you know of a student or adult who may be interested in applying, please direct them to www.stormontvail.org, and click on Give and Volunteer to access the application, forms, and opportunities available. Students who are 18 and over will need to submit the college application instead of the youth application. The application deadline is May 10, 2019. Questions may be directed to Volunteer Services, (785) 354-6095 or volunteerdept@stormontvail.org.

Vacation Schedules Needed

Spring has hardly arrived but before too long, the first day of the summer youth program will be here. As we begin accepting youth for placement in assigned areas, it would be helpful to know if you are planning on taking some time off during the summer months. It is easier to maintain a service during this time with the extra help from our youth so if you have plans to be gone, please call Volunteer Services, 354-6095 and let us know.

News and Notes

Patient Experience Week — April 22-26

Patient Experience Week (formerly Patient Advocate Week), April 22-26, is an annual event to celebrate healthcare team members impacting patient experience everyday. One group that focuses on responding to patients needs are the patient advocates. At Stormont Vail, our volunteer patient advocates serve as a liaison between the health center and the patient by providing a brief visit to patients during their hospitalization and identifying special needs or concerns of the patient. Advocates are sometimes seen as the “neutral party” – someone the patient can feel comfortable talking to about a concern they may have. Volunteer patient representatives visit patients in the Pavilion, North and South patient towers, seven days a week and bring back the many compliments and occasional concerns to the Ashley Floberg, patient advocate supervisor, for follow-up. Ashley’s team of employed advocates include Lucas Brown, Thaina Dos Santos Jensen, and Donna Johnson and volunteer advocates Wayne Davis, Frances Befort, Cheryl Weber and Sondra King.

Auxiliary Membership Dues

If you are an auxiliary member at large, it is the time of year that membership dues are collected for another year. If you are a member of an auxiliary group, your group treasurer will be collecting the \$12 dues for the auxiliary plus whatever the amount your group has set for group funds. Life members do not pay annual dues but if you belong to a group you will pay the group dues which will be collected through your group treasurer. Members at large will receive a dues notice from the auxiliary office soon. Please respond by June 1. Just think of all the good things your one dollar per month “buys” you –

- Being an advocate for Stormont Vail
- Meeting and making new friends
- Learning about Stormont Vail and the programs and services it provides to the community by attending group and membership meetings

If you do not want to remember every year to pay dues, a one-time life membership fee of \$150 is the way to go! For questions, contact the auxiliary office, 354-6095.

Good Friday, Easter Services Scheduled

The Spiritual Care department will offer services for Good Friday and Easter in the hospital chapel, 1-Vail (between North and South towers). Good Friday service will be at 12:05 p.m. on April 19, and Easter service will be at 8 a.m. on April 21.

Blenda Blankenship Remembered

Blenda Blankenship, the longest tenured Stormont Vail employee and volunteer with a combined total of 77 years of service, passed away on March 9. Blenda will fondly be remembered for her commitment to an organization she loved and contributed to greatly. She was also a member of the Auxiliary’s Group 1. We will not forget her warm smile.

Update from HAK District 1 Coordinator

It is a cold, windy March day as I write this update. This morning, I noted that March 20th is the first day of spring, which gives me hope that the weather will improve in the next few weeks. Till you are reading this, it is likely the District meeting at Lawrence Memorial will have been a success. My coordinator homework after that meeting will be reviewing the award applications.

Since my last update, I attended the annual meeting at Newman Regional Hospital, Emporia where I was honored to install officers. On January 28, I attended the annual meeting at Ransom Memorial Hospital, Ottawa where officers were installed and auxiliaries and volunteers were treated to a beautiful spread of appetizers and sweets. In February, the HAK president, president-elect and I gave LMH the go ahead on their materials for the district meeting.

At the early March HAK board meeting, I learned that plans for the convention are coming together and the nominations committee is still seeking candidates for treasurer and two members at large. A few bylaws and procedural changes were approved. I reported on my district 1 activities and shared that Stormont Vail Health Auxiliary’s are celebrating our 70th anniversary in 2019. I was reminded when I reviewed the updated 2019 HAK Resource Guide that the first and second (1951,1952) state president was Mrs. Marjorie Raish, our founding president in 1949-1950. I remember reading that Mrs. Raish attended a national meeting of auxiliaries, which inspired her local and state leadership. We can be thankful for her vision as we look back over 70 years of service.

Kathleen Harr,
HAK District 1 Coordinator

Calendar

April 1

Volunteer Education Module
Due to Volunteer Services
(all active volunteers must complete)

April 3

HAK District 1 Meeting
– Lawrence Memorial
Hospital

April 4

Deadline for returnee
youth volunteers to submit
placement information

April 6-12

National Volunteer Week

April 10

Volunteer/Auxiliary
Recognition Dinner – 6 p.m.,
RSVP to Volunteer Services
by April 5

April 24, 29 & May 2,7

On-boarding Sessions for
Summer Youth – 2-5 p.m. –
Volunteer Services

May 9

New Volunteer Orientation
for Summer Youth – 4:30-
6:45 p.m. – Gault-Hussey

May 10

Deadline to accept Summer
Youth Program Applications

May 15

New Volunteer Orientation
for Summer Youth – 4:30-
6:45 p.m. – Gault-Hussey

May 28

First Day of Summer
Program

June 4

New Volunteer Orientation
for Summer Students – 9:45
a.m.-noon – Centennial A

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

Dr. Najm Named Vice President of Acute Care Services Named

Stormont Vail Health announced today that Salah Najm, M.D., has accepted the position of vice president, Acute Care Services, for Stormont Vail Health. In addition, Dr. Najm will continue his duties as a physician.

“Dr. Najm is an outstanding clinician and a proven leader within our health system,” Kevin Dishman, M.D., chief medical officer, said. “I’m looking forward to the work he will be able to accomplish by taking on a more administrative role.”

In his new role, Dr. Najm will be working closely with the Acute Care physicians and advanced practice providers within the health system. He will work closely with me to advance quality and safety initiatives and to explore and continue the development of clinical initiatives. He will also assist with implementation of evidence-based medicine and

standardization of medical practices.

Reporting to Dr. Najm will be the medical directors for Adult Hospitalists, Emergency Department, Express Care, Adult Intensivists, Pediatric Intensivists and Pediatric Hospitalists.

Dr. Najm joined Stormont Vail in 2012 as a pulmonologist, intensivist and sleep specialist. In 2014, he took on the role as medical director of Intensive Care and in 2017 he became the pulmonary director.

He received his Doctorate of Medicine from the American University of Beirut, Beirut, Lebanon, in 2005. He completed his internal medicine residency at Indiana University Hospitals, Indianapolis, Indiana, in 2009. He completed his fellowship in pulmonary, critical care and sleep medicine at University Hospitals Case Medical Center, Cleveland, Ohio, in 2012.

Wound Care Center Earns Award

The Stormont Vail Wound Care Center recently received the Robert A. Warriner III, M.D., Center of Excellence award from Healogics after earning its second straight year as a Center of Distinction. To achieve this, the Wound Care Center maintained patient satisfaction rates higher than 92 percent and a healing rate of at least 91 percent for two straight years. “This achievement represents the commitment we have to our community to heal patients,” says Karen Conley, program director of the Wound Care Center.

The center opened in 2004 in the lower level of the Cotton O’Neil Diabetes & Endocrinology Center. To accommodate program expansion, it moved to its current location, in the lower level of Cotton O’Neil

Mulvane, in 2012.

During its 15 years of operation, the center has seen more than 7,000 active patients, seeing a 65 percent increase in patients during just the past five years. In 2018, 265 providers referred patients to the Wound Care Center, 48 of whom were first-time referrers, and the center assessed 6,952 wounds.

“The entire team is dedicated to the center’s success, and with that, we have experienced significant clinic growth,” Conley said. “We will continue to provide care for patients over the next 15 years and beyond by utilizing the most advanced, cost-effective treatments available.”