

Volunteer CONNECTION

WINTER 2020

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"Alone we can do so little, together so much" -Helen Keller The above photo by Suzanne Rose shows the hands of many volunteers at Ascension Mercy

The Year Without a Santa Claus – Not!

Due to COVID-19 we will not be having our usual Santa Day at Mercy this December. Instead there is a life size banner of Santa and Mrs. Claus (Floyd and Ruth Wouters) in the Oakwood lobby area. Patients and staff are welcome to bring their phone or camera to take a photo with Santa and his Mrs. A mailbox and supplies are located next to the banner for children to complete a letter to Santa as well.



Norma Kumm and Amy Thomas pose with Santa and Mrs. Claus

Volunteer Spotlight on Ruth and Tom Nevers

Both Tom and Ruth normally volunteer on Patient Care Unit 2. Ruth replenishes supplies in the servers, restocks gloves in the rooms, and does whatever else is needed. Tom makes up the patient welcome bags each person is given when admitted. The bags contain a carafe, tissue, lotion, tooth paste, tooth brush, paper tablet and pen, and a pair of slip prevention socks as well as informative literature of interest to patients. Beginning this fall as our patient census has increased, Tom and Ruth have been helping Mercy staff by making up the welcome bags at home. To date they have made up 500 bags!

Ruth began volunteering at Mercy in 2012 and recruited Tom's help in 2017. Ruth has been a wonderful support in helping to train the Project SEARCH students on how to stock the patient servers. And Tom's organizational skills have been invaluable as well.

When asked why they volunteer Tom stated, "Volunteering at the hospital gives us the chance to "give back" to society for the help we have received when we needed it. We all need a helping hand at some time and by volunteering we can demonstrate the appreciation we have for the help and kindness we received." Tom also noted that "having been hospitalized three times in the past five years it is sure nice to have nurse friends to greet you when checking in."

Prior to retirement Ruth was a teacher of lower elementary students as well as a grade school principal for 47 years. Tom was an Insurance Company Human Resources Manager for 38 years. Both worked in Detroit, MI.

Besides volunteering they enjoy tending their garden and frequently watering and fertilizing the lawn, so it can be cut twice a week, while trying to keep the squirrels from wrecking it all. Tom also enjoys writing short articles about his many life experiences.

Inseparable is how they would describe their 57 years of marriage. Advice to future volunteers is "come join us in the joy of helping others and being a part of a great team at Ascension Mercy!" We are happy that Tom and Ruth did.

Amy Brownson



Timely News

Prevent Blindness Wisconsin Thanks Community Vision Screening Volunteers

We would like to share our gratitude for our Community Volunteers who help us reach thousands of Wisconsin residents through support and vision screening efforts. Our network of 14 community volunteer groups began more than 25 years ago.

Groups of Community Volunteers dedicated to vision health eventually developed across the state. Today, our volunteer groups include: **Children's Screening Services-Oshkosh**, Christ Child Society, Dane County, Lake Country, Menomonee Falls, Milwaukee Private Schools, New Berlin, North Shore, North Shore Catholic, Ozaukee, Racine, South Shore and West Suburban.

During the 2019-2020 school year, individuals from each of these groups helped us reach 11,729 students throughout different licensed childcare centers and schools that do not have a professional dedicated to vision screening. Of those tested, 1,455 students were referred on for further care with an eye care professional. Without the service of Prevent Blindness Wisconsin's Community Volunteers and their vision screenings, these vision problems would have gone undetected.

Due to COVID-19 the Ascension Mercy Children's Screening Services Volunteers are on hiatus for the first time since their beginnings in 1931 when they were known as the Infant Welfare Auxiliary. The group at that time supported the Visiting Nurses health clinics at Roosevelt, Longfellow, Merrill and Jefferson schools. They also help with well-baby check-ups and accompanied the nurses on home visits. Over the years the group also offered hearing, and developmental screening and hand washing demonstrations in addition to vision screening for children.

Currently the group provides vision screening only which began in 1987. They screen children at Oshkosh area preschools, day cares, parochial and public schools. We could not do the work we do without the help of our volunteers. Thank you for your continued support of Prevent Blindness

Wisconsin and our mission to help ensure each Wisconsin resident has healthy vision at every stage of life.

excerpts from Prevent Blindness Wisconsin Newsletter– September 2020
<https://wisconsin.preventblindness.org/>

Greetings from the Mercy Gift Shop

If you are coming into the hospital for an appointment please make sure to visit the Gift Shop. Christmas gift and decorating ideas abound. You're sure to find décor to make your home festive for the holidays. I am ready to help you find the perfect gift for that special someone and I will gift wrap the purchase at no extra charge. Hours are: Monday and Tuesday 11 to 5, Wednesday and Friday 10 to 3, Thursday closed. I sure do miss our volunteers. Happy Holidays!

Beverly Hoffman
Gift Shop Coordinator of Merchandising
Beverly.Hoffman@Ascension.org



Gift Shop items awaiting purchase

Caregiver Background Checks - For Your Information

The following message is from Ascension Human Resource Operations regarding the Wisconsin Caregiver Background Check law.

In compliance with the state and federal equal rights laws and the state caregiver background check law, Ascension conducts caregiver background checks on existing volunteers at least every four years. Ascension Wisconsin will consider volunteer criminal arrest and conviction records in complying with statutory requirements. A history of criminal conviction will not automatically eliminate a person from consideration for volunteering with the organization. Ascension Wisconsin will evaluate the conviction record in light of the requirements of state and federal laws. In addition to criminal background checks, the organization will conduct other background checks as required by law.

All in-facility volunteers are required to notify the Volunteer Services department in regarding changes related to any of the items listed below. The notification must be in writing and forwarded as soon as possible, but no later than the next working day from a criminal arrest, conviction or one of the following events:

- * Convictions of any crime
- * Substantiated findings of abuse, neglect or misappropriation
- * Current investigations related to abuse, neglect or misappropriation
- * Professional credential restrictions, limitations, or revocations
- * Program licensure limitations, revocations or denials
- * Discharged from any branch of the US Armed Forces, including any reserve component; residency outside the state of Wisconsin
- * Rehabilitation review requests

Human Resources

Project SEARCH Interns Complete First Job Rotations

A new class of Project SEARCH interns began meeting at Ascension Mercy after starting the year off-site this fall due to COVID restrictions. The group is divided into two groups, AM and PM, to meet social distance guidelines. They are completing job rotations in a variety of areas: environmental services, birthplace, pharmacy, outpatient behavioral health, patient care units 1 and 2, surgery, and outpatient rehabilitation.

Project SEARCH is a high school transition program; a unique, business led, one-year school-to-work program that takes place entirely at the workplace. The focus is on helping youth with disabilities make successful transitions from school to adult life. Ascension Mercy and Franciscan Courts partner with the Oshkosh Area School District, Goodwill Industries, the Division of Vocational Rehabilitation and other agency support services for the benefit of the interns.

Amy Brownson



Project SEARCH AM group left to right: Seth Boegh, Robert Schuhart, Cassandra Novotony, Tia Griswold, Not pictured: Bao Thor



Project SEARCH PM group left to right: Jack Cutter, Abigale Pask, Owen Polak, Yamera Childress, and Ellery Wolf-Dahl

Health Watch

Holiday Safety at Home

Here are some electrical safety tips to avoid fire hazards and keep safety in mind at home over the holiday season.

- Inspect electrical decorations for damage before use. Cracked or damaged sockets, bare or loose wires, and loose connections may cause a serious shock or start a fire.
- Do not overload electrical outlets and plug only one high-wattage appliance into each outlet at a time. Also, to avoid shock or fire hazards, protect cords from damage.
- Never connect more than three strings of incandescent lights. Doing so may not only blow a fuse but can also cause a fire.
- If you have a “real” tree, keep it fresh by adding water to the stand daily. Dry trees are a serious fire hazard.
- Check your decorations for certification labels. Decorations not bearing a label from an Independent testing laboratory such as Underwriters Laboratories (UL), Canadian Standards Association (CSA) or Intertek ETL) have not been tested for safety and could be hazardous.

Carl Muhl, Safety Officer
Facilities Management

BEATITUDES FOR A GLOBAL PANDEMIC

BLESSED ARE THOSE
WHO STAY INDOORS



FOR THEY HAVE
PROTECTED OTHERS

BLESSED ARE THE
UNEMPLOYED AND THE
SELF-EMPLOYED



FOR THEIR NEED OF
GOD IS GREAT

BLESSED ARE THE
CORNER SHOPKEEPERS




FOR THEY ARE THE
PURVEYORS OF SCARCE
THINGS

BLESSED ARE THE DELIVERY
DRIVERS AND THE POSTAL
WORKERS



FOR THEY ARE THE
BRINGERS OF ESSENTIAL
THINGS

BLESSED ARE THE HOSPITAL
WORKERS; THE AMBULANCE CREWS,
THE DOCTORS, THE NURSES, THE CARE
ASSISTANTS, AND THE CLEANERS



FOR THEY STAND BETWEEN US AND
THE GRAVE, AND THE KINGDOM OF
HEAVEN IS SURELY THEIRS

BLESSED ARE THE
CHECKOUT WORKERS



FOR THEY HAVE PATIENCE AND
FORTITUDE IN THE FACE OF
OVERWORK AND FRUSTRATION

BLESSED ARE THE
REFUSE COLLECTORS



FOR THEY WILL SEE
GOD DESPITE THE
MOUNTAINS OF WASTE

BLESSED ARE THE
TEACHERS



FOR THEY REMAIN
STEADFAST AND
CONSTANT IN
DISTURBING TIMES

BLESSED ARE THE CHURCH
WORKERS; THE DEACONS,
PRIESTS AND BISHOPS



FOR THEY ARE A COMFORTING
PRESENCE IN A HURTING
WORLD AS THEY CONTINUE TO
SIGNPOST TOWARDS GOD

BLESSED ARE THE SINGLE
PARENTS.



FOR THEY ARE COPING
ALONE WITH THEIR
RESPONSIBILITIES AND
THERE IS NO RESPIRE

BLESSED ARE THOSE WHO
ARE ALONE.



FOR THEY ARE CHILDREN OF
GOD AND WITH HIM THEY
WILL NEVER BE LONELY

BLESSED ARE THE
BEREAVED.



FOR WHOM THE WORST HAS
ALREADY HAPPENED. THEY
SHALL BE COMFORTED

BLESSED ARE THOSE WHO
ARE ISOLATED WITH THEIR
ABUSERS



FOR ONE DAY-WE PRAY-
THEY WILL KNOW SAFETY

BLESSED ARE ALL DURING THIS TIME WHO HAVE PURE HEARTS;
ALL WHO STILL HUNGER AND THIRST FOR JUSTICE; ALL WHO
WORK FOR PEACE AND WHO MODEL MERCY



MAY YOU KNOW COMFORT. MAY YOU KNOW CALM. AND MAY THE
GRACE OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST, AND THE LOVE OF GOD, AND
THE FELLOWSHIP OF THE HOLY SPIRIT, BE WITH US ALL. AMEN

TEXT: JAYNE MANFREDI

CartoonChurch.com

From the MHV Chair

As the days fly by and despite our COVID restrictions the Holidays are fast approaching. This Thanksgiving the (Mercy Hospital Volunteers) MHV organization has so much to be thankful for. The “Bakeless Bake Sale” fundraiser netted over \$1700.00 for the Physically Challenged Exercise Program. Also, the MHV was able to donate our fiscal year 2020 dollars raised to the Mercy Health Foundation for the purchase of a specialty bassinet swivel sleeper for the Birthplace area. All this giving in a time of uncertainty is amazing! A big thank you to all the volunteers who donated to the Bakeless bake sale and those who support our fundraisers all year through. Your generosity is heartwarming, and we couldn't support hospital programs without your contributions.

Also, many of you voted in our current executive officers for another term on the MHV Advisory Board. On behalf of the board, thank you. We will continue to serve as best as we can. So, just look around you; we have our homes, food on the table and most of all family and friends to see us through these difficult times. We are not back to “normal” yet, but let's look forward not backward with anticipation to the coming days and keep in mind the true meaning of the Holidays. Hopefully, we can be back to Mercy soon in our many Volunteer roles. Until that time; stay healthy, keep praying and enjoy the many blessings you have.

June Wiechman, MHV Chairman



Photo on Left displays the new bassinette swivel sleeper



Photo on Right is of Birthplace staff with new sleeper

Partners of WHA President Mercy's Own

Congratulations to Mercy volunteer, **Peg Larson!** Peg will serve as the President of the Partners of WHA (Wisconsin Hospital Association) for 2021 and 2022. The Partners is a non-profit, volunteer service organization affiliated with Wisconsin Hospital Association.

Founded in 1951 as Wisconsin Hospital Association Auxiliaries, Partners, which changed its name in 1997, now boasts almost 9,000 members in Wisconsin. The Mercy Hospital Volunteers (MHV) are members of the Partners organization.



Peg Larson

Partners emphasizes volunteer participation in health education, health career and wellness programs, and volunteer service to Wisconsin hospitals, focusing on public policy education and advocacy to Wisconsin hospitals. Partners promotes leadership development offering resources, meetings and seminars to local hospital auxiliaries. Partners shares information on successful auxiliary programs, fund raising and trends in volunteerism through its quarterly newsletter, Reaching Out, and through legislative and health education mailings.

Peg has been a Mercy volunteer since 1987 and has served on the MHV advisory board for many years. She has been a MHV representative on the Partners board since 2009 when she became the Lake Winnebago District Chair.

Involvement with Partners has given Peg opportunities to meet volunteers from around Wisconsin and learn how, in addition to volunteering within their local hospitals, they are impacting the health of their communities through community education projects, fundraising, and advocacy. Networking with other hospital volunteers has also been a great way to pick up new ideas on fundraising and volunteer roles to share at Ascension Mercy.

As Partner's President, Peg looks forward to getting to know even more individuals throughout the state and at Mercy. She states, "I hope that you will consider attending one of the upcoming Partner's meetings (right now the commute is to your internet device). Meetings are being planned for April 29, 2021 (Spring District meeting via Microsoft Teams) and October 5 – 7, 2021 (State Convention in Madison at the Marriott). This year has made meeting much more complicated, but we have developed new strategies using technology to keep in touch."

We are proud to have Peg represent Ascension Mercy as the upcoming Partner's President. Please feel free to contact Peg with any concerns, suggestions, or questions at pegvoluntr@hotmail.com.

Amy Brownson



Volunteers In Action



Barb M. – Puts together Ortho & Rehab info at home



Patient Tray favors by Boarding Academy



Baby hats made and donated by Dianne G.



Baby hats & Ice Pak covers donated by Rosie C.



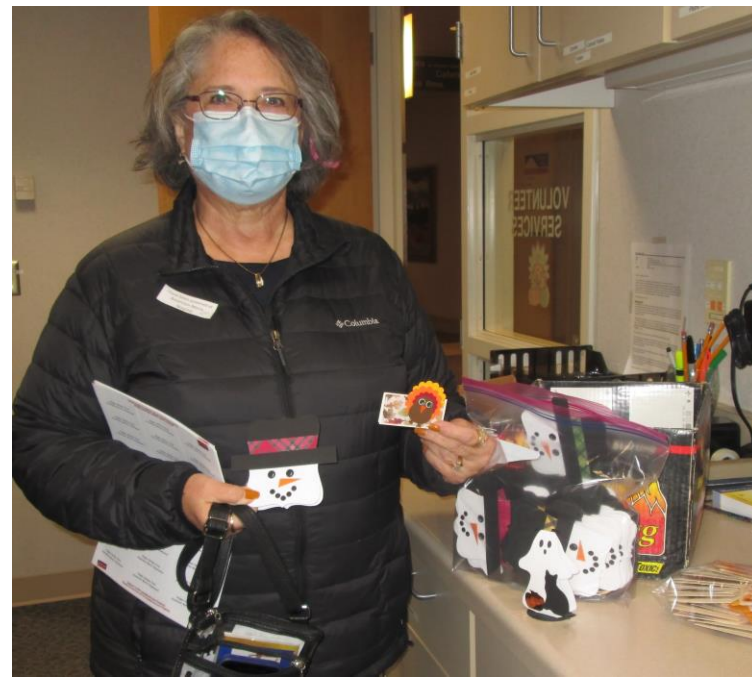
Ice Pak Covers & Blankets donated by Sydney W.



Irene G. with her donated blankets for our patients



Cards made and donated by Heat 14 Volleyball Club



Holiday tray favors made by Joan B.

Far Right – Ramona N. donates baby hats for our newborns on the Birthplace unit.



Maureen P. on Right donates holiday themed masks for our staff and patients.



The Real Work

It may be that when we no longer know what to do, we have come to our real work,
and that when we no longer know which way to go, we have come to our real journey.
The mind that is not baffled is not employed. The impeded stream is the one that sings.

Wendell Berry



Upcoming Calendar of Events

December	Photo with Santa & Mrs. Claus Banner	Bring your own camera when here for an appointment	Oakwood lobby entrance
December 1-14	Virtual Sale	Collective Goods Book Sale	https://mystore.collectivegoods.com/account/seteventpromo/0000228594
December 7- 11	Virtual Sale	The Nutman Company	www.nutman.com/online-shop/ or call Penny at 262-628-4771 to order
Fridays in January 1, 8, 15, 22, 29	Wear Fun Scrubs and Jeans	When you wear Fun Scrubs or Jeans Donate \$2 for each Friday	Hospital campus wide
February date to be determined	Dine Out or Carry Out 11:00 am - 9:00 pm	Mention Mercy Hospital and 25% of sale will be donated to the MHV	Benvenuto's Mention Mercy Hospital and 25% of sale will be donated to the MHV
February	Virtual Sale	Collective Goods Book Sale	Information will be emailed or contact Beverly.Hoffman@ascension.org
March	Virtual Sale	Nutman Company	Information will be emailed or contact Beverly.Hoffman@ascension.org
April date to be determined	Dine Out or Carry Out 11:00 am - 9:00 pm	Mention Mercy Hospital and 25% of sale will be donated to the MHV	Benvenuto's Mention Mercy Hospital and 25% of sale will be donated to the MHV

