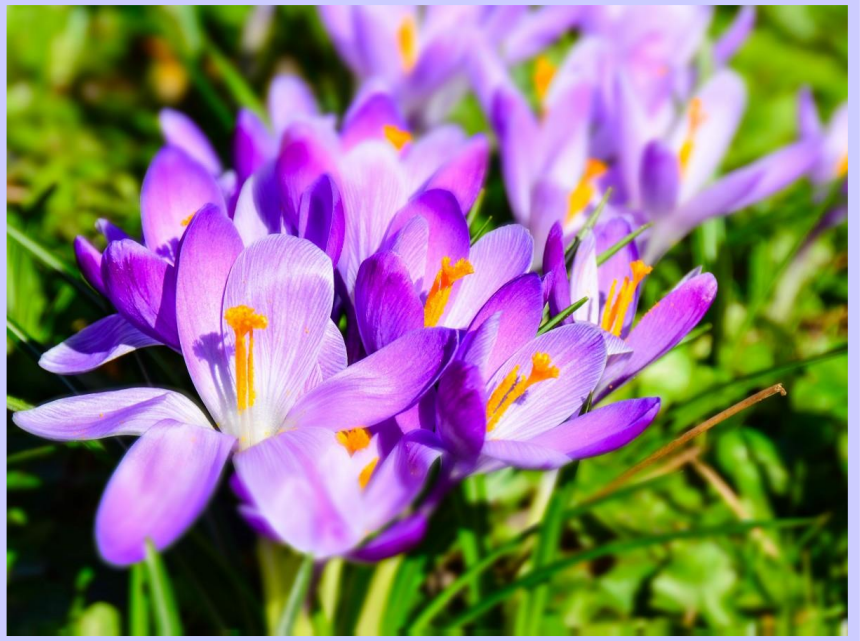


# ASPIRUS VOLUNTEER NEWSLETTER

Spring 2021 Edition

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## UPDATE FROM YO VOIGT

~ DIRECTOR OF VOLUNTEER & GUEST SERVICES ~

Direct from Yo

Hello Aspirus Volunteers!

I am happy to report that 171 volunteers have returned their surveys regarding coming back to volunteer! I have been so excited to be able to say the word VOLUNTEER. We have missed seeing and connecting with everyone.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR PATIENCE as we work through the steps here at Aspirus- and for doing your part to be safe and stay well. It is great to hear that so many of you have already completed your vaccines.

The best part of getting this vaccine is knowing we are helping to bring us back together- with our families, and community. I am happy to report- after my husband and I received our vaccines - we were finally able to see my 8-year-old granddaughter, and my 94-year-old mom. This wasn't just a window visit or a phone call- we were able to see them and give hugs.

The next steps here:

- We are contacting all the Aspirus Directors to make sure they are ok with welcoming volunteers back to their areas- and to review the volunteer description for their area.
- We are updating the orientation material for you. Once we have this done and printed- we will mail this out to you with the next steps on how to return it to us.

Stay tuned, and please continue to mask, social distance and stay safe!



## ~UPDATE FROM SAMMIE ~

### ~ HOSPICE VOLUNTEER COORDINATOR ~

Hello Hospice Volunteers!

Hope this newsletter finds you all doing well! Thank you for the number of returned surveys we have gotten! It is so reassuring to see how many of you are ready to come back to volunteer! If you have not already returned your survey, please make sure to do so as soon as possible – make sure to include your name on the survey! Now with the vaccine available to those 16 and older, we hope this means we will be able to welcome you back very soon!

I am about a week and a half (or sooner) out from welcoming my first baby! I will be returning to work in mid-July. If you have any questions relating to returning to volunteer, please contact the Volunteer Office. More updates will be coming from our Volunteer Director, Yo Voigt, as they are available.

Here are just a couple of updates from me:

- Our Joint Commission visit is to take place soon, but luckily for you guys they will probably be here before you come back!
- I am looking to start Memory Bear/Memory Pillow project when I return from maternity leave. If you would be interested in sewing these, please let me know so I can add you to my list of helpers!
- Thank you to those of you making lap blankets, fidget muffs, etc.! We greatly appreciate you! If you are able, submit pictures of you and your projects so we can add them to future newsletters!
- More educational WebExs will be available come 2021. Stay tuned for more information on topics and dates! I will share more information on this once I return.

Enjoy Springtime! Hopefully see you all in July when I return from maternity leave!

~Sammie~

Samantha Giese  
Hospice Volunteer Coordinator  
Aspirus Comfort Care & Hospice Services





As some of you might have celebrated a birthday during this pandemic and received a birthday card with a gift shop coupon – please know when we are able to open again, we will still honor those coupons past the expiration date! Happy Birthday to you all!

## Lifeline Update:

The Aspirus Lifeline program continues to refer new subscribers to our Stevens Point Hospital Lifeline program where they can direct ship the equipment to the home. We are waiting for our volunteers to return, so we can offer that great in-home installation service that we have offered to our community for over 37 years. We look forward to seeing our Lifeline Volunteers!

Happy Spring! Cheryl and Susan



## Do you have a New Mailing Address???

Some of you might have recently had an address change with the uniform address change. If this is you and you have not contacted us with your updated address, please contact us at the Volunteer Office so we can get that updated and you can receive our mailings!

## Coffee Shop/Gift Shop Update:

The Aspirus coffee shop is still open the same hours from 6:30am-12:30pm M-F for staff only. We do hope to hire additional staff and extend hours later this summer.

We held our first of three Gift Shop Pop Up Shop events on Thursday, April 1<sup>st</sup>. The shop was open from 10-4 for staff only. The staff loved it so much we decided to hold 2 more, Thursday, April 22<sup>nd</sup> and Thursday, May 6<sup>th</sup>.

The entire Volunteer office helped make the event a huge success. We look forward to re-opening once the volunteers are welcomed back.





# Aspirus Family House Update:

The Aspirus Family House now has a **Virtual Tour** on the Aspirus Website! Check out the tour link here: <https://www.aspirus.org/find-a-location/aspirus-family-house-489> **scroll to the middle of the page and click on Aspirus Family House Virtual Tour!**

Or via YouTube Link - <https://youtu.be/gu8mHApWsPA>

Keeping the family house stocked with basic necessities requires a lot of donated supplies. For health and safety concerns, we ask that all donated items be new, unopened and unexpired. Please check out their website here: <https://www.aspirus.org/find-a-location/aspirus-family-house-489>. On this site, they have a "wish list", <https://www.aspirus.org/Uploads/Public/Documents/Foundation/Family-House-Wish-List.pdf>.

We know Lysol items are super hard to find so any of the items on the pdf are always good to have on hand!

**Donations can be delivered to the Family House, 2801 Westhill Drive. Please call or email to make arrangements. Kim.smerda@aspirus.org or 715-847-2470.**



\*Must be brand specified for Bounce, Clorox, Dawn, Febreze, Finish, Lysol, Purell, Soft soap, Swiffer, Tide, Windex. Other brands will not be accepted.

## GIFT CARDS

The family house also requests the following Wausau area gift cards: Grocery stores, gas stations & department stores.

For more information about the family house or to make a donation online visit [aspirus.org/familyhouse](https://www.aspirus.org/familyhouse) or email [ahf@aspirus.org](mailto:ahf@aspirus.org)

**In lieu of items, you can make a tax-deductible financial donation.**

Please make checks payable to Aspirus Health Foundation & simply put 'Family house wish list' on memo line.

Donations can be delivered to the Family House, 2801 Westhill Drive. Please call or email to make arrangements. Kim.smerda@aspirus.org or 715-847-2470.



## **In Memorium:**

**To those gone too soon, but never forgotten...**

### ***Romano – Aspirus Pet Therapy Dog.***

Everyone's day was made brighter when they saw Romano and Tom Gilbreath. Romano was a sweet, loving companion and started his visits in 2018 to patients. Romano passed away on March 4, 2021 in Madison at the UW.



## **VOLUNTEER NEEDS**

**Quilt/Lap Blanket Donations** – Aspirus Hospice could use lap blankets. A good size is 36"x36" (lap blanket) or 30"x60" (prayer shawl) – but we really are not picky...we are just happy and grateful for any blanket donation! Contact me (Samantha Giese) if you have additional questions.

**Volunteers in the Workplace** - Are you interested in providing childcare, tutoring, or running errands for those Aspirus employees that continue to provide much needed care and support in these challenging times to the patients in your community? Our Aspirus employees are looking for reliable volunteers to help.

To participate, please provide your email address and what you would like to help with by emailing Yo Voigt – [Yolanda.voigt@aspirus.org](mailto:Yolanda.voigt@aspirus.org). Yo will then match you with one of our employees and their needs; we will try our best to match you with the specific need that you have offered to help with. If you know of someone who would like to be a volunteer, please ask them to email Yolanda Voigt at [Yolanda.Voigt@aspirus.org](mailto:Yolanda.Voigt@aspirus.org) and become part of our volunteer family!

## **Happy Volunteer Week (April 18-24<sup>th</sup>)**

Everyone at the Volunteer Office would like to wish you all a Happy Volunteer Week and tell you THANK YOU!! Even though we did not get to see you since March of 2020, we still appreciate each and everyone of you! Thank you for hanging on, encouraging us, and being a huge support in our community – we are anxious for the day when we can have you all back volunteering!

Watch your mailbox for a special gift from us!



## ASPIRUS NEWS NOW

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- **Visitor Restrictions – Updated for 3/5/2021**

The Aspirus Emergency Operations Center has approved changes to our visitor restrictions emergency guidelines. Effective March 5, restrictions will be eased to allow **one dedicated visitor or support person for the duration of a patient's visit or stay**.

This applies across all patient care settings with the following exceptions:

- **Compassionate care** – Limited exceptions can be made to allow additional visitors as appropriate during end-of-life, pediatric, labor and delivery and disability situations.
- **COVID-19 patients** – Visitor restrictions for COVID-19 positive or suspect patients have not changed. Please continue to follow the [dedicated guidelines](#) for this population.
- **Nursing Homes/Assisted Living** – Visitation allowed in accordance with state guidance.
- **Pediatric patients** – Two primary adult support persons per patient will be allowed in inpatient, surgical and clinic settings. Patient siblings are not allowed.

All visitors will still be required to wear masks, socially distance and be screened upon entering our facilities.

Dedicated visitors will be given a purple arm band to help with identification. Arm bands and additional implementation details have been provided to business unit incident commands.

The updated guidelines align with the decreased COVID-19 activity we have seen in our area and will enhance the patient experience. We will continually monitor COVID-19 activity and assess patient and visitor feedback to guide further considerations related to visitors.