

Connections

Newsletter for hospital volunteers, students & friends of Roper St. Francis Healthcare

February/March 2022

Welcome to the February/March issue of the volunteer Connections newsletter. I can't believe this is my last volunteer newsletter.

As I clean my office, the pictures, articles and thank you cards have been a sentimental trip down memory lane. I am overwhelmed with awe and gratitude for you - the incredible friends, students, volunteers and staff I have had the honor of working with for 34 years, the amazing projects we have been part of, and the fun we have had.

Teammates all over Roper St. Francis Healthcare, in fact - all over the world, started their careers in our volunteer offices. I am greeted by people everywhere who say, "Remember me? I used to volunteer!" How lovely it has been to be part of the lives of so many people who are part of goodness and healing in the world.

I started my career at St. Francis Hospital in 1987 at the downtown location as a Labor & Delivery nurse. Someone once asked how long I had worked with volunteers. I was able to say, "Long enough to have delivered some of my volunteers!" Two teenage students once came to volunteer, and their mother recognized me from their baby book. That is a full-circle career.

I am sorry the pandemic has changed our programs and for many of you disrupted volunteer service. I've missed seeing some of you for over two years. Over the years, we have often had up to 95,000 volunteer hours annually and over 750 active volunteers. We've run popular student programs, sponsored large donation drives and delivered thousands of greeting cards to patients and for the military. We've won countless awards for our programs, from baby hat knitters, singers, pet therapy programs and more. I have loved and learned from you. It's been an honor to work with you.

Joan Perry, RSFH Director of Volunteers

Join the Heart Throbs!

February is Heart Month. Peg Hughes, MPH Volunteer Manager is leading a team for RSF Mount Pleasant Hospital, volunteers and friends. Most of us know someone who has been helped by advances in heart disease research.

Honor your loved ones by joining the fun. Wear Red on Friday, 2/4 for Wear Red Day, make a donation to our team or register to walk on 2/26. Current plans are to hold the walk at Riverfront Park in North Charleston, but feel free to participate virtually on our team and enjoy a walk in your neighborhood on that day. Click here to donate or sign up: [RSFH MPH & Friends Heart Throbs](#).



Happy Valentines Day!

The volunteer department is blessed with quite a few couples in service. We caught this recent shot of June and Ron Bell on duty at RSF Mount Pleasant Hospital. With a combined total of over 1,070 hours, Ron and June Bell are our featured sweetheart volunteers this year.



Recruited by long term volunteer and neighbor Jack Connelly, Ron began volunteering in 2017 and June followed in 2018. Ron is a former businessman and veteran, and June is a Registered Nurse. Ron serves at the information desk directing patients, visitors and vendors and handles incoming calls. In June's nursing career, she had most recently worked with Alzheimer's patients and families. In her volunteer role, June initially supported ICU with clerical tasks and now works as a Mammography Escort. She calls the patient from the waiting room, escorts them to the changing room and provides instructions for their appointment. She handles clerical tasks associated with the visit and provides support for patients, visitors and teammates.

Ron and June will celebrate their 60th Wedding Anniversary in August. They moved to Mt. Pleasant twenty-four years ago from New Jersey. Their daughter taught at the Citadel, and they both liked it here, so they built a house and moved to South Carolina.

In their free time, Ron and June enjoy gardening and playing cards. They have three children and four grandchildren who are all in college. Their oldest granddaughter, Lindsey, is in Costa Rica participating in an international health exchange program. Ron and June enjoy their dog, Little Bear, a Morkie, which is a cross between a Maltese and a Yorkshire Terrier. On Mondays, Ron is known for wearing fun socks featuring Bear's little face. Jack has a pair too.

We are fortunate to have Ron and June on our team and thank them for their dedication and service.

Do your little bit of good where you are;
it's those little bits of good put together
that overwhelm the world.

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Volunteer News

- Jose Martinez (pictured left) volunteers in the Bon Secours St. Francis Hospital Emergency Department as he gains experience for medical school applications. He recently participated in a medical mission trip to Costa Rica. Jose spent time doing patient interviews, vital signs and assisting with triage.



- Congratulations to Bon Secours St. Francis Hospital ASU volunteer Allison Rauls. Alison was accepted into the USC School of Nursing.
- Members of the Patient Family Experience Advisory Council toured RSF Mount Pleasant Hospital listening to wayfinding improvement suggestions from volunteers. Thanks to Fred Edgar and the maintenance engineering team, Barbara Draper's suggestion to place orange traffic cones to clarify the closed front entrance was put into place on 1/10.
- Our sympathy to Roy Schmelter on the death of his wife Marian.
- Irene Smith - BSSF Gift Shop shared that there are part time Gift Shop clerk positions open if you know anyone who might be interested. Irene also reminds us that there is a gift shop discount available for volunteer (sale and food items excluded).
- Farewell to volunteer Lebohang Tsehlana. Lebo had spent so much time helping his wife Tara, Community Health Coordinator with health fairs and events that we had processed him as a volunteer. Tara and Lebo have relocated to Washington State and will be missed.
- Farewell to Carol Blackwell as she moves to Florida to be closer to her daughter. Carol joined the Bon Secours St. Francis Hospital volunteer team in 2003 and has served over 6,500 hours primarily staffing the Information Desk.
- West Ashley Cancer Center volunteer Judy Roumillat received an Acts of Kindness recognition letter from the CEO. On a busy day she calmly juggling seeking support for a patient who couldn't get his car started and tracked down owners of lost keys. Nancy Ashcraft complimented on her talent for solving the mysterious needs of patients.



Happy Birthday

2/2	Rebecca Buffum
2/4	Stephen Schoenbaechler
2/6	Irene Holland
2/8	Judy Blewer
2/10	Joan Perry
2/11	Angela DiNenna
2/14	Stuart Finkelstein
2/12	Myra Ledbetter
2/15	Carl Singleton
2/20	Denise Dominick
2/21	Edmond Hottat
2/25	Daniel Sullivan
2/26	Ronald Daily
2/27	Marjorie McManus
3/1	Mary Belisle
3/3	Betty Hilton, Marissa Hottat
3/4	Allison Rauls
3/6	Joanne Gottschall
3/9	Lynn Karlson
3/17	Sally Dahlgren
3/18	Barry Davis
3/21	Sally Wojcik, Gerald Holst
3/25	Kelly Miller
3/26	Raymond Schmelter
3/28	Ashwin Sammananasunathan
3/29	George Alejandro

RSFH New Year Babies

Thank you to volunteers who contributed to our surprise gift baskets for the first boy and girl born in the new year.

This year RSF Berkeley Hospital delivered the first baby in the Lowcountry, a boy named Draylen, delivered at 12:18 a.m. on New Year's Day.

Along with the gift basket, volunteer Lynne Karlson, donated a handmade 2022 baby blanket and stockinette for Baby Draylen, and the [Berkeley County Library System](#) provided book bags and library cards for all hospital newborns at Roper St. Francis Berkeley Hospital so children can get a head start on learning and literacy.



New Leaders



Pictured above, new leaders Marianne Seabrook, Roper Hospital Volunteer Manager and Peg Hughes, RSF Mount Pleasant Hospital are settling into their roles and have enjoyed getting to know the volunteer team. If you have been inactive due to the pandemic but happen to be on campus, stop by to introduce yourself. Each manager is looking forward to rebuilding our team when the situation allows.

Welcome New RSFH Volunteers

RSFH Berkeley Hospital: Welcome Andrea Fletcher and Helen Allen to the Outpatient Info Desk. Andrea is interested in pursuing a career in medicine. We also welcome Pet Therapist Melissa Murray with River. Melissa Murray is a teacher at Stratford High School and will offering pet visits on evening and weekend shifts.

Bon Secours St. Francis Hospital: Ashley Kim joins us to lend a hand at the Infusion Center. Ashley is interested in a career as a Physician Assistant. Jeane Campden joined us at the PACU desk. Jeane had worked as a Scrub Tech at St. Francis and feels she is returning home to her work family. Barry Davis joined Med/Surg assisting at the desk on the 3rd Floor. Barry is a retired nurse happy to be back in a health care setting.

RSF Mount Pleasant Hospital: Welcome back to Sally Dahlgren. Sally is a retired RN and had been active at the RSFH Coliseum Vaccine Clinic. She is joining us to serve as a Mammography Escort.

Roper Hospital: Welcome back to Karen Pinson. Karen is returning to volunteer service, this time joining the Pet Therapy team with Teddy! We also welcome new volunteers, Olivia DiVencenzo and Pat Perry. Olivia is pursuing a career in Speech Language Pathology. She joined us on her winter break and plans to return in the summer as well. Eucharistic Minister Pat Perry represents Church of the Nativity and offers holy communion to hospitalized Catholic patients at Roper Hospital.

Mask Reminder

Pictured below, Barry Davis reminds us to wear hospital grade masks at all times while on duty. For your safety, cloth masks are no longer acceptable in the hospital



RSF Berkeley Hospital Meet-Up

We miss seeing faces hidden under masks and can't resist sharing these pictures of Berkeley Hospital volunteers enjoying each other's company outside at Taco Boy restaurant during an earlier fall lull in the pandemic surge.



Peg Hughes, MPH Volunteer manager and husband, David participated in the MLK day parade. This year's parade was held early, recorded and broadcast on MLK day.

RSFH Best Dressed Babies

RSF Berkeley Hospital newborn nursery received a donation of sixty hand crochet newborn hats during the holiday season.

The hats were all hand made by twelve year old Serenitymarie. Serenitymarie is the daughter of hospital teammate Erick Sanchez.

To cap off holiday births, Lynne Karlson made festive "sacs" for the Christmas babies. At Bon Secours St. Francis, Cindy Forbes, Lana Nochowitz and Joan Strom delivered fifty holiday hats and stocking sac for the Christmas births.



Blossoms Bring a Smile



Ellen Kay was on duty at the Cancer Center desk when Adelaide Lunn, Hospice Consultant from Regency Southern Care, dropped off beautiful blooming plants for oncology patients to take home. The plants were donated by Trader Joes and were a happy surprise for patients as they left the Cancer Center

Marlene Delivers!



Marlene Williamon knows who needs what in the Lowcountry. She picks up yarn to deliver to ladies who knit cancer hats and newborn caps. She collects donated fabric for sewers to make bags for walkers. She helps us coordinate the Cards for Heroes project and dropped off 1,500 cards with holiday greetings for active duty service members this year.

Pictured, Marlene is easily recognizable as she drives by with her MUGLADY license plate. Marlene once won the Guinness Book of World Records title for the largest mug collection. She currently has over 4,000 mugs.

Friendship

Over the last few years as our lives narrowed with restricted travel and limited events, the people in our lives became very important and the time spent with them very precious.

- If you live to be one hundred, I want to live to be one hundred minus one day, so I'll never have to live without you. Winnie the Pooh
- Friends are God's way of taking care of us.
- If all my friends were to jump off a bridge, I wouldn't jump with them. I'd be at the bottom to catch them.
- Everyone hears what you say. Friends listen to what you say. Best friends listen to what you don't say.
- We all take different paths in life, but no matter where we go, we take a little of each other everywhere. Tim McGraw
- Most of us don't need a therapist as much as a friend to be silly with. Robert Brault,
- Say what you want about aging, it's still the only way to have old friends. Robert Brault

Pastoral Services Sends Thanks

The Pastoral Care Department sends thanks for the generous \$20,000 grant from the Roper Hospital Volunteer Department. The funds were used to provide crisis training for chaplains, additional books, training materials, and seminars for support to patients, families and teammates.

A large portion of the grant was used to purchase Grief Support & Compassion Fatigue resources to provide better care teammates. The Pastoral Care Department will implement **Operation Compassion Aid** specifically targeting teammates who are exposed to workplace trauma and compassion fatigue.

25th Anniversary Celebration



Current teammates who worked at St. Francis Hospital when it opened West Ashley twenty-five year ago. Pictured left to right - Joan Perry, Michelle Hard, Nan Whitt, Peggy Messervy, Mary Holmes, Arlen Berg and Kelly Walker.

Twenty-five years ago, Bon Secours St. Francis Hospital closed its downtown location and opened in West Ashley. Approximately 20,000 people attended the open house event. Teammates worked hard to prepare for the opening. Some of the same staff still work at the hospital, including volunteer Peggy Messervy (pictured center). Peggy had been a staff Case Manager at the time.

Order Home COVID-19 Tests

Every home in the US is eligible to order four free at home COVID-19 tests.

<https://www.covidtests.gov/>

Best of Charleston

Feel free to nominate your favorite businesses, physicians and healthcare facilities for awards in the Charleston City Paper's annual "Best of Charleston" contest at:

<https://bestof.charlestoncitypaper.com/>

During this period of staff transition, these email addresses will always get you to the volunteer manager:

Bon Secours St. Francis Hospital
VolunteerStFrancis@rsfh.com

Roper Hospital
VolunteerRoper@rsfh.com

RSF Mount Pleasant Hospital
VolunteerMPH@RSFH.com

RSF Berkeley Hospital
VolunteerBerkeley@rsfh.com