

# Helping Hands

A newsletter for the Mercyhealth Association of Volunteers

Spring 2019

## Happy Volunteer Week!

April 7-13



Thank you, Mercyhealth volunteers,  
for sharing your time and talents  
with the Mercyhealth family, our  
patients and the community.  
Your generosity is truly appreciated.

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**Mercyhealth**<sup>®</sup>  
A passion for  
making lives better.



## From our manager

### Happy Spring!

Spring time can elevate our spirits, lift us up, and inspire us. Volunteers help Mercyhealth every day by elevating health through the power of many. Each day you take your volunteerism to new heights. You help raise the spirits of those you have contact with. I want to thank all of you for your dedication and inspiration. Please take time to evaluate how much you personally raise the ranks of volunteerism.

National Volunteer Week is April 7-13. Mercyhealth would like to thank each and every one of you for volunteering at Mercyhealth. You are much appreciated throughout our organization.

The Volunteer Department will be sending out a packet for you to update your yearly paperwork. Please read complete and return your forms to the volunteer department. Mercyhealth Hospital and Trauma Center will

also be holding in-services for everyone. You will receive a mailing this summer to inform you of the in-service dates.

I would like to welcome several new Volunteer Board members: Bruce Riley, Escorts Chairperson; Joanne Woodman Hodge, Fundraising Chairperson; Alexx Salazar, House of Mercy Homeless Center Co-Chair; and Jim Wierzb, Meals on Wheels Chairperson.

Please make sure you read through your newsletter. We have many upcoming events that should catch your interest. Hope to see you at the volunteer luncheon on May 9.

Happy spring and summer!

**Jill Ayres**

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## From your president

As we move forward into 2019, I am encouraged by the efforts of those who willingly volunteer in all Mercyhealth service areas. I may not know everyone's name, but I can see the results of all that you do.

We have many exciting events and opportunities scheduled this year, which you'll find listed in this newsletter. I encourage you to

look at some of the newer areas in our volunteer service programming, and give yourself the challenge of volunteering outside of your comfort zone. I took that leap when an "I need help" call came to help out with the cookie sales. It was fun, tiring and tasty! Be brave—and just go for it.

**Judy Jaggard**

# News from the House of Mercy Homeless Center

## Celebrating Volunteerism and Strengthening our Faith-based Partnerships

By Tammie King-Johnson, Manager, House of Mercy Homeless Center



The House of Mercy has a rich history of partnering with the faith community. Our partnerships go back to our beginning when we opened our emergency shelter doors in 1996, partnering with St. Patrick's Catholic Church and several other local congregations. Over the years the faith community has been the backbone of our shelter operations—providing a strong support network for people experiencing homelessness. Every day we see first-hand how the faith community's compassion compels them into action.

Due to the number of good causes that call on the faith community there's a major shortage of volunteers. We need to continue to build those relationships and expand our reach across southern Wisconsin and northern Illinois. We have two new partnerships that we're excited about. We have a group of missionaries from the Church of Jesus Christ, Latter-day Saints in Janesville that comes to our shelter every Friday to cover our noon-4 pm Welcome Center shift. We are equally excited to welcome the Family Worship Center (FWC) from Beloit. Members of FWC's Community Outreach Team are onsite one weekend a month. On Fridays, they do a service day, which can include cleaning and organizing or landscaping at our shelter. On Saturdays, they do relationship-building with our residents, which includes craft projects and other family fun activities.



We will continue to build these important relationships with faith-based volunteers across the stateline area. They are an ongoing source of support for us and the community of people who have moved out of shelter into housing. They often build relationships with those we serve that outlast their need for emergency assistance from us. Our volunteers make this service possible.

# Volunteer Spotlight



**Bruce Riley**

I am a Janesville native whose family were General Motors employees. I took a different path and went away to college and worked most of my younger life in other cities and states such as Minnesota, Iowa and Indiana. While living in Iowa, I met my lovely wife, Diane, and we formed a life with children, who now, of course, are adults. I have one daughter, two sons and five grandchildren. I retired early, about 4+ years ago to take care of my ailing wife. She suffers from FTD, which is a rare form of dementia. While I took care of her for two years on my own it became too much so she now resides in a memory care facility, which I visit often. Even though I visit Diane quite often, I found myself quite bored and needed to be out again amongst people. Thus, I began volunteering at Mercyhealth as a door greeter and escort, which I truly enjoy. Staff, patients and their families are always so kind and friendly. They love the help. Since then I also have picked up a "paying" part-time job that I also truly enjoy, while trying to enjoy a little retirement as well.



**Darlene Becker**

I became a volunteer at Mercy Hospital in 1982. My golfing buddy, Marie Bilek, (Director of Volunteers at the time), asked me if I would be interested in volunteering and I said yes. I began volunteering at the front desk and in the surgery waiting room.

After a short time, I was elected secretary of the auxiliary board. Following that term, I became Treasurer, Vice President and President. I also served as Vice Chairman and Chairman of the Southern District Partners of the Wisconsin Hospital Association (WHA).

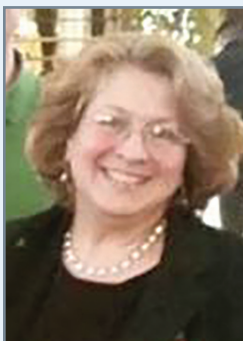
After completing my terms on the district level, I was President-elect of the Partners of WHA state board and then became President. This was truly a great honor.

A few years ago, I returned to our local board and served as Secretary for two years. I still volunteer at the front desk and have been Treasurer of the Meals On Wheels program for the past several years.



## There's No Place Like Home

By Erika Shields, Volunteer Coordinator, Mercyhealth at Home



Erika Shields

When Jessica Brown, Mercyhealth CNA, informed us that Pauline, a delightful woman and hospice patient, was grieving over the knowledge that her life-long home was being sold, we knew we had to do something for her. This home was her pride and joy. Pauline's husband built this house for her over 60 years ago and all of the colors were picked out by Pauline. Her husband even painted the comet on the garage door by hand.

Jessica took photos of Pauline's home. The photos were given to our faithful hospice volunteer **Sue Piette**, the "lapghan (lap-afghan) lady". Sue custom-made the lapghan in the exact colors of Pauline's beloved home and included an applique of the comet from the garage door. Sue is known for customizing the colors on her lapghans, and yet we were all amazed how perfectly she matched the house colors. When Jessica and Sue presented the lapghan and framed photos, Pauline shed tears of joy. We can't thank Sue and Jessica enough for working tirelessly to make a painful transition go as smoothly as possible.



# Volunteer Updates

## Janesville-area Volunteer Update

Our Janesville Mercyhealth Association of Volunteers had a wonderful 2018. In our report submitted to the Partners of the Wisconsin Hospital Association (WHA), we showed a total of 78,568 volunteer hours donated to the hospital in 2018. We supported 48 fundraising projects/activities that generated a total of \$15,388.53 and contributed a total of \$178,407 to Mercyhealth. We awarded 12 scholarships totaling \$12,000. Our members were active outside the hospital as they represented us at the spring and fall district meetings, the Partners of WHA state convention, and Advocacy Day.

## Walworth-area Volunteer Update

There are currently 28 active volunteers at Mercyhealth Hospital and Medical Center–Walworth. Volunteers work Monday through Friday. Many of our volunteers work in the gift shop where they display and sell merchandise to patients and staff in order to benefit the House of Mercy Homeless Center and provide needed funds for scholarships and medical equipment for Mercyhealth.

Also, many of our volunteers work at the information desk where they provide directions and assist with moving wheelchair-bound patients, as well as with delivering flowers and gifts to our inpatients. Some of our volunteers also support our oncology patients by serving them lunch while they are at our facility for treatment.

This year we added two new volunteer activities! One of our very talented volunteers, a former instrumental music educator, comes in 1-2 times a week to play the grand piano in our lobby. She plays seasonal, secular and sacred piano arrangements on Tuesdays and Thursdays during lunch hours. Many patients, visitors and staff have commented on the beautiful, relaxing music.

One of our volunteers worked this year with an oncology nurse to establish Mercyhealth's first cancer support group in Walworth County. The support group meets from 10-11 am the second and fourth Monday of every month. Another of our volunteers is working with the Safe Connect program at Mercyhealth Hospital and Trauma Center in Janesville.

# Updates and Fundraising



Lorraine Nolan



Judy Luttrell

## Harvard-area Volunteer Update

The Volunteer Department would like to wish **Lorraine Nolan**, Volunteer Coordinator, a very happy retirement. Lorraine has been a great asset to the Harvard Volunteer Department. We thank her for her dedicated years of service. Lorraine will still be a very familiar face at Mercyhealth Hospital and Medical Center–Harvard as she will be volunteering.

We would like to welcome **Judy Luttrell** who will be joining the Harvard Volunteer Department as Volunteer Coordinator. Judy started her new role in March. We welcome Judy to the Mercyhealth family.



## Fundraising

We are looking to shake things up a bit in our fundraising area. We brought **Joanne Woodman Hodge** on board to help us look at new and exciting fundraising opportunities including day trips. Many of you have traveled with Joanne in the past through Senior Connection, so you know how fun her trips are. We'll be taking 100 people to see Hamilton: An American Musical on June 26 at CIBC Theatre in Chicago.

## Volunteers Needed



- House of Mercy Homeless Center
- Castaways Thrift Shop
- Mercyhealth at Home Hospice
- Mercyhealth Hospital and Trauma Center
  - Escorts
  - Reception desk
  - Meals On Wheels drivers
  - Boutique Merci (gift shop)
- Newsletter writers
- Sewing walker bags (can be done at home)
- Knitting baby caps
- Crocheting baby blankets

# Community Health Education Information

Each year, Partners of the Wisconsin Hospital Association (WHA) selects one health issue to focus attention on.

Our 2018 focus has been Drugs End Dreams. This comes in the wake of Wisconsin's recognition that the state's opioid epidemic is a public health crisis. WHA has stated its support for efforts in the state to deal with this epidemic. A task force was established by Governor Scott Walker to address the crisis. Representative John Nygren has introduced legislative bills since 2014 in efforts to combat the state's opiate and heroin epidemic. Wisconsin's Attorney General Brad Schimel launched the campaign "Doses of Reality" in 2015 to fight against prescription drug abuse. The Wisconsin Department of Health Services has resources about opioids available on their website. Keep yourself informed!

## Study: Dental painkillers may put young people at risk of opioid addiction

Dentists who prescribe opioid painkillers such as OxyContin to teenagers and young adults after pulling their wisdom teeth may be putting their patients at risk of addiction, a new study finds.

The study, published in Journal of the American Medical Association Internal Medicine Monday, shines a light on the largely overlooked role dental prescriptions play in an epidemic of addiction that has swept the United States, leading to a record 70,237 drug overdose deaths in 2017.

"Given the gravity of the opioid epidemic, the degree of persistent use and abuse we observed in adolescents and young adults, especially females, is alarming," said researcher Alan Schroeder, a pediatrician and professor at Stanford University School of Medicine. "Our findings should trigger heightened scrutiny over the frequency of prescribing dental opioids."

[PartnersofWHA.org](http://PartnersofWHA.org)

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**The focus for 2019** will be: Not All Wounds Are Visible—A Journey for Mental Health. Mental health is a tremendously important topic that affects many people no matter their age, gender or ethnicity. We will share more information about WHA's community education focus on mental health in our next newsletter.

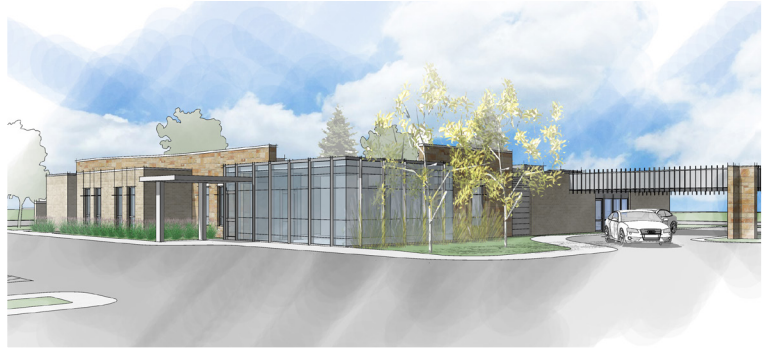


# Enhancements/Renovations

## Mercyhealth and Trauma Center–Janesville



## Mercyhealth Terrace



In its commitment to continue to advance existing high-level care and cutting-edge technology, Mercyhealth has announced it will undertake a major renovation project at Mercyhealth Hospital and Trauma Center.

The renovations will include the addition of a hybrid operating suite, which positions us to provide the most advanced, state-of-the-art technology and cutting-edge services for our cardiovascular, vascular and cardiology programs. The hybrid operating suite will be used by a variety of our specialty physicians, including cardiologists, cardiovascular surgeons and electrophysiologists. The hybrid operating suite will support complex open surgeries and minimally invasive procedures. It will be equipped with a large, radiographic imaging system that supports real-time, high-quality imaging for specialists performing these surgeries and procedures.

They will also create two additional procedure rooms within the main operating room primarily to heighten our ability to provide state-of-the-art ophthalmology services and technology. This design has become the industry best practice for high-volume ophthalmology practices.

The Radiology Department will be enhanced with new nuclear cameras, and renovations to the nuclear medicine, ultrasound and CT scanner space. The echocardiography and stress lab will be renovated to enhance workflow.

The Plastic Surgery, Skin and Laser Center will move from their current location in the hospital to a newly constructed addition to Mercyhealth Terrace. This will accommodate our growing plastic surgery volumes and provide additional space for aesthetician services. The new space will also create a more private experience for patients.

These enhancements will add an even higher level of care to the advanced services that already exist today in the hospital's Level II emergency/trauma center, and our stroke and chest pain programs. It will also ensure Mercyhealth continues to recruit and retain high-quality physicians. Renovations will begin in spring 2019. Watch for updates as the renovation progresses.

# Volunteer Highlights



## Love Light Tree

The 33rd annual Love Light Tree ceremonies took place on December 3 in Janesville, Lake Geneva and Harvard. The trees at each location shine in honor, gratitude or memory of loved ones. In Janesville, **Doris Henning** (pictured) was chosen as this year's honoree for 30+ years of dedicated volunteer service.



## Holiday Market

The Holiday Markets in Janesville and Lake Geneva were another huge success. Proceeds fund important projects like the House of Mercy Homeless Center, scholarships and purchases for Mercyhealth Hospital and Trauma Center.



## Cards for MOW from Adams School

Special thanks to the students at Adams Elementary School for making over 200 pieces of art for our Meals on Wheels customers.



## Project SEARCH

Beloit Turner High School graduate, **Cris Carrillo**, holds a tray of cookies he helps prepare in the mornings as part of his internship with Project SEARCH. Carrillo is one of eight interns involved in the project, a one-year work preparation program for young people with intellectual and developmental disabilities at Mercyhealth Hospital and Trauma Center, Janesville.



Mercyhealth Gala

We were honored to support the Mercy-health Development Foundation Gala on September 29 in Rockford. Proceeds from the event benefited the rooftop healing garden at the new Javon Bea Hospital-Riverside, Rockford. At the garden, patients and their families can enjoy a calming, green space where they can relax and escape the stress that often accompanies



# 2019 Calendar of Events

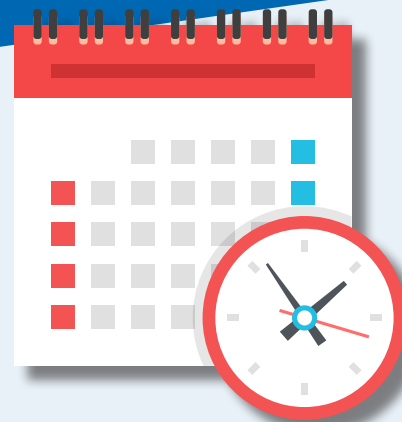
## Site key:

MHTC: Mercyhealth Hospital and Trauma Center–Janesville

MHW: Mercyhealth Hospital and Medical Center–Walworth

MHH: Mercyhealth Hospital and Medical Center–Harvard

MCB: MercyCare Building, Janesville



## April

- 3 Linen Sale, MHTC 1128B, 9 am-4 pm
- 4 Linen Sale, MHTC 1128B, 8 am-3 pm
- 7-13 National Volunteer Week
- 9 Cookie Sale, MHTC G206, 9 am-1 pm
- 15-16 Nutman Sale, MHTC G20, 9:30 am-3 pm
- 27 House of Mercy Charity Ball, Janesville Country Club, 5 pm-11 pm

## May

- 8 Nothing Bundt Cake, MHTC G206, 9:30 am-2 pm
- 9 Volunteer Spring Luncheon, Janesville Country Club, 11 am
- 14 Cookie Sale, MHTC G206, 9 am-1 pm

## June

- 3-4 Nutman Sale, MHTC G206, 9:30 am-3:30 pm
- 5 Nutman Sale, MHW G380 A and B, 10 am-2:30 pm
- 11 Cookie Sale, MHTC G206, 9 am-1 pm
- 28 Golf Play Day, Beloit Club, 7 am-1 pm

## July

- 9 Cookie Sale, MHTC G206, 9 am-1 pm

## August

- 13 Cookie Sale, MHTC G206, 9 am-1 pm

## September

- 10 Cookie Sale, MHTC G206, 9 am-1 pm
- 12 Nutman Sale, MHW G380 A and B, 10 am-2:30 pm
- 17-18 Nutman Sale, MHTC G206, 9:30 am-3 pm

## October

- 2 Lionne Designs Jewelry Sale, MHTC G206, 9 am-5 pm
- 8 Cookie Sale, MHTC G206, 9 am-1 pm
- 14 Collective Goods, MCB, 10 am-2 pm
- 15 Collective Goods, MHTC G206, 9 am-4 pm

## November

- 3 Holiday Market, MHTC 1128 A and B, 10 am-4 pm
- 4 Holiday Market, MHTC 1128 A and B, 7:30 am-6 pm
- 5 Holiday Market, MHTC 1128 A and B, 8 am-1 pm
- 21 Linen Sale, MHTC 1128A, 9 am-4 pm
- 22 Linen Sale, MHTC 1128A, 8 am-3 pm

## December

- 2 Love Light Tree Service, MHTC Main Lobby, 6 pm
- 2 Love Light Tree Service, MHW Main Lobby, 6 pm
- 2 Love Light Tree Service, MHH, Main Lobby, 6 pm
- 9-10 Nutman Sale, MHTC G206, 9:30 am-3 pm
- 12 Nutman Sale, MHW G380 A and B, 10 am-2:30 pm



Are you on Facebook?

If so, join our page [Mercyhealth Volunteers Southern WI.](#)



House of Mercy Homeless Center

# Charity Ball

Saturday, April 27

[MercyhealthCharityBall.org](http://MercyhealthCharityBall.org)

For more information on these events, please call Kristin Larson at Mercyhealth Development Foundation at (608) 741-2422.



# 2019 Golf Play Day

**Friday, June 28, 2019**

**Beloit Club**

[MercyhealthGolf.org](http://MercyhealthGolf.org)



Mercyhealth<sup>TM</sup>  
Development Foundation